

Consultation on services for children, young people and adults, including people with disabilities

Full list of all anonymised open responses received, in questionnaire order.

Short breaks

What Short Break support do you or your family currently receive? (Please select all that apply) - other

- "None of the above. Impossible to access."
- "none"
- "None received"
- "Tried Orchid view. What I saw was shocking. Didn't carry on with it."
- "have never been made aware that other care is possible."
- "none"
- "West YorkshireCare Leeds Road Huddersfield"
- "None"
- "We are in the proses of trying to get something currently don't"
- "None - all funding for this was cut earlier this year!"
- "Sprout, other sports activities"
- "None"
- "30 days a year at Highfields"
- "N/A"
- "Family emergencies and illness"
- "The families who access our school do not receive short break support despite the complex needs of their children"
- "Drama group on Saturday afternoons term time"
- "She stays at her grandparents sometimes but hasn't been for 3/4 months"
- "None section not applicable"
- "none as social services took it away from us and i as carer is in crisis with no help at all"
- "Ypat, Compass Bridge, RISING STARS, UP CLUB (term time) , Amaze (DoE)"
- "Respite care at Cherry Trees"
- "NCS in school holidays which we paid for"
- "7 hours a month from Carers Trust."
- "None"
- "None as we didnt know about this service"
- "None -"
- "Breaks away with day care"
- "We do our own breaks"
- "We have never had short breaks - our daughter is 27. She attends Waves Slaithwaite- 2 days per week 9am-4pm. This is our only break."
- "N/A"
- "Downs & special friends PCAN social groups"
- "HAvE accessed SPROUT"
- "My son gets 7 hours a month to assist carers but as yet they have not found any one to work with him."

- "Non at all"
- "After school club and football in Shelley for children with a disability once a week."
- "He swims at the stadium but this is not for disabled children"
- "Leisure by carer for a couple of hours/ month and couple from hospice every fortnight"
- "Direct payments and we make a lot of our own short breaks"
- "The above applies as respite care"
- "Please see Southgate responses below"
- "We are a Kirklees wide group representing parents so can't complete this as ourselves. Across the people we spoke to, all these boxes were ticked. We have talked to over 100 parents"

How valuable do you find each type of support you receive? - other

- "If i needed any of those they would be extremely valuable to me and my family"
- "attend weekend short break 3 hours at a day centre once a fortnight"
- "Respite"
- "Milldale breaks"
- "We do not currently access these services but I know that we will in the future."
- "No support or care is on offer for children and families experiencing complex and longstanding SEMH needs."
- "It's the only time I get a break"
- "i receive no help even though i am classed as terminal with my own illness"
- "After school club -up club"
- "Cherry Trees respite care"
- "As above."
- "I didn't know my child was eligible"
- "Breaks away with day care"
- "I feel all support that parents and families of children with additional needs are extremely vital to both child and family and I urge the council not to make any changes."
- "Respite breaks"
- "Things I take her to - park, museum, boat trips"
- "Don't get any help at all"
- "He really likes the after school football club and the Shelley club. He did used to go to central stars but he thinks he's got a club on the same night now"
- "Goes to Karate - this is not specifically for SEN"
- "Helpful but still struggling as it's not enough"
- "Respite care"

If you find any of your support only partially valuable or not valuable, please tell us why below:

- "no one has ever told me that my disabled teenager may be entitled to more help socialising, giving us the parents a break."
- "Because without the respite we receive we wouldn't be able to have time out and recharge our batteries"
- "Restricted hours availability"
- "Essential so I can work and stay in employment, without I would be on income support reliant on benefits and depressed to the point of feeling suicidal"
- "Anything to help you as a carer is valuable! Having a disabled child in your house affects everyone and these small things can make the difference from being able to cope and not."

- "Would say trying to get to some of these activities are difficult if you have a child with complex needs and catching buses, so often difficult to attend, though these activities are extremely valuable to our family."
- "My response is that I only find the service valuable as the offer is becoming more and more restricted so does not fully meet our needs. The services are very good on the day."
- "My son gets one to one support at nursery"
- "If this support was to be offered to families caring for a child with complex SEMH needs, I think it would allow parents and carers valuable opportunities to access services within their local community that they have often been excluded from."
- "When my son goes to his holiday activities it is the only time he goes anywhere without either myself or his dad he is now 15 years old although mentally he is still less than half that age but he wants to be more independent as he sees his friends going out alone these services help build his skills and independence as well as giving us some much needed respite. I myself have epilepsy which took a turn for the worse and I was due to exhaustion and stress when I wasn't receiving any help at all and it wasn't until someone at my son's school pointed me towards these services that things have improved for me and my family."
- "Overnight care allows me to go to see elderly mother. Overnight care is vital when there is a crisis in the family but also helps me to give extra attention to my other child who doesn't have Sen. After school club YPAT is a more regular service that my son absolutely loves going to and helps to develop his social abilities."
- "I haven't accessed the short breaks as my son has just recently been diagnosed with ASD and is only 5 years old but I'm hoping to look into these further and would use them."
- "This would be valuable, but I wasn't aware of what my child would be eligible for"
- "Daytime care not really valuable unless it is in the school holidays and overnight care somewhere else although probably most valuable to other parents my child does not like being away from home."
- "All home support helps vulnerable families"
- "These are very important don't stop them. Would be good to access so could do supportive activities which is suitable for all the family"
- "I think it would benefit her because she needs additional support also it would give more attention to my other children"
- "I can't access my break that is funded by Kirkcaldy as they are not able to find anyone to work with my child."
- "I am not aware of any services available locally for my son."
- "He has to cope in a class where it's not aimed at kids with a disability. He therefore struggles. He had to leave the football club because he couldn't cope"
- "Change in condition means review of plan but services are too slow to put measures in place"
- "No-one said that the support was not valuable. The people who use social care funded services all ticked "very or extremely valuable" in this section. The response was mixed from those who access Council funded breaks (as many did not consider them to be a break as such as they have to accompany their child and stay throughout). Those who included other activities in the main thought them to be valuable or very valuable. There is no opportunity in this survey to explain why the breaks are valuable, only an opportunity to explain why they aren't. Most people we spoke to felt that this was a significant omission as people wanted to say why the breaks helped and the implications of not having them (particularly in the case of YPAT and Orchard View). They felt that these breaks were enabling them to cope and without them may not continue to cope. Some people used the "Do you have any other comments suggestions section" to add their views on this."

- "Autism Play scheme and Whacky C but does not go to this one due to anxiety. The play scheme is invaluable and supports her needs & 1-1 care"
- "I would value short breaks but have been told he's my son and just to get on with it as there is no money - I was disgusted"

Do you think the Short Breaks support on offer to you and your family is missing anything? – Yes - What is it, and why would it be valuable?

- "I am not aware of any offered"
- "More people being able to access it"
- "Ago of after school opportunity and in school holidays"
- "A few hours once a fortnight isn't enough!"
- "no enough"
- "It is too difficult to secure and not enough choice available. Allocation of nights insufficient."
- "The respite care I previously received was taken away. This respite was invaluable for me and gave my husband a much needed break."
- "More holiday care would be appreciated."
- "Just more of it and less uncertainty about its future"
- "Services need to work together more to ensure a high quality service is provided in all areas of short breaks."
- "No weekends or school holidays which are hardest days"
- "Continuity of funding rather than worrying if a club will run"
- "We now have to fund this wholly by ourselves"
- "Activities for younger children because there isn't anything for younger Sen kids really"
- "Transport to get there, activities other than sport, yoga, meditation, help with children with anger or behaviour problems, needs activities that promote independence, activities that are in north and south Kirklees, not limited to one location, longer activities so parents do get a short break and children get longer with activities-"
- "I'd like my son to have more chance to access activities suitable to his needs after, school, at weekends and in school holidays. I would like my son to be able to go to an after school club but at school it will only be one night per week. Children with a Disability Team are looking into YPAT but has not got back to me yet. I think my son is missing out as he has no chance to do anything or go anywhere that is suitable. He has complex needs."
- "More activities with 1 to 1 care for children with complex disabilities"
- "More consistent and predictable offer over the summer period. Very difficult to manage annual leave and work when waiting till the last couple of weeks before a holiday to know what is available or might even be running. Child is too old to access mainstream childcare."
- "It appears Orchard view is over stretched, too many children needing support or not enough staff. Had days cancelled because was being used for 'emergency care' with 1 child taking up a whole wing (4 rooms) Never got the days back. Wasn't aware it was supposed to be used for that! Not fair on those missing out."
- "More activities when in respite care"
- "Extra facilities so that my sons respite is not cancelled due to emergency placements"
- "A few extra days and nights whilst in respite care during the year would be helpful"
- "This is not on offer to families who care for children with complex SEMH needs"
- "When our son goes on a short break to Cherry Trees he is not allowed in until 3pm and has to be collected by 11am the next day Therefore it really means that we lose a day each time due to the inflexibility of these times."

