

**MEETING****CHILDREN, EDUCATION, LIBRARIES & SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE****DATE AND TIME****MONDAY 23RD JUNE, 2014****AT 7.00 PM****VENUE****HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, NW4 4BG**

Dear Councillors,

Please find enclosed additional papers relating to the following items for the above mentioned meeting which were not available at the time of collation of the agenda.

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
3.	PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS	1 - 2

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Question Number	Item No	Raised By	Question Raised	Answer
1	4. a	Liza Dresner	It appears that funding for Mapledown School has been restored for one year but not for other short break providers. Please explain the basis for your decision and how you explain the discrimination shown between different service providers for disabled children.	<p>It is only proposed to restore funding to Mapledown for one year. The decision to maintain funding at the previous level for Mapledown was not based on any attributes of the providers but on the needs of the families of children at Mapledown, which are reflected in the fact that their children have the most severe and complex needs.</p> <p>No other provider had the combination of factors that Mapledown School did - affecting the families being supported, and the short break support required. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 23 April 2014 itself asked Cabinet Resources Committee to consider using Public Health Funding to enable continuation of the contract. This is an indication that the committee itself recognised that cutting funding to Mapledown posed a particular problem.</p>
2	4. a	Nadia Gurney-Randall	Does your decision to discriminate between different short break providers comply with the Equality Act 2010 and other relevant legislation?	<p>The reason for the decision to continue the Mapledown Contract at the previous year’s level was based on the factors set out above. The public sector equality duty defined in s149 of the Equality Act 2010 is clearly set out in the report and legal services gave consideration to all issues in the report including full consideration of the Equality Section before clearing the report.</p>
3	4. a	Beverley Cohen	Oakleigh Opportunities for Play Scheme has been providing respite care during holidays for severely disabled children for 16 years. Can the council explain why funding for this much valued service has been withdrawn?	<p>The Oops Play Scheme has never been part of the Short Breaks offer and there has never been a contract in place with Oops or a commitment for ongoing funding. Historically, the Council’s Disabled Children’s Team assisted some families with children at Oakleigh School to attend the scheme. For 2013/14 DCT funding amounted to c.£11k, with families choosing to spend a further £9k at Oops through individual commissioning. DCT is continuing to fund a limited number of children to attend Oops at</p>

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4	4. a	James Gordon	<p>The children who attend Oakleigh Opportunities for Play Scheme are also students of Oakleigh School and many follow on to Mapledown School at the age of 12. On what basis have the Council removed funding for Oakleigh Opportunities for Play Scheme whilst deciding to restore funding to Mapledown School? Why has this decision not been communicated to all service providers of short break schemes?</p>	<p>Oakleigh School this year as part of their care package in order to meet assessed need. DCT funding will cease when short breaks is re-commissioned and all service provision is in one place. When the short breaks re-commissioning takes place this year all providers, including Oakleigh Opportunities for Play, will be invited to tender.</p>
5	4. a	Sarah Sackman	<p>I wrote to Cllr Cornelius with a series of questions over the funding of Short Breaks schemes, including Mapledown school and Resources for Autism, on 16 May 2014. I have received no formal reply to these questions. Would you please be able to identify where the funding (about £38,000) for the Oakleigh Opportunities for Play Scheme at Oakleigh was coming from and the basis on which it has been was cut?</p>	<p>Children who attend Oakleigh School are able to continue to access the provisions currently available through Short Breaks in the same way as any other family. Some Oakleigh parents who previously used Oops have now been provided with support to attend alternative play schemes and are satisfied with this outcome. Alternatively, some of the families concerned may receive a Direct Payment to enable them to purchase services for their child and there is no reason why they cannot choose this to purchase days at the Oops play scheme.</p>