

# Short breaks strategy consultation questionnaire 2012/13

Consultation period - 12 December 2012 to 6 March 2013 (12 weeks)

Lancashire County Council is committed to the development of modernised, cost effective short break services. The council has proactively reviewed its strategy ahead of significant legislative changes outlined in the draft Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) section of the Children and Families Bill, which was published in early September 2012. This will also ensure that the council is ready for (or ahead of) corresponding legislation.

A range of proposals have been developed as a result of a full review of services by council officers, parent/carers and other stakeholders. The proposals are informed by the outcome of independent research commissioned by the council's Children and Young People's Directorate, to complement its work with parents/carers in reviewing, planning and developing its range of short breaks provision.

This consultation will seek views in relation to the proposals, which have been developed in conjunction with parents and carers, to meet the full range of future needs in line with national policy and directives as detailed in the full report.



County Councillor Susie Charles  
Cabinet Member for Children and Schools

1. Please read the instructions carefully.
2. Please use a blue or black pen to fill in the questionnaire.
3. Please check you have answered all the appropriate questions.
4. Please return your completed questionnaire by **6 March 2013**.

## Lancashire Break Time

Lancashire Break Time (LBT) provides short breaks for children with every kind and level of disability. It accounts for 72% of all short breaks provided in Lancashire and is the lowest cost short break option.

LBT meets the needs of most families and provides early support to them. This represents excellent value for money as a large number of carers receive valued breaks from caring.

**The county council proposes to fund Lancashire Break Time on a permanent basis.**

**Q1**

**How strongly do you agree or disagree that Lancashire County Council should fund Lancashire Break Time on a permanent basis?**

Please tick ✓ one box only

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Short break retained carer service

We know that for children receiving overnight care, it is better if they receive it within a family environment.

An independent review recommended that the county council should establish a specialist short break retained carers' service ('retained carers scheme') through an external provider.

**The county council proposes to establish a professional short break retained carer service to enable parents to receive overnight breaks from caring by having access to a trained carer.**

**The county council proposes that children aged 0-11 should usually receive overnight care within a family environment.**

**Q2**

**How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about a short break retained carer service.**

Please tick ✓ one box for each statement

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree
Lancashire County Council should establish, through an external provider, a specialist short break retained carers service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Younger children aged 0-11 years receiving overnight provision should usually receive this within a family environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Managing personalised budgets**

Changes to legislation mean that parent/carers of children with disabilities must be offered the option of a personal budget to support their child’s education, health and social care needs. Personalised budgets enable parents to manage their child’s social care needs through Direct Payments (which allow them to choose the care and providers that they prefer).

However, Direct Payments can bring additional responsibilities for parents/carers including appointing personal assistants, Criminal Records Bureau clearances, employment legislation and insurance/tax requirements.

**The county council proposes to set up a support network for those parents and carers who require help in managing their personalised budgets.**

**Q3**

**How strongly do you agree or disagree that Lancashire County Council should set up a support network for those parents and carers who require help in managing their personalised budget.**

Please tick ✓ one box only

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Overnight break provision

Lancashire County Council has in-house overnight short break units for children assessed as needing overnight breaks. Lancashire in-house overnight short break units account for 6% of all short breaks provided and have the highest costs.

There is currently surplus capacity in these units and the level of demand is expected to reduce further. This is due to a combination of increased options of alternative support, the use of Lancashire Break Time for early support, and the option to provide personalised budgets. However, there will continue to be some level of need.

Children and young people with the most complex medical or behavioural needs (10% of all short break provision) are not currently able to use these units. This is due in part to both the lack of nursing support and inadequate accommodation.

A great deal of consideration has been given to the number, size and potential locations for new overnight units subject to the outcome of this consultation.

**The county council proposes to replace the existing overnight break units with new high specification facilities, developed in line with parents' requests, in accessible locations across Lancashire.** Our data shows that 6-bed units would be appropriate. New units will provide a range of facilities and services that are not currently provided by the existing units, and will therefore be more expensive to run, but will be better able to meet the range of needs and demand.

While firm locations cannot yet be determined, the county council proposes:

- If three new overnight units are commissioned, preferred locations would be Lancaster, Preston and Accrington;
- If four new overnight units are commissioned, preferred locations would be Lancaster/Morecambe, north Preston/south Wyre, Chorley/West Lancashire and Accrington/Nelson.