- "It would be nice to know about it. She might not go, but the choice would be there and I don't get any time away from my child apart from school and the drama group"
- "There's nothing that I know of on offer for a girl her age and with her disabilities. I would like to have a break for some time out - you need a break and I worry all the time. I would like to go to town alone and not have to bring her with me. Apart from her occasional visits to grandparents and going to school I don't get any breaks."
- "It gives us as a family unit a break from the same four walls"
- "It is spread very thinly. More people would like to be able to have further access. The staff try to be as accommodating as they possibly can in every area, but at the end of the day they are limited and stretched."
- "As I have epilepsy I cannot drive there have been times when I would like my son to go to some clubs such as wacky but its difficult to get there a central pick up in town centre point similar to the one which compass bridge offers would be helpful."
- "More Flexibility. When my daughter attends YPAT. It's quite rigid and fixed hours which can be quite restrictive at times"
- "The number of hours provided for overnight respite (10) is not long enough for an eight year old to do a sleepover away from home."
- "Activities and outings which is very important for my son"
- "It would help if Orchard View (overnight care) could be a little more flexible with the days that they offer."
- "There is nothing really suitable for people with anxiety issues. The activities need structure to support people like this. The information needs to be supplied in advance so people know what is going to happen, how and when."
- "Something that targets under 8 years as lot of the short breaks are for older children."
- "We are very happy with the Short Breaks provided but we feel the need to have access to Short Breaks more often than at present. Short Breaks are a vital support mechanism for our family which helps us to continue to care for our disabled daughter in a stable family environment. We do not have family in the area and it is difficult to leave our daughter with someone not trained in special needs so short breaks give us a break from our caring role and an opportunity to spend quality time together without the stress of constantly supervising and managing our daughter's challenging behaviour. It is vital opportunity to recharge our batteries. Our older nine year old daughter has a clear need to spend quality time alone with us away from her younger disabled sibling. When at home a lot of our time is spent on supervising and monitoring our younger daughter so the time that our older daughter has alone with us is invaluable."
- "I don't receive the help."
- "Dont get any"
- "Not enough of it, too short staffed, not enough outings, meals not accommodating enough for childrens diet requirements, services require modernising, services are not flexible enough"
- "Can't say - don't know enough about it."
- "It doesn't meet our cultural needs as a Romany Traveller. This is why we sort our own activities"
- "Not aware of it"
- "There's a lack of it. My daughter is severely disabled and i receive 3 hours a week respite and 6 hours every other Sunday (YPAT)"
- "A little more support during the school holidays"
- "Both cared for and carer should be included. IE both carer and cared for should take repite breaks together. This stops each other fretting about each other and both get a little break. Both receive a well required respite as whilst away together they can relax as meals etc are prepared for both enabling the couple to enjoy time together"
- "More overnights"

- "Recently my child turned 18. YPAT Sunday club was stopped. It was a place which he looked forward to go to every week. It would be great if there was something similar available for him now."
- "Information on how to access these services. People not doing what they say and getting back to you."
- "More consistency of provision during the school holidays"
- "I haven't been able to access any due to distances and not feeling safe to go to places with 2 autistic sons. I don't feel they support my sons behavioural problems. We need small groups, that would help"
- "Short breaks for children with ASD - challenging behaviour, low arousal, low noise, small groups, staff who are trained, Bumby is good, weekend needed, more sessions at Bumpy's"
- "More sport activities. More day trips"
- "Would like more support eg to go swimming and help to go out generally"
- "Provision of child care and activities out of school time (holiday times)"
- "appropriate things to support families and siblings. More 1-1 teaching like swimming as I can't get in the water due to a medical condition. Appropriate films, low arousal settings/sensory appropriate. Places that support physical disability, access should be good."
- "I do not receive any care at the moment but I am struggling and I need some"
- "the funding is not there anymore and the groups that are available are not readily available to us or not let known to us."
- "I would like a support worker to work with my son."
- "Information on what is available."
- "Greater variety and a lot more information being made available"
- "We dont get any"
- "More options suitable for him,we can take him"
- "The transition period when they get older - there need to be appropriate opportunities depending on disability and needs. For instance they could be high functioning Autism or high functioning multi-sensory impairment. There needs to be something for more able older teens, not just sporting activities. If they don't like sport or can't participate, it's no good. What about something around gaming? It would be valuable to these young people are not socially isolated. There's nothing in the drama world unless you have a learning disability."
- "Didn't know anything about it."
- "Information is not easy to get hold of to see what is available."
- "Everyone says that there's nothing for my son because he's too young. We really need a break but it's not possible. My son loves water play and the Splash Park, he likes open spaces. It needs to be safe for young children"
- "There is very little for children with sensory impairments and limited mobility, or understanding of sports and team games. There isn't too much sport, it is an unbalanced offer. There isn't enough arts, crafts, music, drama, water based activities, sensory activities. The short breaks offer is badly advertised and most people don't know about it. The term short breaks is meaningless to most people - it sounds like overnights or weekends away. Any information that goes out to the public needs to be much clearer. The short breaks offer is full of jargon. People don't want or need to know what's universal, targetted etc. They just need to know what they can access. The Council needs to put itself in the shoes of the audience and use appropriate wording. There are huge difficulties with accessing breaks for many families who don't have transport and/or the activity is on the other side of the authority. They also have other kids to juggle."
- "help with transport to respite care"
- "Having help with transport to and from for the short break"

- "I don't get any short break support. The short breaks are quite sport based and don't interest my daughter. also as someone with ASD she struggles to access anything new without a lot of support - I would have to go with her at least in the beginning. It is hard to interest her in something. However she did enjoy a teen gym activity at our local sports centre. There weren't many others attending but gym is a good thing as it helps in keeping a person healthy but there is no expectation that you will ""join in"" or speak to anyone else. It was also very good value at £1 a session."
- "Short breaks available locally would be good"
- "A significant number of parents said they did not know anything about short breaks (that they are even available) and the vast majority would not have filled the survey in appropriately without an explanation of what a short break is, with examples. Most people found this term misleading (eg. Think it's an overnight stay, short holiday or weekend away), so did not consider the fact that because their child might go to Compass Bridge, or Sprout or other Council funded activities, this constitutes a short break. Many people also felt that their child would not be "eligible" to take part due to their lack of understanding about the term. Most of the services listed are only available for children/young people who meet the criteria to receive social care funded services. The only box that other people could tick was "educational or leisure activities away from home" and this could mean anything over and above the funded short breaks. The vast majority of short breaks available to those who don't meet the criteria do not allow you to leave your child without support (usually provided by the parent) so lots of parents did not consider this to be a break at all. More of an opportunity for their child to experience activities, so once again a misleading term. There was a list of other activities that children attend, eg. the Create Project at Northorpe Hall, events run by Shabang!, Cubs, Scouts, Wacky etc and there was limited opportunity to discuss these. They were all valued. As lots of people didn't even know about them there were a number of comments such as "knowing about them would be good". Some people accessed the funded activities without knowing they were a "short break". There were a range of other responses including: Can't get to them: people either didn't have a car, no access to public transport for various reasons, only one family car which was not available, children with high anxiety who wouldn't travel or couldn't be convinced to attend, managing other siblings who can't attend that activity (Sprout being the exception as it is a whole family activity). Too much sport. Not enough activities for people with significant sensory losses or multi-sensory impairment Not enough artistic or creative activities Drama – only aimed at people with learning disabilities. Quite a few people mentioned gaming as their child preferred to be on their computer or Xbox/PS4 There appears to be a big reluctance for the voluntary sector to deal with children with behavioural issues and these kids had often been to mainstream activities and been ""thrown out"". Parents were understandably cautious about attending anything else and were not sure these activities could really cope with their child. Activities simply say they are for disabled children and don't really say who it is aimed at (unless its one of the assessed short breaks). They do all say that they cannot do 1 to 1 support and you might need to bring your support worker (AKA your Mum!) with you."
- "There isn't enough of it. We only attend sprout and as Dewsbury is too far we only access a session once a month at most. This is the only activity my daughter can attend as other activities either start too early for us to get to in an evening due to my husbands working hours or she won't attend due to her autism / anxiety or isn't accessible or siblings so not worth the meltdown from the little one as she is doing something he isn't. (we are waiting for an ed pshych appointment for him as suspect autism in him too)"
- "Activities that help her independence and confidence and help her relationships, something that is age appropriate but supported for her age group, like Brownies or Guides so this would support her additional needs. It would be the same things other Children so but with support. Example - greeting from the car, more support in activities, this can not be done in mainstream activities."

- "Not enough time"

Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

- "I have not answered any questions in this section as they are not relevant."
- "As a carer I am unable to work which causes financial hardship."
- "Transport should not be cut off"
- "I think that everybody should have to make some form of contribution to their short breaks, even just £5 or £10 per session. Where short breaks are used to allow a parent to work, this should be paid for in line with mainstream childcare costs."
- "Already make a contribution and my funds are very limited"
- "To take these life lines away from us as a family would be catastrophic."
- "I would contrive but being on a low income from having to cut my hours at work to care for my child it can be difficult to afford much!"
- "We have been severely affected by council cutbacks over recent years, it is very unfair that vulnerable elderly people who self-fund have had to bear the brunt of council cost savings. We don't want any new schemes, just put back what you have taken away."
- "if this helps to keep the day centre going yes I would contribute"
- "Without this service my son would not engage with any other adults or children other than in school. During holidays he would be a recluse. Whilst he is here I get to spend some quality 1-1time with my grandson who I have SGO for too. It also allows my child to have a better relationship with his dad which has improved solely due to this group."
- "This contribution would perhaps need to be means tested and or a minimal payment of many families or this will be a barrier to the services which will let down very vulnerable families."
- "If we have to"
- "They are vital to keep families stress free and together"
- "More activities for young people aged 20 - 25 years old, without having to pay through the nose for them."
- "I think it is reasonable to pay similar costs to those I would pay for a mainstream scheme. It is unreasonable to compare the costs of a day playscheme with a packed lunch to the costs of adult day care with transport, catering etc included."
- "YPAT is a vital service to many families across kirklees. The facility in Ravensthorpe is a good size to be able to accommodate lots of different activities but is badly in need of refurbishment... its embarrassingly shabby!"
- "I already contribute to this service financially"
- "Our autistic son attends Highfields 4 days a week. He has 30 days a year at Cherry Trees. We pay for both the day center and short stay at &185 a month. We pay for transport and meals at Cherry Trees. We object to any reduction in service and any removal of transport provisions"
- "I am a single parent family and already struggle financially"
- "We may need extra evening and weekend support as we get older and less able to support our daughter"
- "As a former form F assessor and social worker to those who receive short break I cannot stress how important this not only to the parents of those in need but to the young child. I have seen young people changed immensely."
- "Need to be able to find out about what is available. Didn't know much about it and can't look for something that I don't know about"
- "Creative activities, puzzles, drawing, sewing.Make-up techniques"
- "Short breaks are essential for families with children/young people with additional needs, without it it risks pushing families to breaking point and being unable to continue caring for their family member with additional needs"

