

# Impact Assessment

## Assessment of: The Impact of recommendations to:

1. Update the existing children's disabled services direct payment policy. This will provide increased clarity of the purpose of the payments, how values are derived and expected uses of the payments to families and partners accessing direct payments. Replace the existing resource allocation system tool with Disabled Children's Service Short Break- Decision Support Framework. This will provide fair and transparent decision making which is based on an assessment of the number of hours of social care support through both term and holiday periods, and the level of skill to deliver that support, depending on the specific needs of the child.

Service: Children's Services, Devon County Council

Head of Service: Joanne Siney

Version / date of sign off by Head of Service:

Version 1 (Draft for Short Breaks Project Board review) 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Version 2 – 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Assessment carried out by:

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- Helena Freeman, Head Accountant
- Amber Wallis, Commissioning Officer

## 1. Description of project / service / activity / policy under review

The Direct Payments Policy is intended to achieve transparent, consistent practice and approaches for disabled children, young people and families accessing direct payments and ensure that Devon County Council meets its statutory obligations in relation to legislation and guidance. It will provide families, young people and professionals with clarity about the resources that are available to meet an individual child or young person's needs and the opportunity to have more control over how that support is provided.

This policy covers direct payment support for social care for eligible children and young people who are aged up to 18 and the approach used to assess and support fair access to services.

Direct payments are described [here](#)

## 2. Reason for change / review

The current policy and resource allocation tool has not been fully updated since 2016. Through the work of the Short Breaks Project Board, Disabled Children's Service and Children's Commissioning Team have sought the views of families about the experience of short break support and improvements needed. Listening to families who are in receipt of direct payments, through the engagement sessions, it has been identified that there is a need for increased clarity on the use of direct payments and fair and consistent decision making in how support is provided. An internal review of the resource allocation tool identified that this was not fit for purpose in meeting the needs of children and families within Devon. The need for the update to policy has also been brought to the attention of the service through a Devon Audit Partnership review.

## 3. Aims / objectives, limitations and options going forwards (summary)

Our aim is to ensure that young people and families accessing direct payments have clear and transparent information to support their choice and control when using direct payments and to ensure these are accessed in a manner which is in line with their plans in order to meet social

care outcomes. The replacement of the resource allocation tool is aimed at providing a fair and transparent approach applied consistently within the service to ensure the right support is provided at the right time and that this is equitable.

## 4. People affected, diversity profile and analysis of needs

People affected would include disabled children and young people aged 0-18 years living in Devon who receive or may in the future receive direct payments.

As of June 2022, there were **1,864** disabled children and young people receiving short breaks support. **1,315** of the children and young people received funding through a direct payment.

Nearly 31% of disabled children and young people accessing short breaks live in the local authorities Mid and East locality, 28% live in Exeter locality, 21% live in South locality and 17% live in North locality. Just over 2% reside outside of Devon. The majority (56%) of children and young people with SEND who are accessing short breaks are aged 11-16, 34% are aged 5-10, 9% are 17+ and 1% are aged under 5. Of the 1,864 disabled children and young people, the three highest ethnicity groups are White British 90%, White Other origin 3%, White and Asian 0.6%

