

## PART A - Initial Impact Assessment

**Proposal Name:** Short Breaks Framework Recommissioning

**EIA ID:** 2125

**EIA Author:** Janine Dalley

**Approval Status:** Approved

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**Proposal Outline:** The Short Breaks Framework was commissioned in 2019, to provide services for children and young people upto the age of 17. It is in an extension year of a 4 year contract and requires recommissioning. A range of stakeholder consultation took place in summer 2024, with children and families that use the current service and families who have a child with a disability who do not access services to understand any barriers. Along with professional consultation this has influenced the redesign of a new more inclusive model, which aims to remedy some of the issues of the previous Framework. The new contract is proposed to go live in April 2024 following a competitive tender process with the open market.

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**Proposal Type:** Budget

**Entered on QTier:** Yes

**QTier Ref:** # 0013002439357

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**Year Of Proposal:** 24/25, 25/26

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**Lead Director for proposal:** Sally Williams

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**Service Area:** Children and Families

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**EIA Start Date:** 14/10/2024

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**Lead Equality Objective:** Leading the city in celebrating and promoting inclusion

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**Equality Lead Officer:** Bashir Idro

## Decision Type

**Committees:** Policy Committees

- Education, Children & Families

## Portfolio

**Primary Portfolio:** Children and Familie

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**EIA is cross portfolio:** No

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**EIA is joint with another organisation:** No

## Overview of Impact

**Overview Summery:** This assessment is based on the impact of caring for a child with a disability, not the diagnosis of the child. Caring for a disabled child has a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of parents, carers and siblings and the legislative duty for local authorities to provide a Short Break to families with a children with a disability was passed in April 2011. Sheffield provides short breaks to over 300 children and young people across the city. The Short Breaks Framework commissioned in 2019 aimed to streamline targeted support to meet the caring needs of families with a child with a range of disabilities and levels of need. This contract is in an extension year of a four year contract and requires recommissioning to be compliant with procurement regulations. Feedback from families and services has identified a gap in commissioned provision for activities which specifically support transition into adulthood and adult services. Some Short Break services (but not all) within the Framework will now work with young people upto and including 18 years of age, this aims to reduce the potential negative impact age can have on children with disabilities when navigating support systems between childhood and adulthood. Activity identified in the original EIA will be increased, offering young people a more tailored experience to support independence, life skills, community engagement and positive relationships with peers and support services, whilst

providing families and carers with a break from caring responsibilities to promote emotional wellbeing and resilience. Further consultation has taken place over summer with families who use short breaks and those who don't but are eligible to understand the quality of services and also understand any barriers. This has influenced the redesign. A new Framework Agreement will be in place by April 2025 that aims to be more inclusive by ensuring that children are matched to provision of their choice, based on interest, location and their needs. Providers will be supported to make reasonable adjustments and adaptations to promote inclusion.

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**Impacted characteristics:**

- Disability
- Health
- Race
- Religion/Belief
- Carers
- Voluntary/Community & Faith Sectors
- Poverty & Financial Inclusion
- Age

## Consultation and other engagement

**Is consultation or other engagement required:**

No

Consultation has taken place over summer 2024 with children who access short breaks clubs, their parents and carers and families who are eligible but don't currently access short breaks to understand any barriers. Feedback has already been sought through the SEND Parent and Carers Forum, and feedback from young people who currently access Short Breaks Services. Ongoing feedback is routinely sought from young people via the contracted clubs and via the Parent Carer Forum, along with case studies, site visits and annual audits of all commissioned activity.

## Cumulative Impact

**Does the proposal have a cumulative impact:**

No

**Impact areas:**

## Initial Sign-Off

**Full impact assessment required:** Yes

**Review Date:** 01/06/2026

## PART B - Full Impact Assessment

### Health

**Staff Impacted:** No

**Customers Impacted:** Yes

**Description of Impact:** Some children who access short breaks provision have complex medical needs, requiring trained staff to ensure they are safe and their medical needs are met during their club attendance. We will work with our partners in Health to ensure wrap around training and support for providers to ensure more children can access activities safely and provide their carers with a break from caring.

**Name of Lead Health Officer:**

**Comprehensive Assessment Being Completed:** No

**Public Health Lead signed off health impact(s):**

### Age

**Staff Impacted:** No

**Customers Impacted:** Yes

**Description of Impact:** The new Framework will particularly focus on childrens transitions into adulthood and adult services, ensuring that they are better equipped with knowledge, skills and are bridged into adult provision.

## Carers

**Staff Impacted:** No

**Customers Impacted:** Yes

**Description of Impact:** It is unlikely that any of the children are young carers due to their own care needs. However, the primary reason for Short Breaks is to give the carers of children with a disability a break from their caring responsibility, which is a statutory duty of the local authority to provide. The Framework Agreement ensures that Sheffield can deliver this duty in a child centred positive way, that ensures children are enjoying and achieving whilst their carers have a break.

## Care Experienced

**Staff Impacted:**

**Customers Impacted:**

**Description of Impact:**

## Disability

**Staff Impacted:** No

**Customers Impacted:** Yes

**Description of Impact:**

Children with a disability who are eligible for short breaks will have their needs met via specialist clubs which support inclusion into a wide variety of activities that they may not otherwise be able to access. Staff will be trained in a range of disabilities and medical conditions, with building and equipment adaptations.

**Poverty & Financial Inclusion**

**Staff Impacted:**

No

**Customers Impacted:**

Yes

**Description of Impact:**

The new Framework will try to ensure that travel times and cost are reduced with provision being closer to home where possible. Many families with a child with a disability face hardship, often due to their caring being a barrier to engaging with employment or training. Some other local authorities have brought in charges for accessing short breaks but Sheffield has ensured that this service remains free for all families to not put further financial burden on families.

**Race**

**Staff Impacted:**

No

**Customers Impacted:**

Yes

**Description of Impact:**

The Short Breaks Framework Agreement will provide activities for children from all communities in Sheffield, and where possible deliver in communities closer to children's homes to promote a sense of belonging. Providers are small not for profit and are based across the city, the workforce is diverse and has a good understanding of their local communities, some having been established many years and delivering other community based services from their base.

**Religion / Belief**

**Staff Impacted:**

No

**Customers Impacted:**

Yes

**Description of Impact:**

The childrens workforce that deliver specialist clubs are trained to a minimum Level 2 qualificaiton, with many staff having much higher levels of training including graduate level. Level 2 qualifications include elements of celebrating and supporting children's home religion. The diverse workforce reflects a range of religions across the communities in Seffield. The contract will be specific through the tender process in ensuring a high expectation for all Providers to ensure this is reflected in practice.

## Voluntary / Community & Faith Sectors

**Staff Impacted:**

Yes

**Customers Impacted:**

Yes

**Description of Impact:**

The majority of Providers on the Framework are small local charities for the VCF sector, and this ensures a valuable income stream that enables them to employ local people to deliver local services.

## Action Plan & Supporting Evidence

**Outline of action plan:**

Ensure that each equality section outlined in the EIA is addressed in the tender documentaiton and service specificaiton and providers are identifying strategies to promote equality throughout their practice and are held accountable through contract management.

**Action plan evidence:****Changes made as a result of action plan:**

## Mitigation

**Significant risk after mitigation measures:**

No

**Outline of impact and risks:**

## **Review Date**

**Review Date:**

01/06/2026