- "I think that the short breaks could be means tested in line with salary and benefits recieved"
- "If social services would have done they job properly and collected said paperwork i wouldn't be in the mess i find myself in with no-one in kirklees i can trust or turn to"
- "I would contribute if I could afford it, but I am a single parent of a very challenging child and rely on benefits. If I could afford more it would really help my own health needs."
- "Short breaks are essential for our young people as parents we are limited to the places we can take them and leave them and know that they are going to be safe, well looked after and that they're going to have a good time."
- "I have no money"
- "If means tested."
- "I have not been able to get Higher rate mobility DLA and do not have a mobility car. I am a single parent who finds it difficult to work due to sons disability and value the transport or and from different settings as my car is pretty old and I worry about not always having a car in the future. YPAT and Orchard View are pretty away from where I live and are not accessible by bus. I also have to take my daughter with on the journeys to and from YPAT and Orchards View. The actual services themselves are excellent especially YPAT."
- "We can't access any because I have trouble getting him out of the house."
- "More information to be available to parents/ carers about these services"
- "As above"
- "We get direct payments. This is valuable to me because it means that he can get out and about and I have time to spend quality time with my other son. Siblings can be forgotten when you have to look after someone with disabilities (you are always saying, "hang on a minute, hang on a minute..."")
- "I think you need to review how you asses a families needs. For example, if the child with the disability attends a school for severe or profound learning difficulties there should be an automatic level of support provided which reflects the severity of the families needs. For every added complication eg wheelchair bound, autistic, epileptic there needs to be some form of classification so that the right amount of care can be awarded to support the family cope."
- "We can't fund this as both parents are on income support and unable to work due to not being able to earn enough to support our family"
- "I would like more of my respite as direct payments as I can't get breaks when I need them. These breaks are extremely important to allow us as parents to have a break and a little social life. They are very important for our son to give him some independence and get him to not be with us all the time"
- "I think maintaing some form of shirt break for families is an absolute must"
- "Should be able to use direct payments for this."
- "Automatically send out information to relevant peopl"
- "The short breaks my son accesses are invaluable to me because he doesn't quite meet the criteria for an assessed child that qualifies for respite. The short breaks at clubs are the only breaks I receive. Without them my son would be with me 24-7 during the school holidays"
- "I feel that the services that are available are not accessible for children in main stream school. also due to my sons behaviour I am scared to take him places"
- "Activities for children who display unsafe behaviour and have sensory difficulties. I am happy to pay contributions but not too much. Cinema is good as long as its low arousal, lights are up etc. More autism friendly screenings. More 1-1 type activities, swimming lessons with trained staff someone to get in the water with our kids"
- "Yes might be willing to contribute if cost was reasonable. You get YAPT for once a fortnight and one week in summer and one day at Christmas and Easter. She really likes going. Staff are very well trained, my daughter in non-verbal with confidence issues there

isn't anywhere else like it. I really could do with more support. I would access the after school clubs etc if we had transport but I do not drive."

- "As my child can not talk or tell me what is going on in his care home I really appreciate if you can/or allowed to spend a day with im to see how he is treated and how he is spending his time. This is something crucial for me."
- "I would be happy to contribute to appropriate places more in the community rather than long travel of distances. Bus routes easy travel. Activities for the whole family, people who can offer support and advice when you attend. Leaflets or sign posting would be good. Advertise activities better. Give to other groups, Downs syndrome & special or PCAN for example"
- "I could make a small contribution - eg - similar costs to paying for her to going to a club that a non disabled child would go to"
- "every year i pay to help out the HSGA to pay for transport and activities."
- "I would pay for reasonable costs towards this such as travel fares and entrance fees."
- "Children with learning needs should be sent information or regular updates of services available them, we cannot use them if we do not know about them."
- "Happy to contribute a reasonable cost"
- "But only the same amount as I would pay for my mainstream child (not more because he requires more support). It needs to be equal opportunities. We benefit from the above short breaks as this provides opportunities to spend time with other family members, and to provide the essential things you need for a home, like going to the bank, shopping, getting your car serviced etc. It also gave me a break from caring, especially when he was little (stopped him taking the house apart for a few hours). It gave my son opportunities to be semi-independent, go to different places with other kids. My husband worked away from home Monday to Friday. Without short breaks, my son might have had to go into some temporary foster care type respite over a weekend (more expensive respite) to enable me to manage. These breaks are essential to keep families together and to keep being able to care. Without it more families will go into crisis and more children may go into to care. You can't look after people properly, or live your life if you get no sleep."
- "I just need more information about what available."
- "He really enjoyed compass bridge and sprout, also Shabang and karate. I get a PA to help so I can work in the hours after school. I could not work otherwise"
- "I would do anything to make my son happy and to improve his behaviour, help him to socialise and learn to speak, and be physically active (helps to make him tired as he doesn't sleep at night),"
- "We do not get any carer support for our severely disabled daughter (quadriplegic, semi lobar holoprosencephaly) she is 2 years old. We are very interested in support and would welcome info on short breaks."
- "Within reason - not more than I would pay for my other son's activities. You should have asked why we find the short breaks above valuable - think you are missing a crucial question there. Until my son was 18, he used YPAT every fortnight. He loved it because the place was just right for him, interesting things to do, consistent location, very skilled well trained staff who could use alternative communication methods, and he was being independent - doing things without Mum and Dad always around. He needs one to one support and cannot access any other short break except Bumpy when they had the two seater quad bike working. He cannot participate in sport, drama, team games etc due to his multi-sensory impairment. That break for us was the difference between coping and not coping and was the only time we ever had on a weekend to do things with our other son, or do significant things around the house or garden. You need to spend time living with someone who needs 24/7 one to one support to have any idea what it's like when you actually get a break....or what it's like not to get one. There was an attempt to cut YPAT last year. I hope that's not on the cards this time as it meets the needs of a specific group of children whose needs are very high (and a massive drain on carers'

energy and resilience) and cannot access more mainstream type of activities or who need high levels of individual support. It must be recognised by the AAD Team that this type of respite break MUST CONTINUE. Unless you want a few children going into care because the carers can no longer cope? Especially as a child gets older, and the family have been caring for a long time. Caring in that way has a major impact not just on the carer but on the family as a whole. There is a massive gap for young adults, unless you have a learning disability (and have verbal communication). If you can't socialise or join in team things, there is just nothing for you to go to. My son desperately misses YPAT but can't go there any more. There is nothing similar, and not at weekends. Day Centres do not fit the bill."

- "Extend the days from 14 days to 21days"
- "See above re teen gym. short breaks should really fund those things that the voluntary and private sector cannot - often those activities for very complex children or those with significant behaviour issues where it is not fair to expect voluntary people to have the training to cope (and nor in the case of challenging behaviour, is it fair to expect the other children attending to have to deal with it)"
- "Many parents say they would be lost without access to short breaks. Reasons for use can develop from support and respite for parents to helping build young people's confidence and independence. Parents use a wide range of short breaks. Issues:- Some parents could/can make a voluntary contribution but many cannot and do not have the money. There would need to be consistency and all parents would have to be asked appropriately. Some parents will be able to make contributions. One contribution for people on low incomes no matter how many services used? If charges are required, many parents will struggle. How clear is the Local Offer and how well promoted? Many parents are determined to keep going and accept the responsibility of being a parent and face all of the challenges. They do this with determination and love. But, some parents are unaware of breaks which could help them and potentially reduce some pressures/offer a few hours a week. Not offering help could be storing up problems later. Peer help is also crucial and the role of other parents as well as organisations such as PCAN /national groups. The impact of care on siblings can be overlooked and short breaks can support time with other members of the family. YPAT had contributions. There is a lack of information re access so clarity is needed re the process and role of social workers as well as the overall aim of short breaks/respite. Essentially, a good service is needed to support families and enable a number of children and young people with identified needs and challenges to remain at home with family. For some families, council provision of well organised and supported short breaks and respite will help keep them going and offer a breathing space; for a few families it will be cheaper and less traumatic than admissions to care Which breaks are most valued by families as identified in the responses this year and last year? The council will have a lot of information. Parents and children/young people can and want to contribute to the development of services."
- "Remember that adults already contribute to their short breaks. My adult daughter pays her assessed contribution from her DLA benefits, so this is not new for adults. Please remember that benefits for people with disabilities have been frozen so that my daughter's benefits have not increased (ESA). I already support her financially considerably and we should not be expecting family members to be contributing to their adult children when they are retired themselves"
- "A number of people were confused by the question about making a contribution, as there is already a contribution made by families for most of the short break activities. This includes YPAT. However around 60% of people said they would. We would reiterate most people's comments that this would need to be reasonable and not be higher than what they currently pay for activities for their ""mainstream"" children. Some families did say that they would not be able to contribute. Some parents said that having a child with additional needs to support was already extremely expensive and many have

had to give up work, or not go back to work, so additional funds are just not there. As mentioned above, lots of people used this section to talk about why their breaks are valuable to them. If you consult on this again, you must ask this question. The implications of not having regular breaks would be quite extreme for some families. We felt that as a result of our discussions, a stronger approach needs to be used to help people to get to know about these activities. At PCAN this information goes into our newsletters, on our Facebook Group, on our website and gets networked to other groups. However if you are not on Facebook at that time, or don't read the newsletter from us or other groups, it could be helpful if schools could pass this information on, or social workers, health workers. It's better to find out about something 2 or 3 times than not at all. If the consultation were to be repeated, some examples of current short break opportunities would help people to understand what the consultation is about and elicit appropriate responses."