The most predominant primary need listed for those children and

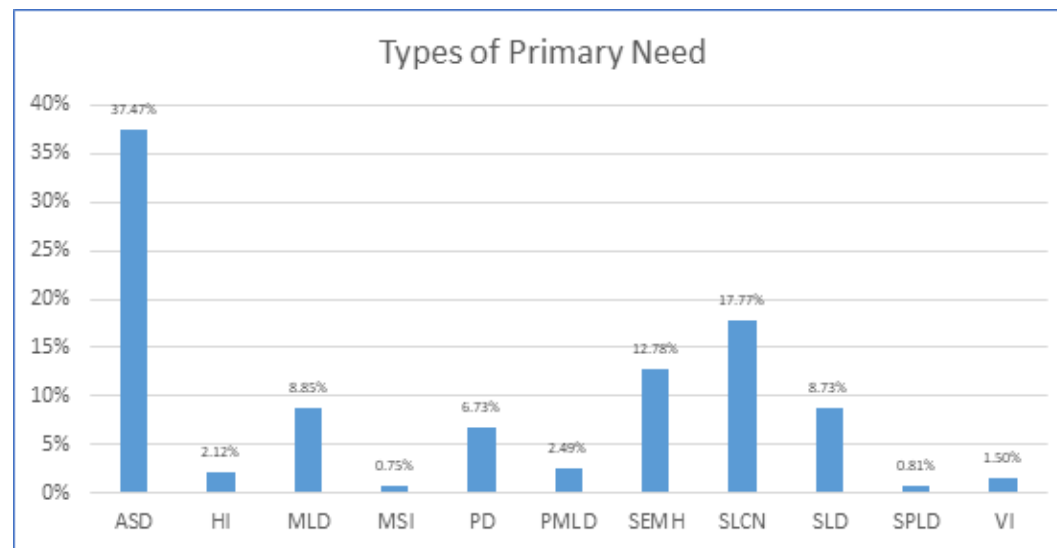


Figure 1: The types of primary need within the children and young people who have an EHCP and who have short breaks

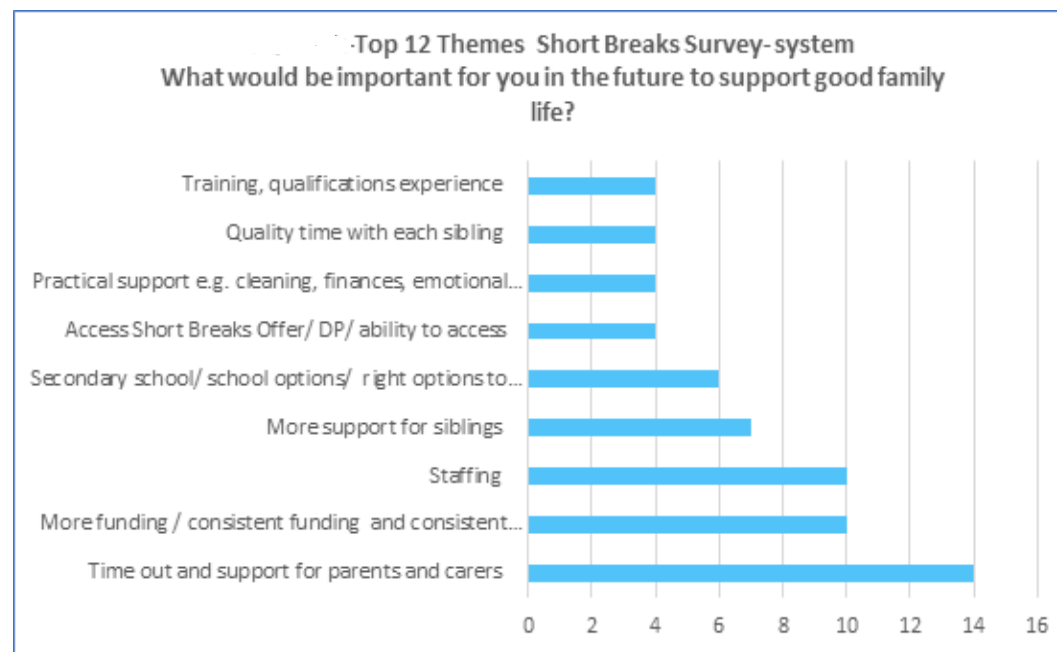


Figure 2: Family Feedback from 2019 Short Breaks Engagement

young people who are accessing short breaks and have an EHCP is Autism Spectrum Disorder (37.47%), followed by Speech Language and Communication Needs (17.77%) and then Social Emotional and Mental Health (12.78%). Theme derived from the Short Break Survey identified significant areas of need which are supported within the development of the proposed policy and decision support framework.

