

Short Breaks

Progress update report

Scrutiny Committee – Children & Families

May 2024



Somerset
Council

We want to....

- Increase local support, reducing transport.
- Increase families' ability to get help earlier, faster.
- Improve families' ability to support each other
- Increase families' ability to influence local provision



Because...

“It’s my life, not a service”

“We want to have the same opportunities as everyone else”

“We shouldn’t have to fight for what we need”

“If I could take my child to the park, I wouldn’t need a short break”

“I don’t ask about clubs – they won’t want my child to go”

Progress so far....

- Additional capacity at the Front Door – making sure people get the right support in a timely way – reducing the process time
- SPCF holding Let's Talk about SEND events, and Annual Questionnaire – incorporating short breaks discussions to get families' views
- Commissioning Capacity identified
- Budgets continue to be analysed – repurposed budgets from agency staff and related spend
- 3 short breaks foster carers, increased by 2
- Initial agreement for two new short break homes. Positive and creative conversations held with potential partners who are keen to be part of this work.

Model for New Homes

- Capital monies for 2 new homes identified - £1.5m
- Revenue from old Beechtrees budget and reduction of agency costs
- Currently scoping areas of high need to identify locations to minimise travel for children
- Options to be considered:
 - Working in partnership with an external provider – i.e. Homes & Horizons model
 - Working in partnership with a Special School/MAT on a county-wide model
 - Develop Council homes i.e. The Lodge and The Elms



Next Steps

- This project is now part of Children's Services' Transformation Plan
- Reporting to the Transformation Board and Finance Board
- Further identification of budgets
- Business case for new homes
- Workforce Development

Any questions?



Somerset
Council