

# Consultation on changes to the provision of overnight short breaks for families with disabled children and young people

22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2018 to 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2018

North Yorkshire County Council provides a range of short break services for disabled children and their families. We undertake assessments of disabled children, taking into account the needs of their carers and family and we provide a range and level of services appropriate to their needs. We support those who provide care for these children by providing breaks, both at times of crisis and to help them with their family life.

The support we offer covers a range of short break services, including day time and overnight care for disabled children, in their own homes and elsewhere. We also provide befriending and sitting services, assistance for carers in the evening, at weekends and during holidays, as well as support for disabled children to take part in education and recreational activities. We also provide emergency care.

As part of our commitment to providing services to disabled children and their families, we need to make sure we provide the right services at the right time, in the most cost effective way and that these are based on current demand and information on future demand. Having reviewed our services, we are consulting on proposals to make some changes to overnight short break services in the Harrogate and Craven districts. These proposals involve moving from four to three children's resource centres (CRCs), with the potential closure of the Ghyll in Skipton and Beck House in Harrogate, together with investment in more facilities at Nidderdale CRC in Killinghall, Harrogate. Our CRCs at Cherry Tree Lodge in Scarborough and Morton on Swale in Hambleton are not affected by these proposals.

Facilities in Skipton (at The Ghyll) and in Harrogate (at Nidderdale and Beck House) provided 1,633 overnight short breaks during 2017 and 2018. Although well used in previous years, the current level of demand at The Ghyll is low and predicted to remain so,

with only three existing service users expected to continue to use this service by November 2019. We need to ensure that the services we provide replicate a home like environment and continue the current high quality experience. This is very difficult when such a small number of children are using the facilities.

We have already been working to transform the short break service for disabled children and families, with the development of hubs to provide a range of both day and overnight care, holiday programmes, specialist foster carers and more personalised budgets. Our proposal includes a plan for further investment in the Nidderdale CRC in Harrogate, to maximise accommodation for overnight short breaks for those children currently using the Ghyll CRC and Beck House. Nidderdale CRC has recently been modernised and we are proposing further investment. We are also proposing to keep an outreach team in Skipton to ensure that staff are locally based to provide support with social and leisure opportunities for disabled children and their families.

We are committed to ensuring that the budget for special educational needs is used in the most relevant and effective way to the benefit of the children and families we support. We are therefore consulting on the following proposals. We have explained these below. We have also explained who and how we are consulting, the timescale for the consultation and our equalities impact assessment, as well as how to complete the survey.

### **Who are we consulting?**

We are consulting with the public on our proposals, specifically the following groups requesting their views;

- Parents, carers and young people;
- Parent and carers groups, including North Yorkshire Parents And Carers Together;
- Councillors from the county, district and borough councils; and
- Staff.

### **How are we consulting?**

We are asking a number of questions, in a survey, about our proposals and for any other ideas and suggestions. The survey will be available online, via the council's website and via the Local Offer. We will also provide paper copies and an 'easy read' version. We will also hold events around the county, to talk about the consultation and these will take place in March and April, with details available on our website, [www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk)

### **What is the timescale?**

We are consulting for 12 weeks (90 days), starting on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2018 until 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2018. Once the consultation has closed, we will review all of the responses and prepare a report for councillors on the results. They will consider any proposals to change our services provided through children's resource centres and make a decision on in July, 2018. If there are any changes to our CRCs, work will begin on site at Nidderdale CRC, subject to any planning considerations, in 2019, with any moves taking place likely to be in September, 2019.

## Information about our equalities impact assessment

We have drawn up an equalities impact assessment (EIA), which was included in the report considered by councillors on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2018, when they decided to consult. We will update this following comments received during the consultation and councillors will consider it again before they make a decision.

We have identified that if the proposals are implemented, they may have a negative impact on some children, young people and their families. However, without changes, we have identified that we cannot continue to provide the current level of overnight short breaks.

We anticipate any changes to the current overnight short break service will impact children and their families with special educational needs and disability, particularly those living the Craven and Harrogate areas and families with a low income. As these groups are more likely to find any changes difficult, there is potential for some negative impact. Therefore, if changes are made to current services, they will need our support.