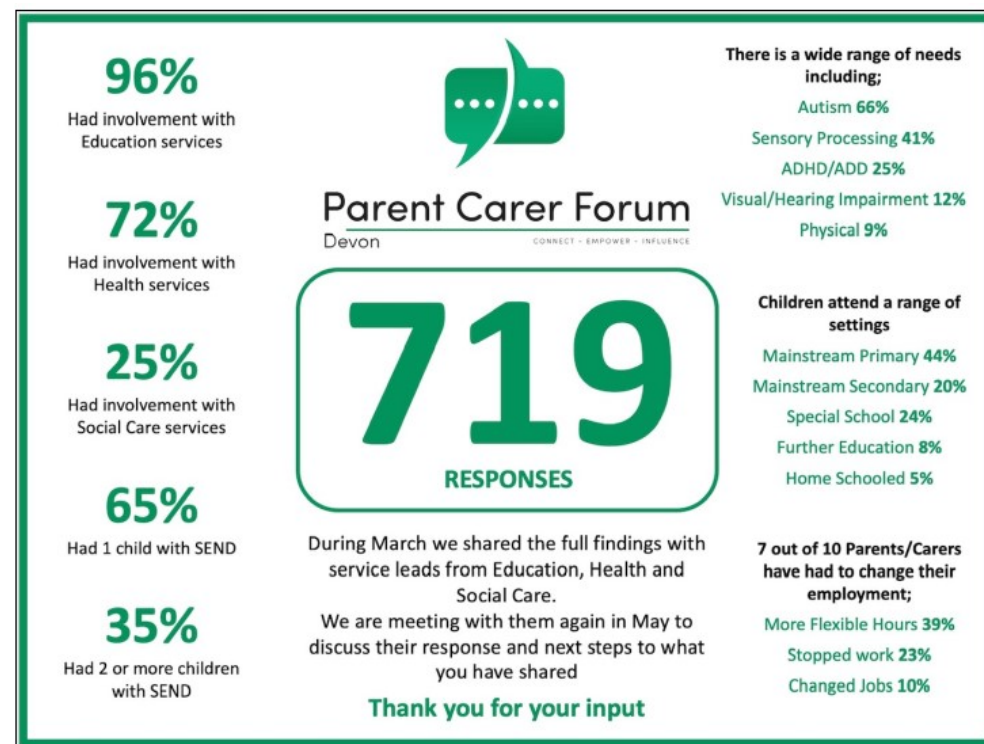
## 5. Description of consultation process and outcomes

In Devon, work has been ongoing around our short breaks offer and this was reviewed 2019. An initial period of engagement was undertaken with parents and carers, disabled children and young people and providers of short break services for families between the summer of 2019 and February 2020. The aim of this engagement was to understand the support families were receiving, how well this was working and what would help to better support families to have a good family life.

A Short Breaks Working Group was established and led by Devon County Council with representation from parents, local providers, and a Special School Head representative. The parental representation was ensured through the Devon Parent Carer Forum. This has developed into the Short Breaks Project Board.

Disabled Children's Service have actively sought to engage with families through 10 engagement sessions in 2022 and a direct payment working group which met on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022 to review the current arrangements. This engagement has informed the proposed changes which are underpinned by the annual family survey in November 2021 undertaken by Parent Carer Forum Devon (PCFD). 719 respondents provided feedback shared with Devon County Council in February 2022.

Parents fed back that their child's condition is often challenging due to the child's health condition and behavioural needs and that struggling with the daily home and school challenges, impacted through their child's condition, has a negative impact to family life.



### Of the parents of disabled children that responded:

- More than three quarters said they felt that **direct payments made a positive difference** to the child and the overall family
- Over half said they **do not experience collective working** across Education, Health and Social Care
- Over half said they **do not fully understand all the services available** to them
- Less than half said they feel that the services work with their child **to engage in the community** and lead a full and engaging life
- A quarter said they feel services **do not enable their child at all**

Parents added that they felt this was not helped by:

- Lack of support;
- Lack of understanding;
- Constant battling with professionals.

Parents said they felt that:

- Professionals should listen to and believe what they were going through;
- Other people were judging them and expected them to 'fit in';
- There was a lack of awareness around SEND;
- There was a lack of understanding around additional needs
- There were negative judgements made on their parenting.

