

## Department People's Commissioning

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Our ref:  
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**Please ask for:** Angela Lewis

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**Date:** 12 January 2022

Dear Parent and Carer

I am writing to update you on a change to short breaks from 1st April 2022.

### What are short breaks?

Short breaks are services that can help families with a disabled child. They give disabled children the chance to have time away from their families, make new friends and have fun. They give parents a break from caring for their child; give parents the chance to spend time with their other children; and are designed to meet different levels of need. The Council's Short Breaks offer must include, as appropriate, a range of:

- day-time care in the homes of children or elsewhere
- overnight care in the homes of children or elsewhere
- educational or leisure activities for children outside their homes
- services available to assist carers in the evenings, at weekends and during school holidays.

### Why are changes required?

The short breaks services began to offer support to families on July 1, 2017. We regularly review the support we offer as it is important for us to make sure that our services continue to meet the needs of all families. The Council undertook public consultation with parents and carers in 2020 to understand how families want to access their short breaks services.

The outcome of the consultation can be found at

<http://cmttpublic.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/documents/s72798/Appendix%20%20->



[%20Outcome%20of%20the%20Short%20Breaks%20Commissioning%20Strategy%20Consultation.pdf](#)

We have used this feedback and developed improved services to meet the needs of families, based on what you told us.

There are two main areas of short breaks we have reviewed. They are:

- Community based short breaks for children and young people with targeted needs and complex/specialist needs, and
- Brokerage Service – support to access the Creative Breaks Service and participation into universal services.

### **What changes will be happening?**

We have recently asked companies to bid to run our services. This process has now been completed and with the help of parent representatives of the Parent Carer Forum, bids were evaluated.

I am pleased to inform you that from 1 April 2022:

- The Endorphins Group will provide community based short breaks across west Cheshire. The Endorphins Group is already commissioned to deliver short breaks in Manchester, Bury, Salford, Cumbria, Doncaster, East Riding, Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Barnsley and Kirklees. The Endorphins Group proposes to offer 'Come and Try' taster sessions during March to support a successful transition to the new short breaks service. This means that short break group sessions currently delivered by Disability Positive and LIVE! will not be commissioned by Cheshire West and Chester Council after 31 March 2022.
- Disability Positive will provide the Brokerage Service which aims to provide information, advice and support to families to access funds from the Creative Breaks service, access universal services or be supported to access resources within their community by a Buddy/Volunteer.

### **What does this mean for my family?**

We will be working with both The Endorphins Group and Disability Positive to prepare for a 1 April 2022 start date. We will be in contact shortly to let you know how you can join one of the March 'Come and Try' taster sessions.

Further information will be provided to parents and carers prior to the April 1 start date to let you know where and when community based short breaks will be provided from and how services will be accessed.

If you have any questions, please email

[AimingHighForDisabledChildren@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:AimingHighForDisabledChildren@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela Lewis', written in a cursive style.

Angela Lewis  
Commissioning Manager