- "We would be happy to contribute providing the contribution wasn't out of our budget as money is tight. sprout is immensely valuable as to quote my daughter ""sprout makes me feel like I am not left out and not so different. it makes me feel really really happy"" It is also the only place where I feel confident taking the children on my own as usually I have to take another adult as my daughter clings when anxious but my son will run off if he either sees something that catches his interest or something upsets him."
- "Happy to make small contributions but not too expensive. Training some of those already running activities to make with young people with anxiety."
- "I would like to access but because of above I'm devastated and feel negative"

Access to childcare and learning support for:
- 0-4 year olds with special educational needs or disabilities
- School-age children with special educational needs / disabilities who use out-of-school childcare

To help us understand what you value the most in a childcare service, please choose the parts which are most important to you from the list below: - other

- "A stable and regular workforce which my child could build positive relationships with."
- "Although I use the childcare to help me work, the setting need support to understand my child's needs so they can provide the same care I would at home."
- "After school and before school provider suitable for SEN children"
- "consistance re the person coming to the house"
- "Good quality, affordable childcare."
- "Location would be useful, but to now I have been unable to take this into account."
- "My daughters goes to YPAT after school it is not clear if this is what is meant in these questions. I do not know what the access fund is!"
- "Well trained staff"
- "Piece of mind knowing my daughters safety is paramount due to her lack of safety awareness"
- "Quality of care and support is extremely important to me."
- "Can I trust them, can they care for my child?"
- "I would also like to add in a wide choice of childcare providers, please allow us 4!"
- "She has a pacemaker, needs support for PE"

- "The staff had to be the right type of person who would fit with the child and has to have a lot of patience and understanding. My son needed a very calm quiet person"
- "Specialist staff in a well resourced provision"
- "N/A"
- "Staff who are trained appropriately - special needs support"
- "We now home educate so tis is a difficult one to answer"
- "Continuity of care and holding providers to greater account"
- "Somewhere that has physical access"
- "Acessibility and timing to fit with family / her needs e.g. meds and sedations/nap"
- "By convenient location, I mean that school transport will consider convenient"
- "Most people chose the first three options, some commented that the "convenient" location would need to be convenient for school transport to even consider taking their child there, not their choice"

The Council could limit the funding that the Access Fund provides so it funds enough support to meet our statutory duty, but does not go beyond it. What do you think of this option – Please explain the reason for your choice:

- "In line with the rest of the country seems fair"
- "Shouldn't be paying out. Ore than is necessary"
- "Different children have different needs, families also. What is adequate for one child is woefully short for another. Perhaps means test childcare - many families can afford to pay."
- "Most school age children with additional needs are unable to access childcare (like my child) due to lack of options/provision. This will increase the issue and prevent people from working."
- "Disabled children in Kirklees already suffer so much from lack of funding and lack of services. This is ridiculous"
- "They would have access to the same as other children"
- "My 14 old year child recieves funding which enables him to attend an out of school club whilst I am at work. Without this funding he would not be able to attend and I would have to give up working. This would then put our family into financial difficulties and also limit his other social activities then impacting on his overall development."
- "I think that providing the parent is physically and mentally able to care for their child then it should not be paid for over and above what is required."
- "This won't help parents get back to work"
- "When my daughter was at nursery it was extremely important she could access this with her complex needs! My daughter attends a special needs school now and I am unable to work because I have not applied for help with wrap around care"
- "Money needs to be spent where most appropriate"
- "i feel that a 2 year old should be at home with a parent"
- "children and parents need to work together through issues, removing children from parental care does not always solve the problem. Children and parents should attend and learn how to cope together not just let parents attend a course or have some personal time. The more children are taken away from parental care the less they will earn to cope and teach their children."
- "Many vulnerable / disabled children need childcare from age 5 to 18 and if this support was removed, private providers of childcare would be less likely to offer places to children with complexities / disabilities. Subsequently parents / carers would likely ask for more support from social care which may be more costly."
- "There are many families in need and I think with all the cuts and financial strains it should be shared out as much as possible"

- "Parents / Carers are unfortunately not on the same level playing field as others and already find access to all sorts of services extremely difficult. This would add extra pressure to already stressful lives. It is false economy as the repercussions on mental health and wellbeing will easily outweigh any money saved. Walk in our shoes for just one day and you will see this is a ludicrous idea."
- "This is a good idea as it can save money but I do think that the 30 hours option should be available to parents who don't work due to illness or disability."
- "2 year olds who do not fall within the vulnerability criteria yet still require additional support to close developmental gaps will miss out, causing a larger need for Access Fund support when a funded 3 year old; this seems very short-sighted. In terms of the overall council budget, £130,000 seems a very small saving when all the evidence points to early and targeted investment producing the best outcomes for children in the longer term."
- "The more money you invest early on, the more you will save later. The more hours of targeted support a child can get at nursery, the more this will boost their progress and development. This helps reduce issues when they arrive at school which can eventually be very costly e.g. EHC assessment, permanent exclusion."
- "Anything to help maintain the service cut back is required"
- "a good compromise"
- "I don't understand what the question is."
- "This would limit the likelihood of children with significant needs from deprived areas achieving their potential."
- "don't understand enough about it to comment."
- "Adequate access fund support is vital for for some children and their families to thrive. Cases should be considered on individual circumstance."
- "Because early intervention is the way forward"
- "You have not explained what you provide at the moment so I cannot answer how the change would impact"
- "This would mean that working parents would have to reduce their working hours or give up work. Children with SEN should be able to access childcare full time all year round if necessary alongside their peers. This could lead to financial hardship, mental health problems and family breakdown for families already dealing with additional challenges. This is not acceptable."
- "Seems reasonable to me"
- "Some nursery need support before the funding kicks in and just because you work that child should be affected!"
- "I feel for my child and my situation the extra funded hours are extremely necessary. He should be around his peers at his age and learning new things from them as they can do things he can not I feel the only way he does actually learn these things is from watching the other children do these tasks. I would not have free childcare available without the funding and I wouldn't be able to afford for him to go to nursery while I work."
- "Because nurseries that are trained professionals properly are thin on the ground as it is and it's important to encourage disabled access and aspirations from birth and parents need their right to work etc respected. There's not a month after school provision either. I'm"
- "The free provision isn't enough, need the access fund to support the SEN children so I do not agree with the cuts in this service"
- "Because it should be available for all children of school age with special needs"
- "Until a pilot is run to see if it works it is very difficult to give a fair opinion."
- "If a child needs additional support they need it all the time they are in setting not just the funded hours. It would put extra pressure on settings who may then limit the hours the child can attend to just those that are funded. Which in turn could have a detrimental effect on the child's development."

- "I feel this is a terrible idea, as a parent of two children of with additional needs. My children are sometimes in a care setting for longer than the government funded hours and this would change would suggest that my children's needs suddenly stop when this hours do. Every need and disability is different and in the case of my youngest child who requires 1 to 1 care in order to attend the setting safely it would be short discriminatory due to his additional needs, in my opinion."
- "My son access this fund while at nursery I had to work 3 full days and if he had only been supported part of the time I would not be able to go back to work."
- "Children with additional needs require care before they reach 2 years old, and still need support after they start full-time school; these needs don't just go away, but without the funding parents may have to find extra money to cover the additional costs of providing an extra worker. In some cases this would mean that childcare would become so expensive that parents would be unable to meet the costs and would have to stop working. The 2, 3 and 4 year old funding covers term-time costs (38 weeks per year) so, if the changes are brought in to the Access Fund the additional support would only be beneficial for those few parents who are lucky enough to have a term-time and part-time job. This funding also enables childcare providers to be able to offer places to children with additional needs - without this funding they may be less likely to continue to provide care for these children."
- "My child with SEN started nursery at 10 months old as I started to work. I think it is vital for parents of vulnerable children to know that there is still opportunities for them to work. As access fund is the main source of support for nurseries at the moment, I'd like to know that it is there for my child whatever the age she goes to the nursery. I had given up 2 days of my possible working time to look after my child being a highly skilled professional. It would be daunting for me to think that I can't leave her in a nursery that is safe and supportive for her."
- "Support should be provided based upon the needs of a child and their family, not an arbitrary cut off point."
- "It makes sense as you are reducing the service rather than removing it."
- "Savings of £130,000 per year are a drop in the ocean in comparison with overall Council budgets and spending. The saving is not enough to justify the loss of provision to vulnerable children & families, and would have a massive impact on many parents' ability to find local & affordable childcare to enable them to work, remain in work or work more hours."
- "Because it won't stop the parent booking the child in to a nursery it will only stop the setting being allowed to claim for the support the need"
- "If this fund was not available the children who benefit from it will not be able to attend nurseries and will be not be able to benefit from the inclusion of this situation"
- "Any kind of extra help is a godsend for children with extra needs"
- "Each case of a child who requires extra time should be considered individually and what additional support they require should be considered on su h individual evaluation. I am concerned this change could mean some children with additinal needs don't get the additional support they may require."
- "because I don't think my child will be able to cope without this funding"
- "Younger children with additional needs need extra support and supervision. If this is not available at the earliest possible point, the child will be put at risk. Nurseries will not be able to fund essential additional support and will not be able to offer a place for that child. Working parents will struggle and this will damage the local economy."
- "We are happy with what our son gets"
- "While I appreciate your option I do not recieve the maximum allowance currently for my daughter. You can not put a price on how much it costs to keep a vulnerable child or adult safe. Prior to receiving our allowance my daughter managed to by pass the staff and got out of the nursery into the yard. not only do they have the extra staff to keep my daughter safe, they are able to give undivided attention to her on a 1-1 basis, and

support her with her additional learning through developing her speech, social interaction, fine motor skills and over all development. The staff have been amazing and worked closely with us as parents to help my daughter thrive. She is fully accepted within her nursery setting and I couldn't be more thankful to them."

