

Lancashire Short Breaks Review and Redesign Provider Engagement Event 10th December 2020

Lancashire Parent Carer Forum discussion points as presented by Sam Jones Chair of the LPCF.

- The redesign process started after LCC decided to axe much of the LBT service because it was being under-used and was viewed by the Council as not valuable and so not a good use of resources.
 - Parent Carers were very angry and upset.
 - One parent sought legal support to bring a Judicial Review and she had a lot of support from other parent carers and Contact.
 - The Parent Carer Forum are a partner of the SEND Partnership Board and, as a strategic partner rather than an adversary, advised the Local Authority on four points to consider. These were that the Judicial Review would likely find in favour of the parent carer, the consultation had been far from ideal, there would be an increase in cost to assessment and delivery of assessed packages and we reminded the Board that the Council were obliged to fulfil their statutory duties to families with regard to short breaks as specified in legislation.
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- The Local Authority and the Parent Carer Forum got together around the table to formulate a redesign process to make the best use of resources while meeting the needs of as many children, young people and families as possible. Other aims were to increase the choice, suitability, quality and equity.
 - We undertook a wider participation across the County which enabled more participants to give their views.
 - Questionnaire on Facebook.
 - Face to Face meetings with Parent Carers across the County.
 - Direct Work in a range of different settings with children and young people with additional needs.
 - Presented providers with the views from families and sought their views, good practice, barriers and solutions.
 - Lisa researched and reviewed over 20 Short Break Services from other Local Authorities who had positive reports in their inspections and provided lots of options for the following workshops.
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- We held two workshops with providers, the Parent Carer Forum and LCC, held discussions and preferred options were chosen.
 - The feedback from all stakeholders and partners was collated and the proposal for the new service was written up by Lisa and Fiona.
 - The proposal for the new service will go to LCC Cabinet in February for approval.

- When Cabinet have made their decision on the proposed new service, we will be able to feed back to all stakeholders, including the children and young people how their input has helped to design the new service and what is now available for them.