Families identified that they enjoy spending time together making memories, which they tend to do either through activities in and out of the home. For many seeing their child and young people both grow and develop, or simply being happy and smiling provides real sense of enjoyment. However, many referenced that having this enjoyable time together was only possible where there was reduced demands or a calm environment, and some families were unable to have any enjoyable time together at all.

When asked around feeling included, the average parent felt only a slight sense of inclusion in the community (facilities, playgrounds, events & transport), whereas extracurricular & childcare were the most excluding, with over half of all parents feeling often or totally excluded.

The child's or young person's condition and presenting needs or unpredictable behaviour were identified as challenging for families. Multiple children add a layer of stress and complexity onto the existing daily challenges at both home and school. The situation is then made worse, due to a lack of support and understanding and a feeling of having to battle or fight for what they feel they need. This puts greater constraints on families, which negatively impacts the child, the parents and overall family life.

A quarter of those parents/carers who completed the survey, had an interaction with social care. Families felt that direct payments made a positive difference. However, through engagement work with families we understand the difficulties experienced in identifying the right supports and services. The respite provided, benefits not only for the child as they engage in an activity that they enjoy, but it provides indirect benefits to siblings who get to also spend quality time with their parents, and parents who get to have a break.

Factors identified by families that would make a significant impact included:

- Social care to provide respite and short breaks, through clubs & activities which provide social activities enabling self-care & time off / time with another child;
- Families wanted an increased level of understanding of their child's condition, and to know what groups to join and to have someone to talk to, in addition to an increased level of acceptance in society.

Families identified frustrations around the clarity of information the criteria for short breaks and access to the team.

As part of the development work necessary for the direct payment policy ***[is there a missing sentence/ phrase here?]***. Review has taken plan of the approach, policy and decision support tools used within neighbouring local authorities to support a more equitable approach across the peninsula. This has included fact finding discussions with the South West Direct Payment Provider Network and qualitative discussion with Cornwall, Dorset and Plymouth.

Disabled Children's Service has undertaken testing of the Decision Support Framework over 77 recipients of direct payments in order to understand the impact upon disabled children and their families until 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Amendments have been made and testing has been initiated with a larger cohort to ensure the levels of support accurately reflect the presenting social care needs and impact.



## What families have told us through engagement:

- families want to spend **quality time together, close to where they live**
- families would also like us to be **creative and flexible** about the types of things they can do as a short break that will **meet the wider family's needs**
- children and young people would like to do more activities like **sports, music, being outdoors**, and have **more chance to make friends**
- **older children** and young people would like to do things more **appropriate to their age and interests**
- families would like **better choice of experienced providers** who can offer opportunities for children and young people with more **complex and challenging needs and behaviours**
- some parts of Devon are better served for activities for children and young people to do than other parts and we need to **provide equity across the geography**
- **'enabling' services** and holiday clubs, which are really appreciated by families, can be **difficult to find and often have waiting lists**
- families feel services can be **too expensive**
- parents would like more **self-help information and advice** to support their children
- it's difficult for many families trying to juggle their lives, their relationships, interests, work etc alongside their caring roles
- sometimes parents and carers **feel isolated**, even in their own communities
- it's sometimes **difficult for siblings** of disabled children and young people, whose parents perhaps spend less time with them – they might want to do 'ordinary' things like having a friend over for tea, which in some situations is not possible
- many families do not have any contingency or crisis plan to fall back on in case it is needed
- they enjoy the flexibility of funding their short breaks through their **direct payments** and **personal budgets** so they can choose and arrange services themselves. We are committed to supporting families to do this wherever possible

## What children and young people have told us they would like:

- Have different options available, to choose the type, location, and time of my short break.
- Have help and support to become more independent.
- Have positive and good experiences.
- Be able to plan and design short breaks.
- Reach their full potential and thrive.
- Make new friends and learn new skills and become more confident.
- Build on strengths rather than difficulties or disabilities.