- "Some children (like my son) need full time support to enable them to access pre-school. Without this he would be lost and this would have a devastating effect on his development and social skills. It would also affect us as parents as we would not be able to work if he could not attend pre-school."
- "What about older children? My son needs extra support to keep him safe? He attends an out of school club"
- "Funding needs to cover a range of services and ages. Some areas are so poorly funded that there are extended waiting times for face to face adult support while other areas, e.g. childcare is funded over and above other available childcare provision."
- "Working parents often need their children to be in childcare more than 15 hours per week. If Access funding is only available for 15 hours per week the children with disabilities would not receive the extra support such as one to one care for the additional hours which could cause safeguarding issues and causing the family distress as their child would not receive the assistance they need."
- "Cuts to services, money needs to be saved somewhere. Some people can make their own arrangements"
- "The revenue the council could have by supporting families to work. Therefore are able to contribute financially in other areas. Families who work will not have in income from Working Tax Credits or from Council Tax and Housing Benefit, free school meals, bus passes, therefore will save the council in other areas by not having this financial support from being on benefits!"
- "Depends on needs of parents and child"
- "Should be open to everyone not just a certain age group"
- "It's unfair, they should have the same opportunities for older and younger children"
- "This is the same as the hours we received at the time a few years ago."
- "Money is in short supply. I believe it is important that the access fund continues to be available because of the valuable support it gives and funded such that it can support as many children and families as possible even if that is at reduced hours. As such I would rather more children receive some help rather than the funds being spilt between fewer children receiving a greater proportion of the available monies."
- "Equity across authorities and for families"
- "This is when they require the intervention, however some children prior to the age of two years require the access fund. Also some families work more than 15/30 hours and settings may require the 1:1 support."
- "Below the age of 2 all parents should Be responsible for childcare regardless of whether their child is special needs or not. Only as children get older and their disabilities/needs become more apparent they would perhaps need the extra support"
- "Our child was in receipt of additional funding for before and after school provision. Only with that support she was enabled access to the same provisions as children without additional needs."
- "There is less money available and therefore the council is unable to offer as many services due to this. Cost has to be cut somewhere. This proposal in my opinion will still mean that those in need will receive support which I do feel is important."
- "At least the children would be getting the basic entitlement. I work with SEND families within a nursery and know how valuable this support is but saving money is also valuable."
- "[My son] cannot access mainstream childcare due to his complex needs. it would be good if the council could make provision for before and after school as I cannot go back to work. When my son was in mainstream ed the school refused to allow him into out of

school club and did not make reasonable provision. The only regular after school care he can access is YPAT on a Thursday evening and this is not flexible enough."

- "You might need this at any age, not just 2, 3 and 4 and you will have access as a parent to skilled nursery staff who can help you learn about the needs of a child. Children change all the time so it would be good to have this aged 5+"
- "It sounds great - I'd love to have used it if I'd known about it."
- "My son goes to a holiday club twice a week and if the childcare provider didn't apply for funding through the access fund, he wouldn't be able to go and I would have to leave work to care for him."
- "Access Fund should be available for all ages, even very young children. Parents who work need to know that the correct amount of support is in place for their child however young. I have not known about Access Fund until now or I would have tried to access it for my daughter at her day care Holiday Club."
- "I think it depends upon the individual child. If it is an exceptional case then I think the child should be funded."
- "The funding through the Access Fund has been invaluable in supporting my five year old daughter, who has Down's syndrome. It enabled her to receive crucial help throughout nursery, allowing her to develop to her greatest potential. The funding helped to provide full one to one support during nursery (attended 3 days per week). This was instrumental in helping her develop her communication skills (through focused Makaton), assist her individually with self-help, undertake physical exercises (she was unable to walk until a month before her 4th birthday due to hypermobility and low muscle tone) and provide an environment in which she could safely participate in activities with other children. Without this funding, the stark reality is that my wife would not have been able to return to work part-time. This would have prevented her from resuming her career and have a much needed mental break from pressures relating to bringing her children with additional needs, as well as causing the family considerable financial strain. Most importantly, it would have denied our daughter the opportunity to learn from a nursery setting with other children her age, which has been immeasurably important for preparing her to attend mainstream school. Our daughter now has funding that support her for out of school care during the holidays, which is invaluable for the same reasons outlined above."
- "Should not be based on age"
- "This is likely to have a detrimental effect on those families relying on these free placements but the money is also likely to be more beneficial in other areas."
- "You cannot put special needs children and families in the same bracket as a normal family, this is discriminatory, and completely does not allow for the extra assistance they require for access to a normal life as well as the additional requirement for breaks from their challenging children for mental health and wellbeing"
- "Some areas require more support than others"
- "Everyone should be allowed to access the services"
- "Cuts for vulnerable people they require it the most"
- "It's discriminatory. It should be for all ages and it shouldn't be taken away from people who receive it now. It's unfair practice"
- "Should be available to those legally entitled"
- "I appreciate the Council needs to save money because of cuts in central government funding, but each cut has an impact on the same people. It is this issue that the UN report on austerity noted. Disabled people are impacted by cuts in benefits but also cuts in housing, social care and health services. If I could be certain that people who have a disabled family member aren't going to be hit by this cut, I would feel better about it. But you haven't given us much information to go on here, so it's hard to tell. One A5 leaflet, with a picture on one side, is not enough to assess the likely impact of cuts. And what about low paid workers, such as care staff? Where are they going to fall in the assessment? Is this going to have an impact on those who choose to work in care,

despite the low pay, meaning disabled people are going to be hit again by the outcome of the suggested cut? There just isn't enough information here to assess this."

- "Ludicrous - where did you get this idea from? You need to get a grip of reality about what it's like for parents that work and have disabled children. Whether we have normal or disabled children we need the same rights to access childcare."
- "All children who have a significant disability are vulnerable, they can not access early education in school or in a childcare setting without support. It is fundamentally wrong to withdraw support from any child with a disability and discriminates against the families and children who need it in order to access early years facilities. By restricting support you will prevent parents and carers from working and simply shift the financial burden onto other departments to support families out of work."
- "Impact on low income families and those in rural areas."
- "It's hard enough for parents to work, downgrading the funds to the "normal" child funding will create a lot more unemployed parents"
- "These children are among the least likely to progress well, anything that can help them to reach their potential is vitally important. £130,000 is a drop in the Kirklees budgetary ocean."
- "It will limit the number of people with disabilities in getting out and about to the care that would help them thrive and meet others with disabilities"
- "Where budgets are tight, the minimum should be provided."
- "Whilst I would like to see more money available I understand the need to balance the books and bringing in line with National would help with this"
- "A line has to be drawn somewhere. It makes it fair for all. The money saved can be used where it is required more."
- "Helps families who work have reassurance that the child can be looked after"
- "Without the access fund children would be isolated for longer at home without access to their peers and role models. This will go against any theory that early intervention is the key to children's progress to reach their potential."
- "I say it should be available and would benefit her very much"
- "It would be too hard for someone with a complex disability to find someone to give child care"
- "I did use access fund when my child was younger and it greatly helped. Due to this access funds I was able to work and keep my sanity knowing I was paying for my child care but my child was getting extra 1-1 help with her speech language work and this allowed the nursery to fund this support worker with the access fund."
- "This would affect my child being in main stream education. This would affect my family. She gets 1-1 at the moment and she is nearly 5. If there is a need then it should be provided - if there is an identified need"
- "All children should be able to access child care even with a disability. There needs to be after school care for disabled children - they can't always go to a club as their needs are complex. This change will mean no after school care for these children unless something else is put in place"
- "Would potentially prevent parents from returning to work or accessing respite"
- "I can transport my child to some activities but not all activities as I have to work as well."
- "Taking services away from the most vulnerable in society who have had no say in their condition is truly horrifying and for a council to adopt such an approach without thinking of more inventive ways to save money is short sighted to say the least. Surely there must be other areas within which budgets or services could be streamlined that do not affect disabled children."
- "As long as the children with the greatest needs are supported and it's not just about saving money."
- "More families will end up on the Welfare System and unable to work. More children are already living in poverty. It limits life opportunities for the children and parents. It doesn't

make sense that the funding stops when a child goes to full-time school when it is more likely that a parent will go back to work to provide a more stimulating and financially stable home."

