



<u>Committee and Date</u>
Young People's Scrutiny
4 th February 2015

<u>Item</u>
10
<u>Public</u>

HAVENBROOK : SHORT BREAKS FOR CHILDREN ON THE EDGE OF CARE EVALUATION REPORT

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1. Summary

This report provides Members with feedback about the short breaks initiative at Havenbrook, more recent developments and sets out the local authority's intention to continue this initiative.

1.1 Havenbrook short breaks provision is part of the wider Looked After Child strategy which has the following principals:

- To prevent children and Young People needing to come into the Local Authority care system where it is possible and to support them to remain in their family care where it is safe to do so.
- To deliver our services with flexibility and use of innovative approaches to provide a range of services to children and families to provide the right service at the right time.
- To ensure that where children need to come into LA care we progress our assessments and care planning without undue delay achieving permanent and stable outcomes as soon as possible.

1.2 Havenbrook opened as a short breaks resource on 9th June 14 the attached is the evaluation report. Appendix A

2. Background

Scrutiny report 16th July 2014 – Short Breaks for Children on the Edge of Care
Scrutiny report 17th December 2014 – Residential Services re-design

3. Recommendations

- To note the outcomes achieved for children who have used this short break provision.
- To note the positive feedback from young people and parents on the value of the resource.
- To comment on the proposal to continue Havenbrook as a short breaks resource to children and young people on the “edge of care”.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Crisis breaks:** A four day crisis short break at Havenbrook costs £1074 (15/16 based on five rooms each providing 2 short breaks per week).
- 4.2 The cost of a weekly external Crisis provision is approximately £4000 a week. Where children are placed in external crisis placements these are often out of county and in the majority of cases the minimum duration of the crisis stay is one week. Our average crisis stay is four days.
- 4.3 This represents a saving of £2,926 for each placement.
- 4.4 During the pilot period 13 young people have received crisis short breaks Therefore, providing the crisis short breaks for these 13 young people saved up to £38,038 over the 7 month pilot period.
- 4.5 Planned breaks:** To date 29 young people have used planned short breaks to prevent them needing LA care provision. 27 young people identified on the edge of care have been supported to stay in parental care.
- 4.6 The mean average duration of a LAC placement for children of this age group who are received into LA care, is four months (based on our three year analysis report).
- 4.7 The average cost of a residential placement for four months is £41,828 (lowest block contract). The cost of 4 short breaks is £4296. Therefore providing a planned monthly short break and preventing care for four months achieves a saving of £37,532 per child. For 27 children has achieved a potential saving of £1,013.364 in this pilot period.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Scrutiny report 16th July 2014 – Short Breaks for Children on the Edge of Care

Scrutiny report 17th December 2014 – Residential Services re-design

Portfolio Holder Decision 16th – Residential Services re-design

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Ann Hartley

Local Member

All Members

Appendices

Appendix A – Evaluation Report