## What parents and carers have said matters to them:

- To know what short breaks are available and how to access them?
- Choices across the type, time, and location
- Clear communication from professionals to help make choices.
- More control and be able to deal with caring responsibilities.
- To know how to access support before reaching crisis point.
- To know that my child receives high quality short breaks and is cared for by trained, professional staff in a safe environment.

## 6. Equality analysis - Giving Due Regard to Equality and Human Rights

The Local Authority has considered how people will be affected by the service, policy and practice changes identified within the scope of this assessment. In so doing we have given due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Where relevant, Disabled Children's Service have taken into account the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation, race, and religion and belief. This means Disabled Children's Service has considered how people with different needs get the different services they require and are not disadvantaged, and facilities are available to them on an equal basis in order to meet their needs; advancing equality of opportunity by recognising the disadvantages to which protected groups are subject and considering how they can be overcome.

Disabled Children's Service have ensured that human rights are protected. In particular, that people have:

- A reasonable level of choice in where and how they live their life and interact with others (this is an aspect of the human right to 'private and family life').
- An appropriate level of care which results in dignity and respect (the protection to a private and family life, protection from torture and the freedom of thought, belief and religion within the Human Rights Act and elimination of discrimination and the promotion of good relations under the Equality Act 2010).
- A right to life (ensuring that nothing we do results in unlawful or unnecessary/avoidable death).
- The Equality Act 2010 and other relevant legislation does not prevent the Council from taking difficult decisions which result in service reductions or closures for example. It does require, and the Council would, ensure that such decisions are:
  - o Informed and properly considered with a rigorous, conscious approach and open mind, taking due regard of the effects on the protected characteristics and the general duty to eliminate discrimination, advance equality and foster good relations.
  - o Proportionate (negative impacts are proportionate to the aims of the policy decision)
  - o Fair
  - o Necessary
  - o Reasonable, and
  - o Those affected have been adequately consulted.

Characteristics	Potential or actual issues for this group.	<p>How will the project / service / policy / activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary.</li> <li>· advance equality (meet needs / ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps').</li> <li>· foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant?</li> </ul> <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the <u>DCC Equality Policy</u>?</p>

<p>All residents (include generic equality provisions)</p>	<p>The proposed changes impact solely on those accessing support and services from Disabled Children's Service through direct payments.</p>	<p>The proposed policy encourages increased consideration of support and services which are accessible within local communities to promote the inclusion of disabled children within their society. The direct payment policy intends to provide clarity to families in order to enable equality of resource access and support which is provided equitably to those most in needs in pursuant of the principles contained within Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 and Section 2 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Person's Act 1970 being compliant with the Children and Families Act 2014 and subsequent SEND code of practice.</p> <p>The proposed changes will increase the focus on assessed social care needs and the impact on families of caring for a disabled child considering the needs. This considered the construct of the family unit and providing flexibility for those whose need will surpass the scope of the decision support framework.</p> <p>A new provision within the policy is included giving the capacity for those over the age of 16 to hold and control resources provided by Devon County Council as part of their developing independence, if they are able to and wish to do so. This forms a fundamental change which is aimed at providing choice and control to young people who are approaching adulthood in order to support them to be ready and steady for this transition.</p> <p>The changes within the decision support framework promotes consideration of the necessary hours of support provided to meet their identified social care outcomes and the relevant skills required and expectations of providers. This is identified as hours with a skills level and cost which has been benchmarked with internal and external services provided in order to support equitable access to services and resources. However, as a local authority we recognise the difficulties identified by parent carer in identifying the right support. Therefore there is capacity within both documents for the level of support to be enhanced to an exceptional level if this is deemed necessary and proportional by Devon County Council. The construction of these documents allows greater flexibility in the way that support can be accessed by children, young people and families recognising their diversity.</p>
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Age	This policy and related decision support framework is only relevant to disabled children 0-18 years of age. On gaining adulthood, adults social care policy becomes relevant.	The direct payment policy is applicable across the full age range of 0-18 years relating only to the provision of direct payment by Devon County Council, Disabled Children's Service. Careful consideration has been given to the age of children and young people which has been integrated into the decision support framework in order to consider the changes in need and impact in line with developmental milestones and expected learning and development specific to them as individuals. This includes compliance with the Mental Capacity Act and movement towards Liberty Protection Safeguards. As a result of these changes children are supported on a scale relevant to their age, needs and the impact of their needs on their family.
Disability (incl. sensory, mobility, mental health, learning disability, neurodiversity, long term ill health) and carers of disabled people	All disabilities are within the scope of the policy and decision support framework and considered as part of the assessment of social care need. The needs of the wider family including carers are included in the assessments.	The policy and decision support framework have been developed to minimise the inequality that has become apparent through the use of the 2016 policy and decision support framework. The policy and decision support framework are seeking to ensure equitable access to support for disabled children with eligible social care needs. The integration of guidance assists in promoting the welfare and outcomes of children and young people where cohabiting social care, health and educational needs exist with the flexibility of planning supporting these aspects to dovetail together in line with the principles of the SEND code of practice.
Culture and ethnicity: nationality/national origin, ethnic origin/race, skin colour, religion and belief	Assessments will consider the culture and ethnic diversity of children and young people, considering their strengths, interests and aspirations in order to understand the right social care plan for them as an individual.	The policy and approach, including assessment, enables choice and control for children, young people and families within the parameters of the assessed level of need. This allows families and young people to choose what would make a difference to them now and moving forward. Devon County Council recognise that the significant diversity of this group and the need to provided flexibility and adaptability in order to reduce the impact upon them. Should additional support be required in order to access services necessary to promote communication this would be positively considered, and adjustments made.