- "Child needs the chance to be with others in a nursery and also you aren't being given the same chance as other people to go to work etc"
- "Although I didn't use it, this is because I didn't know. If I had it would have made a massive difference in making it easier for me to be able to go back to work."
- "If the money is cut there will be nothing for children aged 5 and over which is not fair. Also if there is nowhere for older children to go, the children could be at home, on the internet or worse. He is an only child so he needs the chance to meet with children his own age. This would take that away."
- "We have had our daughter in nursery since 6 months, supported for two days (we only pay normal rates) 1:1 care. Without this I would not be able to work and would certainly not have coped as a family with her extreme case. I cannot thank Kirkless enough for this intervention and incredible support for a terminally ill/life limiting girl. It was her early days which were the hardest and we needed that help the most."
- "A child/ family can require support but not have diagnosis at early age so we struggle and miss out"
- "It's an appalling idea to limit the age range of children for whom it's available. It's basically saying that if your child is not in that age range you can't go back to work. It's discriminatory - should be for all. You are much more likely to go back to work when your child is 5 +. Everyone knows that paying for childcare is difficult when you first go back to work but it's only for a short time. Not for a parent of a child with additional needs! This happens for much longer - a teenager would not be able to go home and let themselves in and would still need to be somewhere safe with support. Why should we be penalised for this? It costs a lot more if people stay on benefits and don't go back to work - pretty simple to work that out. We all know that there are not enough flexible working hours jobs around. And what about school holidays? There's not enough term time contracts either. Very few in fact. It's a ridiculous idea."
- "If a child needs extra support then that should not be limited at all."
- "it is difficult to work out exactly what the difference is and how it applies"
- "We need more care places for children and adults with disabilities to have a break to meet other children and give the family a rest from looking after a child with a disability for a week"
- "It would have been great if I had known about this option when my child was younger but I did not. It gives those with children with disabilities the chance to continue to work - as a group these parents often do not work and become poor. Will it really save money in the long run if such parents cannot work?"
- "The vast majority of parents we spoke to had no idea that the Access Fund even existed and had to have it explained to them. Several were quite angry about that and said that it may have made a significant difference to them going back to work, or considering it. (You need to realise that despite our "equal opportunities" society, most parents don't consider private childcare to be an option – they assume that their child would not be welcome or their needs could not be met, so don't get as far as talking to a provider. Early on in the consultation we raised the point about how this fund is advertised (only to providers) and were told by Kirklees that this was sufficient as it is the providers who apply for it. Not sure how this equates with Kirklees' Public Equality Duty if potential beneficiaries are excluded from the information. Everyone we spoke to agreed that the additional support supplied by the Access Fund was Very important or Extremely important. Our view is that it is extremely important. Sadly there is no opportunity on the form to explain the reason for this choice. Our view on this is that this is a fantastic opportunity to help more people get into work or back into work. The cost of people is living on benefits is far greater than a projected saving of £130,000. Other benefits (than just financial) to families include: Renewed identity for the parent, sense of purpose,

sense of achievement, reduced isolation, able to get away from the caring role, improved mental health, other interests and activities – getting away from caring, helping to make caring role more sustainable. All of these things could save money. We felt that the easy read version was by far the best for explaining the proposed changes as it indicated what the fund pays for now and what it won't if the changes go ahead. Parents who saw this after or at the same time as reading the online or printed option could understand much better the implications of the proposed change. Many commented that they felt that the other versions were misleading and inviting people not to challenge as it was not obvious what would be lost. We agree that the non easy read versions lacked clarity. Most people felt that this was a bad or very bad idea. We feel that the proposal is a very bad idea. The proposal is discriminatory. How can you offer the additional support for 2, 3 and 4 year olds with additional needs and not the other age groups? Most parents said to us that they were more likely to go back to work when their children were 5+ and they felt they were more settled in school. People with babies whose needs could be met at a mainstream nursery with support would not be able to go back to work at the end of their maternity leave. There are few jobs with meaningful incomes that operate during school hours. People felt that they would be unfairly treated if this change takes place. We also spoke to parents who were already in receipt of the access fund whose children were outside the 2,3,4 age range. They were appalled that their children would lose this funding rendering them unable to continue with their existing jobs. We were unable to find any supporting documentation on the Involve website regarding the impact to existing users of this fund. Has this been carried out? There are huge benefits to the development of children with additional needs mixing with mainstream peers and this would be lost if this proposal goes ahead. We have a question around the legal situation of the private providers. As we understand it the Access Fund was set up so as not to disadvantage providers who would have to supply additional care and families of children who would need additional care. The Access Fund would protect providers and families of children with additional needs so additional cost would not be charged making it impossible for most families with regular jobs to pay the extra. What happens if the Council's proposal goes ahead? Will private providers have to subsidise care, putting their businesses at risk or will families be charged more, which is discriminatory?"

- "if my daughter was to go to childcare she would need extra support. after school clubs would not be able to fund this and I could not afford the extra money it would cost to fund this. this is the situation for a lot of other children. Also if this fund was more widely known about then more people would probably be able to go back to work as affordable childcare is a huge issue for parents of children with additional needs."
- "You wouldn't be able to work without help. mothers mental health would suffer as well"

Other options: We would like to hear any suggestions you have which will help us improve outcomes and / or improve the value-for-money that the Access Fund delivers. Please add your suggestions below:

- "I'm not sure what the access fund is"
- "Link to make a whole-life option. Often early evidence-based intervention is the most long term cost effective treatment but delays in diagnosis and access to help (not enough trained professionals) means significantly worsened outcomes. Parents should not have to fight the system to access good quality, appropriate support for their child."
- "Lobby the government against the cuts to block funding"
- "Stop cutting costs when it comes to children. They are our tomorrow and they need our full support today."
- "Money for early education should be managed better for those who need it and to include parents who need to learn parenting and management skills of their children."

- "Common sense and addressing people as individuals. Instead of focusing on statutory requirements look at what will actually make a valuable difference to individual and unique needs. Stop making decisions about people's lives when you cannot possibly understand what they are like. Until you have lived it you have NO idea!"
- "This is a good idea as can save money but I do think that the 30 hours option should be available to parents who don't work due to illness or disability."
- "How are outcomes and value for money currently being assessed? It is hard to suggest improvements when we are not provided with information about the current picture."
- "More training and supervision for the workers that are funded to work with SEND children."
- "Means-test the provision of any money in excess of what is required by law (e.g. limit its availability to those not paying tax or those not paying higher rate tax). This would save the council money and target those children most in need."
- "Review effectiveness of access funding support in the settings the children attend. Provide more support to settings so that their improved practice may reduce the need for as much access funding in the future. Whilst not reducing cost it ensures value for money."
- "Get local business to sponsor children etc"
- "More locality working saving parents/careers time travelling to various SEN centres and save time on therapists etc"
- "Small means tested contribution but only for parents who are able to afford it."
- "Ensuring parents have explored all other avenues for support with childcare costs prior to offering the Access Funding - childcare vouchers, Care to Learn etc."
- "I believe that education of the nurseries' staff and supervision is of the highest value. Our Early Years inclusion officer was, in fact, the main driving force in putting My Support Plan and EHC documents in place, developing plans and providing advice and supervision to the nursery. I think professional involvement makes the money work harder. The only thing I wouldn't like to see growing is the amount of bureaucracy around such service as Early Years Inclusion."
- "I don't believe the local authority should be responsible for this"
- "work with schools to provide the extra support"
- "im happy with the value for money that the access fund delivers"
- "I would be interested to know how a decision is made based on the hours allocation currently"
- "I cannot see another way of supporting children like my son other than funding 1:1 time. Unless of course you plan open special needs pre-schools??"
- "If not already the case, the access fund should be means tested based on gross household income and circumstances, e.g. do single parents work a minimum of 16 hours per week and couples both work 24 hours a week or more."
- "Don't know enough about this to have an input"
- "Wish I had some"
- "You need to make sure that this support is there for all ages, not just the ages 2,3 and 4"
- "Review on a case by case basis and maybe look to have other Sen holiday clubs available"
- "The £130k spent on the Access Fund delivers incredible value for money. This is a drop in the context of the overall annual Council budget. What a disaster for so many people with additional needs and their families, if this support is reduced as proposed."
- "Please do not treat all SEND families the same eg, if one family can afford to pay for transport, let them, if another can't, don't let them. Incontinence should not be free, outings should be family supported where possible"
- "Spend less on things that are not necessary and focus spending on people that have high needs and need support, like children with disabilities or additional needs"

- "Publicise it better"
- "The outcome would be keeping people in work and not forcing them to go on the dole, and claiming benefits. They'd be claiming housing and other benefits, sending people into poverty. This would be even more of a bill, so not economical."
- "It is impossible to comment on how change could impact on 'value for money' as i have no budget or costings to refer to. The only thing i know is that if you start to reduce support for families of children with additional needs the gains will be short term as long term, these families, like my own, will crumble and you will be faced with an even bigger bill to pay to resolve mental health, jobless and homelessness issues."
- "My child was funded a 1:1 carer through the childcare access fund when we had concerns that he had additional needs. It meant he could access the same provision as his siblings. To take this away from similar children would be a massive disaster - if anything more money and more training and support for childcare providers is needed."
- "Not broken - so doesn't need change."
- "It would be a good idea for more after school care for children with complex disabilities for them to have fun as well as for child care reasons."
- "Need needs to be supported. EHCP plans earlier - take it out of that?"
- "Increase the fund so that more people can access employment which would reduce the overall bill as it wouldn't be paid out in benefits."
- "If it helps parents to work, they pay tax and this can pay for things like the Access Fund. Cutting it would cost more."
- "The Access Fund would offer value for money if it kept as many parents of children with additional needs in work as possible so they can pay tax and contribute to the local economy. It should be extended not reduced and advertised. So many people don't even know about it. And parents often assume that a mainstream or nursery won't take a child with additional needs so they don't ask."
- "Most parents of children with a disability do not want 30 hours free anyway - often only work part time and probably want about 21 hours max. It would be better to offer assistance for all ages but less than 30 hours."
- "We feel that a wider piece of work needs to be done in Kirklees regarding the cost of people being out of work if there is no appropriate or affordable childcare. These families will be on a range of benefits including possible a reduction in Council Tax, free school meals etc etc. They might be suffering from mental health or physical issues due to their caring role, all of which have a cost. The Access Fund should be increased, not reduced and advertised widely in order to get more parents back into work."
- "Early intervention is too important. Having a child with SEN increases risk of many adverse effects if not in a developmental support environment"

If you feel these potential changes to the Access Fund will have an impact on you, your family or someone you care for, please tell us what it would be. If you think the impact might be negative, please tell us if you have any suggestions for how we could reduce that impact:

- "Currently unable to find a childcare provider for our child so no difference although i can't work"
- "Even less opportunities for disabled children in Kirklees - thus is heartbreaking"
- "The impact would be extremely detrimental to our family and my child's development."
-
- "Cuts have already had a negative impact. Can't get short breaks, only just got 7 D.P, but can't actually use it. Due to huge shortage of people who can do the job and be db's checked. 1 year waiting for new wheelchair, so I am limited to what I can do or go with my child."

