

# Short breaks and respite services bulletin

Short breaks and respite services for children and young people with disabilities

## Bulletin 1: 7 August 2015

Welcome to the new bulletin for short breaks and respite services for children and young people with disabilities. We will be providing regular updates on these services for parents, families and members of the public including the progress being made in developing new services for children and young people with disabilities.

### Parents' letter

All parents were sent a letter on Thursday 30 July from Herefordshire Council. This contained information on behalf of the council, Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Wye Valley NHS Trust (WVT).

The three organisations met on Tuesday 28 July to discuss the situation regarding services provided at 1 Ledbury Road. The main points from the meeting are that:

- 1) All organisations agree that the current service provided at 1 Ledbury Road does not meet the needs of all families with children with complex needs. As such, changes will continue to be implemented to move towards a more family and community based approach, which has proved successful in other parts of the country.
- 2) Whilst we remain committed to providing family and community based respite, we recognise that for families with particularly complex needs, it may take longer to secure alternatives and we have agreed that residential respite will remain available as an option for those families which need it.

- 3) It is important to note that 1 Ledbury Road will eventually close; however please be reassured that this will not be until all families have been provided with a suitable alternative service. We will work closely with families whilst they transfer to new or existing services. Until this happens, the service at 1 Ledbury Road will continue to be provided by Wye Valley NHS Trust, subject to available staffing and the premises meeting required regulatory standards.
- 4) There is not a generic 'one size fits all' solution to short breaks provision in Herefordshire; the services we have developed and continue to develop will be based on the individual needs of each child and their families.

The [meeting minutes](#) are available on the council's newsroom.

### Frequently asked questions

We have received a number of questions from parents and these are now available in our [frequently asked questions](#) document on the council's newsroom.

We also received new questions during our [Facebook priorities and budget consultation Q&A session](#) on Wednesday 5 August, which will be added to the frequently asked questions.

To keep up to date with our frequently asked questions, please subscribe to the e-mail and RSS page updates on our [newsroom](#) (top right hand corner).

### Short breaks and respite provision

We already have a range of different short breaks and respite provision available in Herefordshire, including buddying, holiday play schemes and youth and activity clubs.

To find out more about what is available, please visit our [short breaks, activities and respite for children with disabilities and their families page](#).

### Ongoing service developments

On Thursday 30 July the council hosted a session with 12 organisations that are able to provide services specifically for 16 and 17 year olds with disabilities, which could be continued beyond the age of 18. The session included a number of successful, well established service models in other areas of the country, which we will be exploring further.

We will also be engaging with parents on our current services along with our proposals for new services in the next three to four months.

The specialist family-based carer service is now advertising for potential carers. The council has already been approached by people currently working with children with complex disabilities

and challenging behaviour, who have expressed an interested in becoming a short breaks carer. This is a great start to the new scheme and to find out more visit the [short breaks carers page](#).

### Over the next month we will be...

- Meeting with parents who have children using services at 1 Ledbury Road to talk in more detail about what the changes will mean for them and their child. If you haven't already confirmed a date in August or September, please contact the council's education and commissioning business support team on 01432 261584.