<p>Sex, gender and gender identity (including men, women, non-binary and transgender people), and pregnancy and maternity (including women's right to breastfeed)</p>	<p>Assessments will consider sex and gender preferences where expressed or relevant so that children and young people are assessed considering their strengths, interests and aspirations in order to understand the right social care plan for them as an individual.</p>	<p>The decision support framework has developed a new provision in the necessity to consider matching of services and support to children and young people considering their wishes and feelings, dignity and choices in how support can be accessed. Children and young people continue to be able to self-identify their identity which is actively promoted through engagement and building plans upon their strengths, interests and aspirations founded in the principles of choice and control.</p>
<p>Sexual orientation and marriage/civil partnership</p>	<p>Assessments will consider sex and gender preferences where expressed or relevant so that children and young people are assessed considering their strengths, interests and aspirations in order to understand the right social care plan for them as an individual.</p>	<p>The decision support framework has developed a new provision in the necessity to consider matching of services and support to children and young people considering their wishes and feelings, dignity and choices in how support can be accessed. Children and young people continue to be able to self-identify their identity which is actively promoted through engagement and building plans upon their strengths, interests and aspirations founded in the principles of choice and control.</p>

<p>Other relevant socio-economic factors such as family size/single people/lone parents, income/deprivation, housing, education and skills, literacy, sub-cultures, 'digital exclusion', access to transport options, rural/urban</p>	<p>Direct payments may not be made in respect of certain people who have been placed under certain conditions or requirements by the courts in relation to drug and / or alcohol dependencies.</p> <p>From November 2009, the introduction of The Community Care, Services for Carers and Children's Services (Direct Payments) (England) Regulations 2009 meant that someone who has assessed eligible care needs but who lacks capacity to consent to direct payments can still receive them to meet their assessed eligible community care needs. However, if a person does not have the requisite mental capacity to agree to a direct payment, and there is no one suitable to do so on their behalf, then they</p>	<p>The decision support framework has been developed considering good practice in working with disabled children, young people and their families. This introduces consideration of contributing factors linking to the Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families in order to consider the diversity of families inclusive of lone parents, family size and the impact of other disabled children or those with special educational needs. Careful consideration has been given to the additional support necessary for Devon County Council to provide in order to promote access to the community and with a focus on building upon individual's strengths and wider family networks. However, this provision is made as part of access to wider early help or social care planning which address additional diversities which are not related to the needs or impact of the child or young person's disability.</p> <p>In accordance with the principles of the Children and Families Act 2014, SEND code of practice and Care Act 2014 all those over the age of 14 years will be considered against the eligibility for support provided by adult services. This is aimed at understanding the way that support can be provided to promote the long-term outcomes for children and young people moving towards adulthood in order to support their citizenship and life journey. Consideration of their individual needs for housing, education/ learning and development opportunities are considered within assessments which underpin the use of the decision support framework.</p> <p>Devon County Council offer additional payroll only service accounts, payroll and pension and fully managed accounts for young people and parents / carers who need support in accessing and managing payments. Services may also be contracted or individually commissioned on behalf of the child, young person or family.</p>
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	will not be eligible to receive a direct payment.	
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## 7. Human rights considerations:

