

# Herefordshire commissioned short break opportunities

## Provisional menu for 2017-2020

There are three tiers of service that can offer a short break:

**Tier 1 - Universal:** non-commissioned mainstream community services that are accessible without an assessment such as youth clubs, uniformed groups (i.e. cubs, brownies), leisure centres, nurseries, childminders and activity-based groups

**Tier 2 - Targeted:** daytime activities designed specifically for disabled children that can be accessed without a professional assessment. Services can be available through a mix of commissioned and non-commissioned providers.

**Tier 3 - Specialist:** Commissioned specialist short break services can be provided to meet a specific need following a social care assessment of the child and their carers. Depending on the outcome of the assessment, needs can be met through a range of services, including:

- direct payments that families can use to employ a personal assistant or fund other activities
- specialist daytime activities
- sleep over short breaks
- residential-based overnight short breaks

Compared to previous arrangements, there will be some key similarities and key differences to the way that commissioned short breaks offer will operate for 2017-2020:

### **Tier 1 universal activities**

Universal activities are not commissioned or provided by the council. However, the council has commissioned a market support and development service, which will be delivered by Marches Family Network. The role of the new service will be to help develop services across all three tiers, but with a key focus on universal activities. The service and the council will also be working to improve the information about what universal activities are available and how they can be accessed.

### **Tier 2 targeted daytime activities**

Responses to community consultation and engagement activities showed that there is clear support for an allowance-based system, to promote equity of access, for targeted daytime activities.

It is intended to implement an allowance-based scheme in 2017, which will be targeted at children in [bands D and E of the special educational needs tariff model](#). The Council will be contacting the families of children in Bands D&E to explain how the new scheme will work. There could be individual cases where families of children in bands A-C are experiencing unique circumstances that could also justify the approval of a targeted short breaks allowance. Therefore, the council will operate a special circumstances application process for children outside bands D&E. Further information about the process will be published at [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/shortbreaks](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/shortbreaks) in due course.

The services proposals that have passed evaluation are as follows:

### **Tier 2 targeted daytime activities**

<b>Provider</b>	<b>Service Offer</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Aspire	Summer Activity Scheme	Pass
Aspire	Youth Club and Tea Club	Pass
Aspire	Explore Day Trips	Pass
Crossroads Care	Specialist Skills Clubs	Pass
Marches Family Network	Daytime Activity session	Pass

### **Tier 3 specialist day and overnight short breaks**

Access to specialist short breaks will continue subject to a social care assessment of need by the council's children with disabilities team.

The menu of short break opportunities at this level also includes the 'Sleep Over Service', which is delivered in-house by the council's specialist carers supported by its fostering team.

Two incumbent providers of specialist short breaks decided not to participate in the 2017-2020 short breaks offer in Herefordshire. These were Core Assets (providing 1:1 buddying) and Wye Valley NHS Trust (providing residential overnight breaks). Each provider is expected to be supporting fewer than ten children by the end of March. The council's children with disabilities team will be continuing to work with the children and families concerned to plan for their transfer to alternative arrangements. If your child is currently supported by either of these providers, and if you have any questions about what this means for them, please contact your allocated worker in the children with disabilities team on 01432 260859.

The services proposals that have passed evaluation are as follows:

### **Tier 3 Specialist daytime activities**

<b>Provider</b>	<b>Service Offer</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Aspire	Buddies	Pass
Marches Family Network	Daytime Activity session	Pass
Crossroads	Specialist 1:1 Support	Pass

### **Tier 3 specialist overnight residential short breaks**

<b>Provider</b>	<b>Service Offer</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Herefordshire Council	Sleep Over Service	N/A
Acorns - Worcester	Overnight Residential	Pass
Aspire - Hereford	Overnight Residential	Provisional pass
Orbis - Presteigne	Overnight Residential	Pass