- "Absolutely and it scares the living daylight out of me."
- "As long school transport is not cut then make changes"
- "No impact on me."
- "We currently access additional support for out of school childcare. Without this we would have to reconfigure our working hours and potentially give up work. Our daughter is now at school. She received access funding from age 1 in nursery and this has enabled me as her mother to continue to work. This has been invaluable for my mental health and for our financial stability both now and to ensure that we can support our daughter into adulthood. Without my career we would be claiming more benefits and state support. It also has been hugely beneficial for my daughters development to attend nursery."
- "My child is 9 month and for him to go into a setting without support would be difficult, they would struggle to meet his needs like I do at home which would mean me giving up at work! This would have a huge knock on affect for our family and would mean just because of a disability my child couldn't attend nursery. It would also affect my emotional well being witch would affect siblings and the family set up!"
- "The access fund hours have been invaluable for my son and have helped him develop - without them he would not be anywhere near his current stage of development (which is still severely delayed)."
- "This would be negative for us so we do not support it."
- "It would be negative as my child would not be able to access out of school activities"
- "My two year old is currently being accessed for disability living allowance but we also do not qualify for the vulnerable 2 year old funding due to our income, this would leave my son with absolutely no support at all and he needs 1 to 1 care. Also if he attends his care setting for more than 15 hours then how will he be provided with 1 to 1 care."
- "A child with additional needs has that need every hour of its life you cant just fund it for 15 hours per week. Every child is entitled to go to nursery and parents to work so should get the support that that child needs. Parents as I am happy to pay nursery fees but not able to cover extra support costs that a disabled child requires I thought this would be covered under the DDA (as was)."
- "Although my daughter started school (Reception), she still receives some support in the nursery that she goes to after school. She still needs that extra eye on while playing with other children, during meal time, doing her potty training. I can't imagine she could successfully go to a standard after school club without her 1 to 1 support as she has in the school during the normal hours. I'm very anxious about the time when we can't take her to the nursery after school anymore."
- "If this fund is stopped children with a disability will not be able to access nursery education and their parents may not be able to access childcare in order to enable them to return to work. My only suggestion is to continue this fund"
- "the childcare wouldn't take my child into the setting without this funding and also my child wouldn't be able to cope without this extra support"
- "It will not impact now as my child is in full time school but when he was at nursery and receiving one to one, it was essential. If [he] hadn't had the extra support, I wouldn't have been able to work (I work in the NHS), so other services will have had a knock on effect."
- "By reducing the funding further or even removing it you would be placing the nursery under pressure as they would not have the extra staffing to ensure the safety of my daughter. Not only her safety but her development would be affected as her 1-1 support would cease. As parents we work hard with our daughter to keep continuity with her learning and development, working closely with the nursery putting plans and goals in place to help her thrive. As a family it is difficult for us to spend lots of valuable time with our daughter due to work commitments, however we are driven to keep pushing forward and help her to succeed. The whole child services is an up hill battle, trying to get appointments with professionals, constantly being told there no funding so can't help. I

have to go outside Kirklees's for some services to ensure my daughter gets what she needs."

- "Reduction in funding would have an extremely negative effect on our family. [He] would struggle at pre-school so much so that he probably couldn't go which means I would not be able to work."
- "My son needs extra supervision and support to maintain his safety which allows him to attend the out of school club whilst I work"
- "It would make me think twice about working more than the 15 hours per week as I wouldn't want my child with disabilities to be with a childcare provider that couldn't provide the extra assistance for beyond the 15 hours."
- "It doesn't affect me personally (mainly because I didn't know about it) but could have a negative impact on others who have children in that age group"
- "Doesn't impact on me"
- "In my setting we only provide a maximum of thirty hours of funding for every child so it will have a limited impact such as it may do if a child attending us also attends another setting and we have two years olds staying for more than 15 hours."
- "Settings across Kirklees do require access to the fund, to support children and families with additional needs. Settings have in-depth paper work and meetings to cover for children/families to support the EHCP and IEP. This means sometimes having 1:1 workers is essential to help children develop and thrive and keep safe."
- "It could further prevent opportunity for me to go back to work"
- "Having early socialising might have helped."
- "As I have stated above My son goes to a holiday club twice a week (as he only receives funding for 1-2-1 support for 2 days I'd prefer more!) during school holidays and if the childcare provider didn't apply for funding through the access fund, he wouldn't be able to go and I would have to leave work to care for him as the other days I take holiday or relay on family."
- "Our family would not be impacted as our disabled child is school age but I know of several families where this would be detrimental. Most parents of children with additional needs are in a very stressful, challenging and exhausting situation and to minimise this support would have a very negative impact. One working mother I know can only send her child to a Holiday Club during half term if he has a one to one support worker and if she couldn't send him there she would not be able to work during holidays."
- "Please see the answers above"
- "Lack of normal family life, lack of ability to watch other family members in their activities, lack of being able to take normal children out for a meal, lack of normal children having friends at home, lack of sleep in the family home with normal members, lack of being able to work to support the family"
- "I'm not sure it will have an impact on me as my son is in High School"
- "Negative More stress Child becomes more isolated if youth groups /disability play scheme closes as they really enjoy it and parent has confidence to send child to these groups and know their child will be catered for to their individual needs"
- "It wouldn't be viable for me to go back to work as I couldn't afford to pay double for my son who would need one to one support. He is 6. They need not to change it at all."
- "Our child isn't in this age category but it would be a huge backward step for a lot of families"
- "They would have a huge negative impact on a massive number of children across Kirklees. The way to reduce impact is NOT to restrict funding that benefits the most vulnerable children in the area. Sell some artwork instead."
- "Without funds a lot of families would struggle so the funding is greatly needed"
- "Child may have to come out of school if no support - safeguarding issues Parents should have a choice they may need to work for financial reasons"

- "Our son would have even less opportunity to socialise and it would have a detrimental impact on his well being. How can you explain to a child who does not have the intellectual capacity to understand why he will no longer be able to attend an activity because of a budget cut."
- "Keep the funding so that these people can continue to go to work. Lots of people have very expensive additional things to pay for, for instance paying to go to Great Ormond Street Hospital in London, so being able to work when you can is essential. For example my son has appointments at 6 hospitals, two in London, two in Leeds, one in Manchester and one in Wakefield."
- "I no longer use the access fund but it's not that long ago that I did. And if this change had occurred I would have had to give up my work, and let me tell you it's been incredibly difficult to re-invent myself and work around my son's complicated medical timetable, school holidays, days off sick etc. It's cost me massively financially giving up a senior full time post to be a carer, not to mention how expensive it is to raise a child with disabilities. Think about it from your own point of view - how would you feel?"
- "Only a very few people we spoke said they would be impacted as their children were outside the age range, or they did not know about the Access Fund. However we feel that all the options would have a very negative impact for people on maternity leave and want to go back to their existing job, or those who want to start work or return to a different job."
- "see above comments. also why should this money be used to only fund those age ranges. it will mean that more people like me will end up giving up work to care for the children."
- "We think it would be negative as it would isolate parents of children with SEN"

If you have any further comments or suggestions, please let us know by writing them below:

- "The access fund wouldn't effect me personally but could effect parents which would then effect childcare providers"
- "We do not access this at this time but would have done in the last, I know other families who do access this so it's very much needed."
- "My son is older now but I would not have been able to go back to work at all and probably not have my sanity,"
- "My child does not have additional needs, but I do support parents who have children with additional needs to identify the help and support they can receive. The Access Fund has been critical in their ability to return to work and I feel that the proposed changes will affect families negatively, excluding them from being able to make a positive contribution through work and excluding their children from mixing with other children"
- "I wrote ""No impact"" because my child is going to be 5 and the changes won't be as relevant to us anymore, although I have strong anxieties to what happens to my daughter next. However there are plenty of children supported by the charity that I'm part of, and we'd like to see a clear plan What to do?! Disability of our children always changes our lives. Most of the parents I know whether give up previous work or work less than they could simply because there is no adequate childcare available for younger children. If I would have waited another couple of years to place my child to the nursery I would have lost my job as I my knowledge needs to be up to date in order to work. There is always changes to the working regime, always more personal involvement in childcare, more fundraising initiatives, and so on and so on apart from what is available though the access fund. It is not clear what to do for those parents who need/want to work longer than 30 hours term time only having a child under 3. Do we apply for EHCP? Do we try to bribe the nursery staff? Do we give up work?"

