

## Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment - originator review

Reference: ECIA480755208

Submitted: 02 February 2023 11:30 AM

### Executive summary

**Title of policy / decision:** Recommissioning of CWD Overnight Short Breaks Provision 2023

**Policy / decision type:** Cabinet Decision

**Overview of policy / decision:** Section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Act requires local authorities to provide short breaks for families with disabled children. Short breaks give parent carers and siblings a break while enabling children and young people to meet friends, take part in activities, develop independence, and have fun.

Within the overall short breaks offer, children and young people can access ECC Overnight Short Break (OSB) services if they are: aged between 0-18 and have a diagnosis of special educational needs and/or a disability.

Overnight Short Breaks provision currently consists of 3 key elements, internal ECC provision (The Maples and Lavender House in Harlow & Colchester), Family Based Care, which is delivered through Short Breaks Foster Carers, and External Provision, e.g., Achieving Aspirations, Christopher's Cottage, Home Based Care and Direct Payments.

Currently, 142 children and young people have agreed OSB packages of 4128 nights. Of those 142 children and young people, 17 are waiting for provision to be identified. 34 children/young people access The Maples in Harlow and 14 children/young people access Lavender House in Colchester which will reduce to 11 during the period January 23 to April 23 as young people transition to adult services. An overall picture of the demand for each element of the Overnight Short Breaks provision is as follows: (numbers as at Nov 22):

Provision	Number CYP	Number of Nights
Family Based Care	37	1079
External Provision	34	756
The Maples	23	702
Lavender House	14	468
Home Based Care	10	162

Following a planned review of the overnight short breaks offer, there is a preferred option to condense the current internal offer as demand can be met at a single location and offer more capacity for families to access which may also include additional weekend nights. The single location would be The Maples, in Harlow. There we are confident that the new model of delivery at the single location will allow more targeted work to be carried out with individual families to develop young people's skills.

The Maples is a purpose-built facility that is better set up to meet the demand for the overall internal provision for OSB.

Family Based Care, Home Based care, Direct Payments and the element of External Provision will be maintained within the condensed offer and no proposed changes are considered. With regard to the internal provision, there would also be no change to the number of approved overnight short breaks that families are eligible for, the proposal means they will be delivered from The Maples.

Lavender House in Colchester would no longer be used to deliver OSB's but there is a separate proposal for this building to be repurposed to enable ECC to meet the challenge of solo Children's Social Care placements for Children & Young People with ASD.

Currently, families in the North and Mid of the County mainly access Lavender House and therefore may need to travel to the Maples in Harlow to access internal Overnight Short Breaks. The total number of eligible nights for families that currently access Lavender House is 513 per annum.

The condensed offer will be more cost effective and meet Overnight Short Breaks budget pressures through having one staff team and will enable increased capacity for OSB by expanding the offer across 7 nights a week, which families are asking for. The increased capacity also has potential to deliver nights currently delivered through external provision.

**What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?:** The condensed offer will be more cost effective and meet Overnight Short Breaks budget pressures through having one staff team and will enable an overall increased capacity for OSBs by expanding the offer across 7 nights a week, which families are asking for. The increased capacity also has potential to deliver nights currently delivered through external provision.

**Executive Director responsible for policy / decision:** Helen Lincoln (Children, Families and Education)

**Cabinet Member responsible for policy / decision:** Beverley Egan (Children's Services and Early Years)

**Is this a new policy / decision or a change to an existing one?:** New policy / decision

**How will the impact of the policy / decision be monitored and evaluated?:** An ongoing ECC Project Team consisting of Children & Families Commissioners, Operational CWD Colleagues, Finance Reps, Legal Rep and Citizen Insight will oversee the decision-making process and will also oversee the implementation of any changes should the preferred option be approved. The Decision is expected to go to Cabinet in March, following a full consultation with families, social care professionals and staff teams at Lavender House and The Maples which is being carried out during December 22/January 23.

The findings of the consultation will be shared back to families and staff in February. Should the decision be made to proceed with the preferred option, a staff consultation for the 15 affected staff at Lavender House will take place during April/May 2023.

Full implementation of any approved changes will take place during the Summer of 2023.