The proposed policy and approach to promoting fare access to support is delivered in a manner necessary to support the vision, values and principles of United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children (1990) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006). The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990) describes a number of articles detailing the rights of all children and young people age 18 and under.

This includes:

- non-discrimination;
- best interests of the child;
- the right to life, survival, and development;
- health and health services;
- standards of living;
- right to education;
- freedom of expression and thought.

In addition, The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006) describes a further series of articles clarifying the rights of all individuals with a disability including children and young people.

This includes:

- respect for each person's dignity and person-hood;
- disabled people being full and equal members of communities/ society;
- equal life chances; education;
- equal rights to family life whereby disabled children should never be forced to live away from parents and families unless this is the best thing for them;

- health without discrimination;
- independence;
- standard of living;
- right to enjoy culture;
- recreation, leisure and sport in an equal basis to people who are non-disabled.

Devon County Council has given due consideration to the principles and requirements placed upon the Local Authority by the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and the impact of this on either short break planning or the provision of direct payments for disabled children. It has also considered the forthcoming implementation of the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019: Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS).

## 8. Supporting independence, wellbeing and resilience. Give consideration to the groups listed above and how they may have different needs:

### **In what way can you support and create opportunities for people and communities (of place and interest) to be independent, empowered and resourceful?**

The policy and decision support framework are aimed at providing increased choice and control for children and those developing towards becoming a young person. Careful consideration has been given to individuals' experiences and life journey which is individually specific, given the diversity of needs and impact. As such the policy provides significant scope for flexibility within planning while the use of the decision support framework support clarity over the need and impact upon a child, young person and their family. This does not replace existing planning arrangements but the relevant documents are constructed in a manner which promotes consideration of the long term outcomes and future aspirations for young people developing towards adulthood. Disabled Children's Service have recognised the feedback from parent /carers and young people about their experience of transition to adulthood and have duly responded by including consideration of Mental Capacity and Care Act eligibility in order to focus on outcomes which add the most value to young people now and in the future.

Young people are empowered to take control over their resources in line with the movement from Disability Living Allowance to Personal Independence Payments with an overall objective of increasing choice and control.

## **In what way can you help people to be safe, protected from harm, and with good health and wellbeing?**

Disabled Children's Service is conscious of the feedback from families and have built into the guidance for staff necessary consideration of training and matching for those supporting disabled children. As a key priority under the relevant legislation increased focus within practice delivery has been made on the necessity of a graduated response to services and support alongside the provision of graduated expectations upon employed and self-employed enablers or services arranged on behalf of the child, young person or family, to have relevant plans and risks assessments which are provided or able to be provided upon request. This is vital to promoting the welfare and outcomes of disabled children where their need[s] warrant this level of planning and delivery.

## **In what way can you help people to be connected, and involved in community activities?**

In line with the principles of the Equality Act, Mental Capacity Act and aforementioned legal rights the proposed policy and approach has been built upon the principle of community involvement and integration. Services and support are accessible and can be provided in a variety of different combinations. However, the overall principles within this consideration of needs, outcomes and planning is integrally linked to development and engagement in inclusive community activities at a universal, targeted and specialist level. This recognised the overall demographics of the affected cohort.