We will try to avoid concerns around increased travel time to the new units by using short break unit minibuses to transport children, using staff from the in-house overnight units.

The expected costs for building the new short break units are around £1.7 million per unit and annual running costs are expected to be £650,000 per unit excluding nursing cover. Money has already been set aside to cover the building of the units.

The following table shows the estimated budget overspend by 2017/18 and the estimated number of unused overnight places per year for the two possible options.

Number of in-house short break units	Estimated budget overspend by 2017/18 (£)	Estimated unused overnight places per year
3	496,000	192
4	1,114,000	1872

**Q4**

**How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following proposals about new overnight break units?**

Please tick ✓ one box only for each proposal

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree
There should be <b>three</b> new units. Preferred locations would be Lancaster, Preston and Accrington.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There should be <b>four</b> new units. Preferred locations would be Lancaster/Morecambe, north Preston/south Wyre, Chorley/West Lancashire and Accrington/Nelson.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

As mentioned above, children and young people with the most complex medical or behavioural needs (10% of all short break provision) are not currently able to use the overnight break units.

**The county council proposes that the new units should meet the needs of children and young people with the most complex medical or behavioural needs.**

**Q5**

**How strongly do you agree or disagree that the new units should meet the needs of children and young people with the most complex medical or behavioural needs?**

Please tick ✓ one box only

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Currently children and young people aged 7-17 years old are able to use the in-house short break units. As already proposed, the county council feels that children aged 0-11 should usually receive overnight care within a family environment.

**The county council proposes that the age range for attending in-house short break units should be changed to age 11-18.**

**Q6**

**How strongly do you agree or disagree that the age range for attending in-house short break units should be changed to 11-18?**

Please tick ✓ one box only

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **Governance of overnight short break units**

The county council believes that it should consider establishing different governance arrangements to allow parents a greater level of decision making in the running of the overnight short break units. This would mean working together with parents/carers and possibly a voluntary sector charitable organisation to create a body to have a say in how the units are run.

**The county council proposes to consider alternative governance arrangements for the management of the overnight short break units.**

**Q7**

**How strongly do you agree or disagree that the county council should consider alternative governance arrangements for the management of the overnight short break units.**

Please tick ✓ one box only

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **COMMENTS**

**If you have comments about any of the county council's short break strategy proposals please write them in the box below.**

## About you

Please answer the following questions about you where applicable. We will use this information to make sure the services we provide meet the needs of different types of people – it will not be used to identify you individually.

**Q8**

### Are you responding to this consultation as...

Please tick ✓ as many as apply

- A parent/carer of child with disabilities (FIND database)
- A child or young person with disabilities
- Lancashire Parent Carer Forum
- Staff employed in the residential overnight breaks units
- County Councillor
- A representative of a district council
- Children and Young People's Trust (specify district below)
- Health Commissioners and other stakeholders
- Children's Rights Service
- Professional Associations and Trade Unions
- Special schools
- Other (please specify below)

Your name .....

Organisation (if applicable) .....

If you are responding to this consultation as a **parent/carer of child with disabilities or as a child or young person with disabilities**, please answer questions 9 to 16.

**Q9**

### What is your postcode?

Please write in the box

**Q10**

### If you are a parent/carer, how old is the child/are the children with disabilities that you care for?

Please tick ✓ as many as apply

Under 11

11-18

**Q11** **Are you...?**  
Please tick ✓ one box only

Male

Female

---

**Q12** **What was your age on your last birthday?**  
Please write in below

years

---

**Q13** **Are you a deaf person or do you have a disability?**  
The Equality Act 2010 defines a disabled person as someone who has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.  
Please tick ✓ one box only

Yes

No

---

**Q14** **Do you have access to a car?**  
Please tick ✓ one box only

Yes

No

---

**Q15** **What is your religion?**  
Please tick ✓ one box only

Christian

Jewish

Other religion

Buddhist

Muslim

No faith

Hindu

Sikh

Prefer not say

---

**Q16** **Which best describes your ethnic background?**  
Please tick ✓ one box only

White

Asian or Asian British

Black or Black British

Mixed eg White and Asian

Other

---

**Thank you for taking part in this consultation. Please send your response by 6 March 2013 in an envelope to:**

Short Break Strategy for Children with Disabilities Consultation, Lancashire County Council, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8XJ