**Will this policy / decision impact on:**

**Service users:** Yes

**Employees:** Yes

**Wider community or groups of people:** No

**What strategic priorities will this policy / decision support?:** Health, Independence and Wellbeing for All Ages, A good place for Children and Families to Grow

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Health:** Healthy lifestyles, Carers, Levelling up health

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Families:** Family resilience and stability, Outcomes for vulnerable children, Levelling up outcomes for families

**What geographical areas of Essex will the policy / decision affect?:** All Essex, Tendring

## Digital accessibility

**Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?:** No

# **Equalities - Groups with protected characteristics**

## **Age**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Low

## **Disability - learning disability**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

## **Disability - mental health issues**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

## **Disability - physical impairment**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

## **Disability - sensory impairment**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

## **Sex**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **Gender reassignment**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **Marriage / civil partnership**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **Pregnancy / maternity**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **Race**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **Religion / belief**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **Sexual orientation**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** A full consultation with families has taken place from the beginning of December 22 which run for 8 weeks through to the end of January 2023. This was via an on-line survey which will be sent to all families accessing both The Maples and Lavender House, Foster Carers, Social Care Professionals and staff members at both sites.

The 11 Families who access Lavender House were offered face to face meetings in November & December 2022 to talk through the proposal and to help them better understand the impact to them and their children/young people.

The central findings of the consultation will be shared with families once the consultation has been completed, this is expected to take place in February 2023 and will be via a face-to-face meeting with families. Feedback from the consultation will also be shared with staff at both sites.

Should the preferred option be agreed, there will be a change to how the service is operated and also changes to the current staffing levels. There will be a 45-day consultation for the staff affected at the Lavender House site. This will be fully supported by HR functions, Commissioning and Operational Team Managers from within CWD. The preferred option will increase the number of available internal overnight short breaks for families across Essex and possibly increase availability at weekends which families have told us they want.

However, the preferred option does present a risk to a small number of families who live in the North of the County who access Overnight Short Breaks. 7 families will be subject to increased transport/travel times which may be a challenge around complex medical/behaviour needs of the children/young people being supported.

ECC will explore the following options for alternative arrangements for those families affected though exploring the following options:

**Home to School Passenger Transport:** Transport for those families that are eligible is currently provided from the ECC 'Home to School Transport Service' via current contracts between Passenger Transport Teams and various Transport Providers across the County. ECC will also explore options around transport continuing to be provided in this way and using existing providers to provide the transport to alternative provision instead of Lavender House in Colchester. Elements to be considered would include the medical and behavioural needs of the young person and any specialist health training needs for passenger transport assistants travelling with the young people.

**Individual Arrangements with Families who transport the Young Person to their Overnight Short Breaks themselves.** ECC will work with those families who currently provide their own transport to/from the Child/young person's short break needs and explore the impact of increased travel times and costs and look at ways families can be supported.

Where it is agreed that the increased travel times are not safe or appropriate for the child/young person, ECC will work with the families to explore other options around overnight short breaks, including Home Based Care, External provision, and Foster Carer provision.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts:** The affected 11 families have all been contacted individually and have been offered a face-to-face meeting with the Short Breaks Team to explore the possible impact of increased travel times and to start to consider a solution to travel requirements by working with the families involved directly. Through the consultation feedback with families, ECC will be better able to understand and measure the impact of the increased travel times.

A further element from initial conversations with families is that the additional distance involved does raise some anxiety for some parent/carers who live in the North of the County around being so far away during the duration of the Overnight breaks and fear of any emergency situation/medication needs. ECC will explore any possible impacts with families as part of on-going conversation and explore other options for the provision of overnight short breaks in a different way if needed.

## **Levelling up - Priority areas & cohorts**

**Children and adults with SEND, learning disabilities or mental health conditions (taking an all-age approach)**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

**Children on Free School Meals**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Working families**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

**Young adults (16-25 who have not been in education, training or employment for around 6-12 months)**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Harlow**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

**Jaywick and Clacton**

**Nature of impact:** Negative

**Extent of impact:** Medium

**Harwich**

**Nature of impact:** Negative

**Extent of impact:** Medium

**Basildon (Town) housing estates**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

**Canvey Island**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

**Colchester (Town) - Housing Estates**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

## **Rural North of the Braintree District**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** This has been marked positive due to the overall impact of the service that ensures families overnight short breaks needs are met. The Overnight Short Breaks are received well by families, and has positive outcomes for children and young people with SEND relating to the development of independence skills are demonstrated through family and staff engagements. However, a small population in the North of Essex is negatively impacted in terms of travel times and this is set out below.