## **9. Environmental analysis**

An impact assessment should give due regard to the following activities in order to ensure we meet a range of environmental legal duties. The policy or practice does not require the identification of environmental impacts using this Impact Assessment process because it is subject to:

Devon County Council's Environmental Review Process		
Planning Permission		
Environmental Impact Assessment		
Strategic Environmental Assessment		
	<b>Describe any actual or potential negative consequences.</b>	<b>Describe any actual or potential neutral or positive outcomes.</b>
Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost:	None	None
Conserve and enhance wildlife:	None	None
Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of Devon's landscape:	None	None
Conserve and enhance Devon's cultural and historic heritage:	None	None
Minimise greenhouse gas emissions:	None	None
Minimise pollution (including air, land, water, light and noise):	None	None
Contribute to reducing water consumption:	None	None
Ensure resilience to the future effects of climate change (warmer, wetter winters; drier, hotter summers; more intense storms; and rising sea level):	None	None
Other (please state below):	None	None

## 10. Economic analysis

	Describe any actual or potential negative consequences.	Describe any actual or potential neutral or positive outcomes.
Impact on knowledge and skills:		<p>The arrangements for delivery of support and services in the future are likely to have a positive impact on knowledge and skills. Devon County Council has considered that needs of services within the community and actively seeking the development of knowledge and skills with the provision of Disabled Children's Future- Innovation Grants which is intended to launch within or directly following this consultation.</p> <p>It is likely knowledge and skills of some existing services would require development in order to enhance their knowledge, skills and practice in pursuance of protecting the welfare and outcomes of disabled children and young people as a core requirement.</p>

<p>Impact on employment levels:</p>	<p>There is a very limited possibility that the change in support arrangements could result in existing staff delivering specific services needing to reconsider their provision and costs with increased responsibility to safeguard and protect the welfare of children and young people being asserted.</p>	<p>The changes within the policy and decision support framework aim to support children and young people outcomes supporting them to be active citizens as they reach adulthood.</p> <p>There is a likelihood that increased focus on the development of self-determined outcomes for young people will increase their capacity to access learning and employment opportunities which promote their future economic stability.</p> <p>Retention and recruitment of particular groups of practitioners, for example enablers has been carefully considered and the implementation of the decision support framework and policy is aimed at being applied over a period of time allowing for additional focus on supporting market development recognising the concerns from families who experience challenges accessing enabling support.</p> <p>Providers are able to feedback directly to Disabled Children's Service through an online reporting form.</p>
<p>Impact on local business:</p>		<p>The consequence should be stimulation of the market for provision of community short breaks for disabled children providing choice for families and less need for cash – in place of a service. The clarity provided around the role of enabling will also allow families to be better informed when choosing how best to use their direct payments.</p> <p>Local businesses should benefit positively (providers of community short breaks and enabling services) as they will be supported to provide their services for disabled children and young people creating a richer and more diverse offer.</p>

## 11. Describe and linkages or conflicts between social, environmental and economic impacts (Combined Impacts):

There should be no conflicts. Social and economic benefits should be forthcoming as parents are able to engage more in the community offer and stimulate the enabling market. The new policy promotes local activity and engagement which is beneficial for children, young people, their families and the local community in pursuit of making all our communities in Devon inclusive.

## 12. How will the economic, social and environmental well-being of the relevant area be improved through what is being proposed? And how, in conducting the process of procurement, might that improvement be secured?

There will be no need for procurement activity.

## 13. How will impacts and actions be monitored?

Disabled Children's Service has undertaken testing of the decision support framework over 77 recipients of direct payments in order to understand the impact upon disabled children and their families until 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Amended have been made and testing has been initiated with a larger cohort to ensure the levels of support accurately reflect the presenting social can needs and impact. These changed supprot developing greater understanding of disabled children and young people, accessing short breaks, needs.

Disabled Children's Service continues to undertake regular consultation with parent carers through engagement which will extend into 2023 in order to assess the impact of changes. This is supported by an online feedback form accessible to parent carers, children and young people and providers to provide additional feedback on the service and changes.

Further impact will be monitored through engagement with the Parent and Carer forum and repeating the surveys on a timely basis with continual engagement with the service at an individual level.



