Short Breaks/Respite Care

Context

Adults’ services wish to move away from grant funding towards contracts arrangement that allow respite and short breaks to be accessed by Adults’ services with 100% nomination rights to the service. Respite and short breaks will become a part of the contracted care package for Adults’ Services clients.

Carers and the person they care for between the age of 18 and 50 will be provided with a range of options including home, community, centre and holiday based short breaks. Carers and the person cared for aged 50 and older will be provided with a range of options including home, community, centre or residential care respite. Service users are supported to use community facilities, establish social networks, meet people and make friends.

We want to develop a varied market in respite and carers breaks to be marketed at both self-funding and self-commissioning carers (as increasing the numbers of carers make use of direct payments available through the Council). We also want to increase the amount of home-based respite available.

A varied range of respite care with flexibility to meet different needs will require a flexible and responsive range of high quality respite care offers and expanding the Shared Lives approach.

Under the Children and Families Act and SEND reforms local authorities must provide a range of short breaks for disabled children, young people and their families. Provision of short breaks is central to Ealing Council’s plans to meet the needs of children with additional needs and their families.

Short breaks provide structured safe activities for children and young people within the community, providing the opportunity for children and young people to have fun, learn, develop and gain independence. They also provide respite for families and help to support children to stay at home helping to prevent the need for children to go into care or go to residential boarding schools.

By providing children and young people with a disability and their families with short break services, Ealing Council aims to ensure that those children and young people and their families have the support they need to live ‘barrier free lives as a matter of course.

Under the Children and Families Act and Care Act requires that the council identify, assess and support young carers. Young carers are children and young people under the age of 18 who take on and provide a considerable amount of care and support to a family member or friend who have a physical or learning disability, long term illness, mental health needs or an issue with drugs or alcohol. Based on national research it is thought that there may be up to 4,000 young carers under the age of 18 in Ealing.

The impact of being a young carer can be profound for young people and families including:

- Problems at school – poor attendance, achievement, not being able to complete homework
- Problems moving in to adulthood– further education, employment
- Isolation and a poor social network with children of similar age
- Lack of time for leisure activities
- Being bullied and stigmatised.
Feeling isolated with no access to support

Identification of and support to young carers is a key priority in Ealing to help ensure all children and young people grow up safe from harm and reach their full potential. This priority addresses the isolation and negative impact young carers might experience.

Budget

The proposed budget for the provision of short breaks and respite care is £0.380m per year for 4 years (2019/20 to 2022/23) subject to annual approval.

Proposed funding priorities

- Increasing the range of respite for carers of adults - The council is looking to develop services that support prevention of placement breakdown and in-patient admission and this could be support provided in a care home respite unit or an outreach model in the customers/carers home. The Council want to look at a range of options and encourage innovation.

  The Council intends to tender from suitably registered Care Providers for various types of Respite Care Services. This range of services provide planned and emergency short term, time limited breaks for families and other unpaid carers of adults with the intention that families/carers resume care at the end of the respite period. Both the planned and emergency respite provision is focused on helping individuals remain at home, sustaining caring relationships and preventing crises developing. The Service will be available 365 days per year.

  The proposal is that these services will be procured through individual care packages.

- Short Breaks for children and young people - It is proposed that short breaks for children and young people remain as a key priority.

  Funding will be via grants or a move to contracted and managed services.

- Young carers - The proposed priorities for young carers is a young carers’ project within the community that address the isolation and negative impact that young carers may face. Similar to last year, one grant will be made for this with a requirement for the service work in partnership with Ealing Carers' Support Service.

  It is proposed to fund this via a grant

Main changes from 2015/19 funding arrangements

In the previous round Adults’ services grant funding was provided to contribute toward the costs of providing respite for family carers through three grants:

- Dementia specific
- Learning disability specific
- Other vulnerable adults’ carers

As indicated above, the council will now take a different approach to the funding of short breaks and respite care for adults through individual care packages rather than through grant funded services. This will ensure that the funding is focused directly on where it is most
needed. Providers will need to consider how to offer personalised care to meet the identified
needs which will be contracted by the council.

How short breaks are commissioned by Children’s services either via a grant or move to a
more formal contractual procedure with voluntary sector providers is being considered. A
move to contracting services would mean placements would be managed by the council for
children and families with identified and targeted need.