In relation to the Levelling Up areas, at the time of the proposed change, there will be 11 families who may need to transition from Lavender House in Colchester to another alternative overnight short breaks offer. Geographically, in terms of where these families live, this is split as follows:

North Essex: Colchester & surrounding areas: 3 (including Wormingford, Kelvedon and Stanway)

North East Essex: Tendring: 4 (including Frinton, Brightlingsea, Harwich, St Osyth and Clacton)

South and Mid Essex: 4

The preferred option will mean there is a high negative impact on 7 families who live in Harwich, Jaywick and Clacton areas due to the increased travel time needed to access the Maples in Harlow, but no loss of overall service or change to the number of nights they are eligible for. ECC are confident that there will be increased flexibility around when they are able to access their overnight short breaks, including possible increased availability of weekend nights.

Overnight short breaks for families living in the South of the County, including Basildon & Canvey Island are predominantly provided through external provision and this will remain unchanged.

Currently, 21 of 23 families who access overnight short breaks at The Maples live in West Essex and consultation with families show they trust the staff and environment, the building is purpose built, is on one level and Ofsted feedback has been good on the support provided.

Rural North – there are several families accessing external provision through Achieving Aspirations in Bury St Edmunds and therefore any impact on families in this area will be low.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts:** As part of the consultation, affected families have already all been contacted individually and have been offered a face-to-face meeting with the Short Breaks Team to explore the impact of increased travel times and to consider potential mitigations to the impacts of increased travel time and costs.

Initial conversations with families demonstrate that the additional distance involved raises some anxiety due to parent/carers being further away during overnight breaks stays and those fears are based on responding to emergency situations/medication needs. ECC will explore any possible impacts with families as part of on-going conversation and explore other options for the provision of overnight short break nights in a different way if needed.

**What actions will be undertaken to mitigate negative impacts, including timescales:** The preferred option does present a risk to a small number of families who live in the North-East of the County who access Overnight Short Breaks. 7 families will be subject to increased Transport/travel times which may be a challenge around complex medical/behaviour needs of the children/young people being supported.

ECC will explore the following options for alternative arrangements for those families affected though exploring the following options:

Home to School Passenger Transport: Transport for those families that are eligible is currently provided from the ECC 'Home to School Transport Service' via current contracts between Passenger Transport Teams and various Transport Providers across the County. ECC will also explore options around transport continuing to be provided in this way and using existing providers to provide the transport to alternative overnight short breaks provision instead of Lavender House in Colchester. Elements to be considered would include the medical and behavioural needs of the young person and any specialist health training needs for passenger transport assistants travelling with the young people.

Individual Arrangements with Families who transport the Young Person to their Overnight Short Breaks themselves. ECC will work with those families who currently provide their own transport to/from the Child/young person's overnight short breaks and explore the impact of increased travel times and costs and look at ways families can be supported. This may include direct payments to ensure that the cost impacts are absorbed by ECC and not passed onto families.

Where it is agreed that the increased travel times are not safe or appropriate for the child/young person, ECC will work with the families to explore other options around overnight short breaks, including Home Based Care, External provision and Family Based Care.

The ECC Overnight Short Breaks Project Team will also ensure the transition of overnight short breaks to alternative provision will be carefully considered and enough time will be allocated to ensure families and children/young people can transition in a way that works for them.

#### Home to Overnight Short Breaks Costs for families

The total estimated additional fuel costs per annum for all 11 families to access alternative provision is £4,258 which is based on an average fuel price at January 23 taken from the Tendring Area and is based on a diesel price and a average family sized car. The estimated costs are calculated on the number of current journeys carried out by families in the North from home to Lavender House, and the additional cost to travel to The Maples in Harlow. These costs do not include the journeys where Education Transport is provided from School to any overnight short breaks provision.

For the 7 individual families living in the North, the estimated additional costs to travel to alternative provision, based on travelling to The Maples range from an additional £158 to £1,331 per annum.

For the 4 families who live in Mid & South Essex, the estimated annual costs of additional travel range from a reduced amount of £62.16 to an additional £80.16 per annum.

