

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Panel **DATE:** 12 October 2011

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WARD(S): All

PART I

FOR INFORMATION, COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FOR BREAKAWAY, RESPITE CARE UNIT

1 Purpose of Report

The National Minimum Standards for Children's Social Care (2002) require Breakaway to have a Statement of Purpose which is to be reviewed and approved annually by Members.

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel is requested to approve the updated Statement of Purpose of Breakaway, the Local Authority's respite care unit for children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

3 Community Strategy Priorities

- **Celebrating Diversity, Enabling inclusion:**

The Local Authority is working to promote a just society that gives everyone an equal chance to learn, work and live free from discrimination and prejudice.

Breakaway values and celebrates the breadth and diversity of tradition, beliefs and culture of the children/young people and families using the service.

Breakaway seeks to create, maintain and promote a unit in which each child/young person has equal entitlement to a high quality service and opportunities, regardless of disability, race, nationality, religion, age, gender and sexual orientation. Breakaway will actively challenge any discrimination encountered by the children/young people whilst at Breakaway.

- **Adding years to Life and Life to years:**

The Local Authority is committed wherever possible to caring for children and young people locally in Slough and our residential respite provision is contributing to achieving this for Slough disabled children and young people. Local provision enables both the targeted and universal services of Slough to provide the appropriate and necessary support to achieve better outcomes in education, health and social inclusion for this group of vulnerable children and young people. The provision of respite care for parents and carers of children with learning difficulties and disabilities is part of a new duty on Local Authorities.

- **Being Safe, Feeling Safe:**

The Local Authority provides regulated and supported residential respite care provision in a safe and nurturing environment for children and young people aged 6-18 years who are being cared for full time by parents and carers. The children and young people with their parent/carer work together with their key worker to complete a booklet 'This is Me' which holds all the information required about the individual to ensure all of his/her needs are met including daily routines, likes and dislikes, behaviour patterns, medication, health, spiritual needs, racial and cultural factors and individual goals. Breakaway is committed to giving individual children and young people, their parents and carers a greater say in how they live their lives through participation in review meetings, updating care plans and participation in children's unit meetings. The staff recruitment and selection process is rigorous with all safety checks/requirements in place prior to the individual coming into post. All staff are subject to a full induction. Ongoing staff training, development and supervision are provided in line with safeguarding policies and procedures. In addition to ongoing inspection by Ofsted, the unit is subject to monthly Regulation 33 inspections to monitor the well-being and safety of the children and young people accessing Breakaway.

- **Prosperity for All:**

Breakaway's Statement of Purpose details the support that is provided to the children and young people to enable them to reach their potential and maximise their life chances, increasing the likelihood that they will, as adults, contribute to the local economy. Respite care provision at Breakaway prevents the majority of children and young people being placed in high cost respite or full time units outside Slough and enables the majority of families to continue to care for their children and young people.

4 **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial:**

The current revenue budget provides for the day-to-day running costs of Breakaway. The 2011-12 budget is £455,100. There are no additional financial costs arising from the Statement of Purpose. The respite provision made through Breakaway is critical in avoiding family breakdowns which would result in children with significant needs becoming looked after by the Local Authority on a full time basis. This would not be in the best interests of the children and would also have a significant impact on the Local Authority budgets with one placement costing in the region of £250,000 per annum.

(b) **Risk Management:**

There are no risks associated with this report. The risk of not maintaining Breakaway to provide overnight respite care for children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities is that families would no longer be able to maintain their caring responsibilities and children would become looked after by the Local Authority on a full time basis. This would incur significant additional costs. This risk is mitigated by maintaining Breakaway with appropriate levels of staffing to provide sufficient respite care to the children with the most complex needs and providing their families with regular and planned breaks from their caring duties.

(c) **Equalities Impact Assessment:**

An equalities impact assessment is not required in relation to this information report.

(d) Workforce:

This report has no specific workforce implications. Breakaway has a full complement of staff that provides care and targeted support to children and young people in attendance. Rigorous checks are undertaken prior to recruiting new staff. Staff are provided with appropriate induction, supervision and training. They work in collaboration with schools, targeted services in Education and Children's Services and the universal services of Slough to improve the outcomes for residents.

5 **Supporting Information**

None.

6 **Conclusion**

The Statement of Purpose for Breakaway reflects the roles and responsibilities of staff and the care and support provided to children and young people resident at Breakaway. The Panel is invited to approve the Statement of Purpose.

7 **Appendix**

'A' Statement of Purpose Breakaway 2011-12

8 **Background Papers**

None