

Title:	Overnight Short Breaks Provision 2023 (Forward Plan reference number: FP/032/02/23)
Purpose:	Following March 2023 Cabinet meeting and subsequent call-in, this supplementary information is provided to support the scrutiny meeting discuss the recommended option to improve the overnight short breaks offer. The reasons for calling in the decision are set out in the table below, alongside the risks and mitigations, and the benefits of the recommended option.
Date:	06 th April 2023
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Reason for Call-in	Risks and Mitigations	Benefits and Opportunities
<p><u>Quality of Provision</u></p> <p>The Lavender House facility provides excellent care for these vulnerable children which meets their requirements, in some cases one to one supervision, and is not provided in the same secure and safe way by other private providers</p>	<p>Lavender House has provided excellent care for children and young people with complex needs, just as The Maples and external providers have done so. However, the building itself presents risks due to being on two levels. This means that young people with decreased mobility cannot stay upstairs due to health and safety requirements. This has an impact on the capacity of the building to respond to demand.</p> <p>This also means that for some of the time only one child or young person can stay at Lavender House, so they are not able to benefit from social connection to their peers.</p>	<p>The recommended option is based on one-to-one staff-to-child ratios, which enables capacity to be increased at The Maples.</p> <p>The quality and capacity of The Maples will increase due to the increased and improved staffing ratios, meaning that children and young people who elect to go to The Maples with specific one to one (or higher) ratio needs will not be segregated, and the service can respond to any future increase in demand.</p> <p>The Maples is built for purpose and can accommodate up to 8 young people at any one time.</p> <p>Externally commissioned providers are subject to the same regulations as internal provision. The provision commissioned by ECC is secure and safe, and quality assured.</p> <p>The staff at externally commissioned provision are highly skilled and committed to the families they serve.</p> <p>Externally commissioned providers sometimes have the benefit of in-team nurses, who can delegate specialist healthcare tasks to members of the staff team.</p> <p>Foster carers who provide family-based care go through robust safer recruitment processes and are trained to meet the needs of the children and young people they care for.</p>

		Most short breaks foster carers have worked in the social or care sector before becoming foster carers.
<u>Travel Times</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the children affected to have to travel from one side of the county to the other in Harlow is unacceptable given their particular health needs. For those parents who have to accompany their child and have other children in school, the journey makes this impossible The particular health needs of these children mean that long journey times, sometimes by taxi, are not possible and would be detrimental to their health 	<p>No young person will be expected to travel to unsuitable provision. Social Care carry out a needs assessment with families. That assessment determines which offer is most suitable for families and travel would be a decision factor.</p> <p>All 7 families currently accessing Lavender House will be supported to alternative provision based on need. Of those families, one is in support of the changes due to the additional choice it offers them, one lives in Mid-Essex and five live in Tendring.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that travel times will increase if a family living in the North East of the County chooses to travel to The Maples. If they choose to, then the most appropriate, efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements will be factored into care plans.</p>	<p>The proposed changes set out a range of overnight short breaks provision located across the County, including in North East Essex.</p> <p>The recommended change means being able to deliver more nights to families who need it, and for 95.1% of the families allocated provision, there are no additional travel implications.</p> <p>The engagement with families using Lavender has led to discussions about early transitions to adults' provisions when appropriate for the young person and will be developed alongside the changes to support the independence skills development of the young person. Tudor House in Stanway, Colchester is an example of adult's provision that could offer a local option for three of the young people who are turning 17 before the proposed changes take place.</p> <p>The 7 families currently accessing Lavender House will be supported to alternative provision which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Maples, in Harlow - Externally commissioned provision such as at Achieving Aspirations in Clacton - Overnight stays with trained specialist foster carers across the County - Care provided in the home overnight - Early transition to adult provision where appropriate and meets the needs of the young person.
<u>Sustainability and future planning</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Without these respite breaks parents will find it impossible to look after these children who will then become the full-time responsibility of Children's Services. 	Overnight short breaks will still be available, we are changing the model so that more families, not less families can access overnight short breaks.	<p>Overnight Short Breaks contribute to supporting the health and wellbeing of all the family thereby contributing to their resilience and stability.</p> <p>Increasing provision by delivering at The Maples with higher staff ratios will improve the Council's capacity to respond to need and prevent children coming into care.</p> <p>95.1% of the families who access overnight short breaks will not be adversely impacted or will benefit from improved</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If these children are not helped in their early lives, there is a real risk that later in life they will become the full time responsibility of Adult Social Care 		<p>provision. 4.9% of the children and young people who access overnight short breaks will need to be supported to alternative provision that will meet their needs.</p> <p>Families who in the future who have overnight short breaks identified as a need through social care assessment will be supported to access provision that meets the identified need.</p>
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