#### School to Overnight Short Breaks Cost for Families

Some families where the young person is aged 15 or over and use home to school transport to access overnight short breaks at Lavender House currently contribute towards the costs of this service. Should the decision be made to proceed with the preferred option ECC will work with affected families to explore how to support the families with additional costs involved.

## **Equalities - Inclusion health groups and other priority groups**

### **Refugees / asylum seekers**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Homeless / rough sleepers**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Offenders / ex-offenders**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **Carers**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

## **Looked after children**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

## **Veterans**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **People who are unemployed / economically inactive**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

## **People on low income**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

## **Working families**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** As part of the review carried out in the summer of 2022, an online consultation with family carers of children/young people who access overnight short breaks gave us insight into the value of the overall provision and its positive impact on families.

The consultation told us that the ECC internal OSB provision is well received by families, the venues need to be robust and secure and the staff need to be warm and friendly and highly skilled. It also told us that availability can be an issue and families would like to be able to access more nights at weekends. There was also a perception that Overnight Breaks are often seen as the last resort for families.

The consultation also told us that some families accessing the service are on a low income/single working parents and being able to use the Overnight Short Break provision is enabling them to maintain employment. Consultation with one family member suggested that employment was for their own mental and emotional health because they had several benefits stopped when they took up employment and were only earning £600 per month.

Some quotes from the consultation are:

Parent/Carer The Maples: "This service has saved my marriage - I don't say that lightly. I am on a range of medications myself – anti-depressants and beta blockers"

Parent/Carer The Maples: "Staff at The Maples are trained LD professionals – we really value them in our team around the child meetings, they are really involved. They have helped him reach developmental goals – he can now go to the toilet himself – something we were not convinced he would ever be able to do. They focus on life skills and Maples managed to do that. They worked with him to inspire confidence – foster carers don't have a wet room to help an adult-sized child learn without worrying about mess".



Parent/Carer Lavender House: “Lavender House is a great place, it is looking tired but it’s very welcoming. The child I support has access to good care, communications is clear and the staff are consistent and lovely people. It’s a shame there are empty units there when there is a demand for places.”

Parent/Carer The Maples – “We are a small cohort and an expensive one – but we will bring far more expense when we are no longer able to cope and go into crisis. Long term care is far more expensive than short breaks. Early Intervention and a Holistic Approach is required to support children like ours and families like us, as ICS come into power they and local authorities should seek to work closely and have more budget sharing, particularly for families with higher needs”

The preferred option will increase the number of available internal overnight short breaks for families across Essex and possibly increase availability at weekends which families have told us they want.

However, the option does present a risk to a small number of families who live in the North of the County who access overnight short breaks. 7 families will be subject to increased transport/travel times which may be a challenge around complex medical/behaviour needs of the children/young people being supported.

ECC will explore the following options for alternative arrangements for those families affected though exploring the following options:

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Individual Arrangements with Families who transport the Young Person to their Overnight Short Breaks themselves. ECC will work with those families who currently provide their own transport to/from the Child/young person’s overnight short breaks and explore the impact of increased travel times and costs and look at ways families can be supported. This may include direct payments to ensure that the cost impacts are absorbed by ECC and not passed onto families.

Where it is agreed that the increased travel times are not safe or appropriate for the child/young person, ECC will work with the families to explore other options around overnight short breaks, including Home Based Care, External provision and Foster Carer provision.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts:** As part of the consultation, affected families have already all been contacted individually and have been offered a face-to-face meeting with the Short Breaks Team to explore the impact of increased travel times and to consider potential mitigations to the impacts of increased travel time and costs.

Initial conversations with families demonstrate that the additional distance involved raises some anxiety due to parent/carers being further away during overnight breaks stays and those fears are based on responding to emergency situations/medication needs. ECC will explore any possible impacts with families as part of on-going conversation and explore other options for the provision of overnight short break nights in a different way if needed.

## **Equalities - Geographical Groups**

### **People living in areas of high deprivation**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

## **People living in rural or isolated areas**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Low

## **People living in coastal areas**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Low

## **People living in urban or over-populated areas**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Low

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** This has been marked positive due to the overall impact of the service that ensures families overnight short breaks needs are met. Overnight short breaks are received well by families, and positive outcomes for children and young people with SEND relating to the development of independence skills are demonstrated through family and staff engagements. However, a small population in the North of Essex is negatively impacted in terms of travel times and this is set out below.