We also anticipate that, if implemented, some changes may bring positive impacts to young people and their families, particularly with a range of different services available and more flexibility with personal budgets for leisure activities.

## Completing the survey

Please give your feedback on the proposals outlined by filling in our online survey, at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/consultations)

If you would like a paper copy of the survey, please call our customer service centre on 01609 780 780.

## Our proposals for consultation

We are consulting on implementing both proposal 1 **and** proposal 2.

### Proposal 1

To enhance the capacity and physical environment at Nidderdale Children's Resource Centre in Harrogate and stop providing overnight short breaks at the Ghyll Children's Resource Centre (CRC) in Skipton and Beck House, Harrogate.

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Demand for overnight stays at the Ghyll is predicted to fall further, with only seven of the 43 disabled children in the Craven area requiring the overnight stays at the Ghyll at the end of 2017. Based on information about future demand, the council estimates only three existing users will be using the Ghyll by November 2019.

With this fall in demand, running such a large service at the Ghyll for such a small number of children makes it difficult and expensive to deploy staff and offer the right experience or quality of service for the children and families. The low level of use means that an overnight stay at the Ghyll costs £750 per night, compared to costs at the council's other CRCs of £450 per night.

**Impact of the proposal**

The proposal includes a plan for further investment in the Nidderdale CRC in Harrogate, to maximise accommodation for overnight short breaks for those children currently using the Ghyll CRC and Beck House.

If the plans go ahead and overnight breaks are no longer provided at the Ghyll, social workers will work with families to review their support and ensure any changes to overnight short breaks are well managed for the young people involved.

**Also, in addition;**

**Proposal 2**

Creation of an outreach team, based at the Ghyll in Skipton, to provide locally based staff who would provide support with social and leisure opportunities for disabled children and their families.

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Families have more control over their budgets and, as a result, are choosing different types of support to meet their needs. For example, some families have used their budgets for school holiday clubs, short family breaks away and short breaks provided in the homes of specialist foster carers.

We are proposing to place a team of workers at the Ghyll in Skipton who will work with families in the area to help them access the support and breaks that they need, including after school clubs, holiday clubs, short breaks away and care in a home environment, through specialist foster carers.

**Impact of the proposal**

The impact of this proposal means that there will still be a team of locally based staff to help children and families in the Craven area, with the support that they need. They will work with families to find support and if required, provide help for any overnight short breaks provided in Harrogate at Nidderdale CRC.

**Other comments**

We are asking for views on what else should be available in the Skipton and Craven area, for disabled children and their families and what other options there are to save money and other changes to the service that we should consider.

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We are asking for ideas and suggestions.

Consultation on changes to the provision  
of overnight short breaks survey

**Please select your area:** (please tick one)

- Craven
- Hambleton
- Harrogate
- Richmondshire
- Ryedale
- Scarborough
- Selby

**What is the main way that you are involved with Disabled Children's Service?** (please tick one)

- I am parent/carer
- I am a young person
- I am responding on behalf of an organisation
- Other

**If other, please specify**

**Please select your age range:** (please tick one)

- Under 18 years old
- Over 18 years old

**Do you consider yourself to have a disability?** (please tick one)

Yes

No

**Which services do you use?** (please tick all that apply)

The Ghyll

Beckhouse

Nidderdale

**Do you agree with the proposals to improve the quality of short breaks offered at Nidderdale to meet the needs of the disabled children and their families in the Harrogate/Craven area?**  
(please tick one)

Yes

No

**Do you agree with the creation of the outreach team in Skipton to ensure that staff are based locally for families to support young people at home and with social and leisure opportunities?** (please tick one)

Yes

No

**If you answered no, what other options do you want us to consider?**

**Do you agree with the proposal to close the Ghyll from 2019?** (please tick one)

Yes

No

**If you answered no, why?**

**We plan to develop other services in the Craven district including family based short breaks, community resources for day care and holiday day care and domiciliary care providers who have not previously delivered services in Craven. Is there anything else you would want to see available in Craven?**

**Thank you for taking the time to tell us your views.  
Please submit your views by Thursday 21 June 2018.**

**Once completed please send your responses to:**

**Central Admin Team, SB110  
North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL7  
8AE**