In relation to levels of deprivation, at the time of the proposed change, there will be 4 families who may need to transition from Lavender House in Colchester to another alternative overnight short breaks offer who currently live in coastal towns of Harwich & Clacton/Jaywick and possible areas of deprivation in the North East of the County.

The proposal will mean there is a high negative impact on families who live in Harwich, Jaywick and Clacton areas due to the increased travel time needed to access the Maples in Harlow, but no loss of overall service or change to the number of nights they are eligible for. ECC are confident that there will be increased flexibility around when they are able to access their overnight short breaks, including possible increased availability of weekend nights.

Overnight short breaks for families living in the South of the County, including Basildon & Canvey Island are predominantly provided through external provision and this will remain unchanged.

Currently, 21 of 23 families who access overnight short breaks at The Maples live in West Essex and consultation with families show they trust the staff and environment, the building is purpose built, is on one level and Ofsted feedback has been good on the support provided.

Rural North – there are several families accessing external provision through Achieving Aspirations in Bury St Edmunds and therefore any impact on families in this area will be low.

The preferred option does present a risk to a small number of families who live in the North of the County who access overnight short breaks. 7 families will be subject to increased transport/travel times which may be a challenge around complex medical/behaviour needs of the children/young people being supported.

There are 5 families who will live in the Clacton and the surrounding areas. ECC will work with these families to consider travel arrangements for them to access overnight short breaks at the Maples. Through assessment, any families that are eligible will receive support with the costs of additional travel, as previously explained there are a number of transport options which can be explored, or, if needed, a fuel allowance via direct payment for families will be available for any families in financial hardship.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts:** As part of the consultation, affected families have already all been contacted individually and have been offered a face-to-face meeting with the Short Breaks Team to explore the impact of increased travel times and to consider potential mitigations to the impacts

of increased travel time and costs.

A further element from initial conversations with families is that the additional distance involved does raise some anxiety around being so far away during the duration of the overnight breaks and fear of any emergency situation/medication needs. ECC will explore any possible impacts with families as part of on-going conversation and explore other options for the provision of overnight short break nights in a different way if needed.

## **Families**

### **Family formation (e.g. to become or live as a couple, the ability to live with or apart from children)**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Families going through key transitions e.g. becoming parents, getting married, fostering or adopting, bereavement, redundancy, new caring responsibilities, onset of a long-term health condition**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Family members' ability to play a full role in family life, including with respect to parenting and other caring responsibilities**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Families before, during and after couple separation**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

### **Families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** High

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** Parents who are carers spend a lot of their time caring for their children in comparison to other parents. Overnight short breaks contribute to supporting the health and wellbeing of all the family, thereby contributing to their resilience and stability. Furthermore, by having the opportunity to attend overnight short breaks good developmental outcomes are delivered for children and young people with SEND.

As part of the review carried out in the summer of 2022, an online consultation with family carers of children/young people who access Overnight Short Breaks gave us valuable insight into the value of the overall provision and its positive impact on Families.

The consultation told us that the ECC internal OSB's provision is well received by families, the venues need to be robust and secure and the staff need to be warm and friendly. It also told us that availability can be issue and families would like to be able to access more nights at weekends. There was also a perception that overnight breaks are often seen as the last resort for families.

Some quotes from the Consultation carried out in the Summer of 2022

Parent/Carer The Maples: “This service has saved my marriage - I don't say that lightly. I am on a range of medications myself – anti-depressants and beta blockers’

Parent/Carer The Maples: “Staff at The Maples are trained LD professionals – we really value them in our team around the child meetings, they are really involved. They have helped him reach developmental goals – he can now go to the toilet himself – something we were not convinced he would ever be able to do. They focus on life skills and Maples managed to do that. They worked with him to inspire confidence – foster carers don't have a wet room to help an adult-sized child learn without worrying about mess”.

Parent/Carer Lavender House: “Lavender House is a great place, it is looking tired but it's very welcoming. The child I support has access to good care, communications is clear and the staff are consistent and lovely people. It's a shame there are empty units there when there is a demand for places.”

Parent/Carer The Maples – “We are a small cohort and an expensive one – but we will bring far more expense when we are no longer able to cope and go into crisis. Long term care is far more expensive than short breaks. Early Intervention and a Holistic Approach is required to support children like ours and families like us, as ICS come into power they and local authorities should seek to work closely and have more budget sharing, particularly for families with higher needs”

The preferred option will increase the number of available internal overnight short breaks for families across Essex and possibly increase availability at weekends which families have told us they want.

The preferred option does present a risk to a small number of families who live in the North of the County who access Overnight Short Breaks. 7 families will be subject to increased transport/travel times which may be a challenge around complex medical/behaviour needs of the children/young people being supported.

ECC will explore the following options for alternative arrangements for those families affected though exploring the options listed above.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts:** As part of the consultation, affected families have already all been contacted individually and have been offered a face-to-face meeting with the Short Breaks Team to explore the impact of increased travel times and to consider potential mitigations to the impacts of increased travel time and costs.

A further element from initial conversations with families is that the additional distance involved does raise some anxiety around being so far away during the duration of the Overnight breaks and fear of any emergency situation/medication needs. ECC will explore any possible impacts with families as part of on-going conversation and explore other options for the provision of overnight short breaks in a different way if needed.

## Climate

**Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to the built environment / energy?:** No

**Does your decision / policy involve designing service provision and procurement to minimise freight and staff travel and enable use of active and public transport options?:** No

**Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to waste?:** No

## Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

**Does your ECIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more of the groups / areas identified?:** Yes

**What are the mitigating actions?:** The preferred option does present a risk to a small number of families who live in the North of the County who access Overnight Short Breaks. 7 families will be subject to increased

transport/travel times which may be a challenge around complex medical/behaviour needs of the children/young people being supported.

ECC will explore the following options for alternative arrangements for those families affected though exploring the following options:

- Home to School Passenger Transport: Transport for those families that are eligible is currently provided from the ECC 'Home to School Transport Service' via current contracts between Passenger Transport Teams and various Transport Providers across the County. ECC will also explore options around transport continuing to be provided in this way and using existing providers to provide the transport to alternative provision instead of Lavender House in Colchester. Elements to be considered would include the medical and behavioural needs of the young person and any specialist health training needs for passenger transport assistants travelling with the young people.
- Individual Arrangements with Families who transport the Young Person to their Overnight Short Breaks themselves. ECC will work with those families who currently provide their own transport to/from the child/young person's short break needs and explore the impact of increased travel times and costs and look at ways families can be supported This may also include direct payments to ensure that the cost impacts are absorbed by ECC and not passed onto families.
- Where it is agreed that the increased travel times are not safe or appropriate for the child/young person, ECC will work with the families to explore other options around overnight short breaks, including Home Based Care, External provision, and Foster Carer provision.

The ECC Short Breaks Team will also ensure the transition of overnight short breaks to alternative provision will be carefully considered and enough time will be allocated to ensure families and children/young people can transition in a way that works for them.

#### School to Overnight Short Breaks Cost for Families

Some families where the young person is aged 15 or over and use home to school transport to access overnight short breaks at Lavender House currently contribute towards the costs of this service. Should the decision be made to proceed with the preferred option The ECC Short Breaks Team will work with affected families to explore how to support the families with additional costs involved.

People living in high areas of deprivation: If the preferred option is agreed, The ECC Short Breaks Team will work affected families who live in Harwich, Jaywick and Clacton areas where there is a negative high impact due to the increased travel time needed to access alternative provision.

**Date they will be achieved:** 01/06/2023

**Which characteristics do these mitigating actions apply to?:** Disability - learning disability, Disability - mental health issues, Disability - physical impairment, Disability - sensory impairment, Carers, Looked after children, People who are unemployed / economically inactive, People on low income, Working families, People living in areas of high deprivation, People living in coastal areas

## Details of person completing the form

**I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance:** I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

**Date ECIA completed:** 02/02/2023

**Name of person completing the ECIA:** Neil Songer

**Email address of person completing the ECIA:** neil.songer@essex.gov.uk

**Your function:** Children, Families and Education

**Your service area:** Commissioning

**Your team:** C&F Commissioning Team

**Are you submitting this ECIA on behalf of another function, service area or team?:** No

**Email address of Head of Service:** [clare.burrell@essex.gov.uk](mailto:clare.burrell@essex.gov.uk)