- "People who have families should be responsible for their own actions. i.e.. if you can't afford to raise children you really shouldn't expect others to pick up the tab."
- "My son is 4 and currently accesses 15 hours of 1:1 support per week - this is invaluable to us!!!!"
- "No children"
- "My son is 8 years old and has no provision for before and after school"
- "It is short-sighted to change it"
- "More funding is required, not less. Improvements to available services and increased services, current services are very tired and are in desperate need of investment"
- "I do feel that your survey is not asking the relevant questions to me that you really need to know. Your survey is a bit back to front. You haven't asked me relevant questions about me with a 6, nearly 7 year old with additional needs. I can't go back to work if there is no childcare for my son that's affordable. This is rubbish. Did someone who has no children think of this? Or no children with additional needs."
- "The Access Fund is a hugely important resource. Instead of following the example of councils and restricting it, perhaps it would be better to lead by example and continue to fund 'above and beyond' and raise the prospects of children within Kirklees who would otherwise struggle to reach their potential."
- "Affect families on low income"
- "If funding is available for out of school (holiday times) I want to know!!"
- "The above questions have only been ticked as negative because I no longer use the Access Fund. By making this change you would be responsible for people losing their jobs in an extremely discriminatory way."
- "See above, very discriminatory. Would private settings be allowed to charge more? Is this lawful? If they can't they will probably not take disabled children particularly the most complex. This means such parents can't work and those children miss out on being with their peers."
- "See above our comment on a wider piece of work around the overall cost of removing the access fund."
- "reason it would have no impact is because no one knows about it so doesn't realize it is an option to offset excess childcare costs and therefore end up giving up work to care for children as presumed the usual childcare options were not available for my child."
- "Parents need early support identification of needs - nursery can support parents and children"

Social Care Transport for children, young people and adults

In the future we are looking to assess individuals and their families on a case-by-case basis, so that the council would not necessarily fund transportation if a family is able to make their own arrangements for the transportation themselves. What do you think about this idea? Please explain the reason for your choice:

- "A lot of children who receive the service whose parents could transport"
- "If they don't need it there is no reason to provide it."
- "Individuals have individual needs"
- "Pdepends what the threshold for support is the"
- "This is clearly a cost cutting exercise and disabled children will lose out again and probably more often. Also assessing individual cases increases workload, cost and therefore the money saved will be spent on assessing and the timescales will be even worse."

- "DLA/PIP should help pay for this"
- "Provided the decision making process is transparent and allows input from a parent. For example someone with a car but who works full time may not be able to transport their child."
- "Impact I. Families trying to get their otherwise"
- "Transport too and from school is a must, and should not be cut at all."
- "Some people may not want or need the service. Assessing each family would be a good idea. I have another child so in term time I can not take my daughter to her short breaks but in the holidays I do."
- "would depend on distance to facility and also other siblings and commitment"
- "my 2 boys could not manage m"
- "each case is unique families cannot be judged on the same c/concerns."
- "I am aware of families who expect the council to transport their relatives when they are capable of doing this themselves and also have the means (i.e. a car in their drive and they do not work)"
- "It should be spend out and be available for people who need it"
- "Just because someone as transport does not mean it is always feasible for them to use it."
- "Assessing on a case by case basis is a very good idea. However, nobody should miss out on vital transportation."
- "You can't have a policy where decisions are consistent and then do it on a case by case basis. Doesn't make sense."
- "Many carers and parents have accessible vehicles so why does the council spend double."
- "a good compromise"
- "I am wary of assessments in this way as they can be altered any way they wish and susceptible to human error."
- "It is all about targeting those most in need, so, provided the assessments are fair, this will ensure better use of funds."
- "Just because a child has a disability shouldn't mean that the parents shouldn't take them to school as a parent of a mainstream child would do. However, if they have to attend a special school, which is too far for a parent who can't drive to take their child then they should be entitled to help with transport. Similarly, when a mainstream child gets to say 14,15 many parent allow them to walk home alone and maybe be home alone for an hour before the parents get home from work. this can't happen with a child with a disability and I feel that parents who work and have a child with a disability should be given support to enable them to stay in work."
- "Case by case ensures those who most need it get the help in difficult times"
- "Any cut in services to disabled people is a bad idea"
- "As long as the family are able to discuss their case with you this should mean more tailored approach"
- "Additional pressure on whole family units"
- "circumstances can change quickly and a non-provided system may not be able to respond in a timely way"
- "Depends on the child. For example my son is autistic you might think he is fit and go in a bus but because of his tantrums it's a risk which I would have to take as I am a single mom."
- "As a mother with a younger sibling, a mental health illness and severe back issues I would not be able to get my child to school. Every child deserves a right to education but I'm already seeing it getting more difficult for young people with disabilities to have any kind of support from Kirklees"
- "We already pay our transport costs to Daycare but if this is yet another way of cutting costs then it is a very bad idea."

- "some carers cant not assit there child to respite careand do relie on social. care transport without it this be affecting carers from having respite breaks"
- "Parents and carers need to know exactly what they are entitled to and where they stand. Consistency isn't often there."
- "It depends what you feel as ability to make own arrangements, if you are expecting families to neglect their own needs and rights. It has to take everything in to account."
- "If this is discretionary then I think it will come down to money rather than needs, very much an imbalance of power which will put some families at a disadvantage....sounds great on paper however this will not be the outcome based on history and some way professional will interpreted the information"
- "The Access Bus is the only time I get out."
- "Because personal travel plans don't work for everyone one size doesn't fit all"
- "If my son could go to the local activities I would gladly walk him there, unfortunately he is in a wheelchair the only disabled activities are either 6 miles, 9 miles or 10miles away from our house. I do not drive. A disabled taxi is a minimum of £15 each way. Busses are a nightmare with a wheelchair. He gets dropped off at home from school so I dont see any difference to drop him off at respite (infact its closer to school)"
- "More stress placed on parents/carers"
- "It would ensure the service is availabe for those in need who canmot provide own transport or afford to."
- "I think that looking at how a family may contribute to the costs of transport is a reasonable suggestion - perhaps on a graduated basis, so that people aren't excluded from being able to access external services, support and activities."
- "Firstly, because they are vague in what would be taken into account in the proposed 'case by case' basis. Family income? Receipt of DLA?"
- "again allows you to continue to offer the service to those that really need it."
- "[She] would like to get a taxi with friends she links with cause she likes them"
- "If there is no need for transport, then it is a waste of money to provide it."
- "It will reduce the quality of life of the affected people"
- "You can't keep up with statutory assessments so how are you going to manage all these additional assessments."
- "there is a good chance the family will be receiving the mobility component of the disability allowance therefore that should be used for transport if not then cut or a contribution made to reflect travel costs to school."
- "This would cause discrimination towards disabled children and they would not be able to access nursery education and would not be included in this part of education"
- "Other than school transport my child does not uses transport. She would not need social transport for another 4 years so I assume my views at this stage will be redundant by then!"
- "People should take responsibility for themselves. It's not the responsibility of other residents to fund others."
- "I don't receive any help with transport to my day center but some people do. Is this fair? I rely on my parents."
- "Cause families difficulty, increased road traffic and pollution too"
- "Not possible. Journey to Highfields too far. We are retired. Only one car and son unable to use public transport. We pay for his mini bus to Highfields. Object very strongly."
- "We don't have transport"
- "divert funding to those who need it"
- "My son gets transport to school. If he didn't receive it, I wouldn't be able to work. I would be unable to take him to school due to other school commitments. Also, not all families would be able to afford to transport their children to school."
- "As it would make it easier"

- "I currently don't use this service however I do know others that do and know it would impact some quite hard, again it would depend on the criteria that is used to make a decision on who should or shouldn't receive it"
- "I believe that help should be given to those in need - however it is often a very costly process assessing needs and the money would be better spent on funding transport!!"
- "I don't drive so will struggle to get my son to where he needs to be"
- "Would mean extra costs and time to the family. Environmentally unfriendly to have extra vehicles on the road"
- "Family are busy and sometimes unwell"
- "My family can not manage transport"
- "No transport at home, I would feel vulnerable in a taxi on my own"
- "There are an increasing number of single person households where an individual has no immediate family, so they should automatically be eligible for transport. For others it should be age, income and location (accessibility) based."
- "Save council money. Some families currently receiving council transport could make their own transport arrangements"
- "I think the option of individual assessments would preclude some parents/carers from accessing services that might support their children as the process/ outcome might be anxiety inducing. Many of our families feel that their childrens needs are so complex and unique that they are not comparable to the needs of another young person. Often the people 'assessing' need for transport have a limited understanding of complex SEMH needs and do not consider the wider implications for the child, family and community of reducing transport."
- "Because my Dad does not drive"
- "I can go with my friends in a taxi"
- "Because our young adult requires one to one care as he has no understanding of danger or any mental ability to look after himself. He could be a danger to others people"
- "Because it is not always possible to provide transport on a daily basis and causes a big Impact on our lives too"
- "Due to traffic congestion in the area near the day centre the journey would take upwards of 45 mins each way which is not feasible"
- "I rely on service transport to access the day centre. My family have other commitments/taxi would be too expensive 5 days a week"
- "Most disables people receive a free bus pass with a plus 1 for a carer or mobility car and this would make more money available for activities. We have never been offered any transport anywhere."
- "Everyone has to pay for travel, whether its own transport or via bus. If a child needs support due to special needs they have the correct benefit in place to pay for the travel."
- "Could reduce cost effectiveness for those who we do decide we need to provide transport for. ie. if half of the people who currently get a minibus together to daycare are told that they are not eligible and they have to start getting a taxi, what happens to the half the bus who are eligible? Do we run a half empty bus, or because this is not cost efficient does Kirklees then start funding taxis for those who aren't eligible- therefore not saving any money at all? Also, people don't feel safe entrusting their loved ones to taxis (especially if they have dementia), they need to feel sure that the person they care for is safely escorted door to door by someone who understands their condition. With taxis there is a risk that the person will end up dumped in the car park- potentially unsafe if they have dementia or other cognitive impairment."
- "Because people need to be aware that the offer's there."
- "They need to look at each one, because for instance I am not a very confident driver, hate motorways and like to stick to places that I know"
- "Its a good idea if it is carefully implemented and it does not penalise individuals"
- "To save wasting public money on journeys"

- "All children should have access to transport if needed, not all parents drive or have access to a car"
- "We have a mobility vehicle, however my child accesses transport provided to ensure consistency of travel - similar to school transport, to extend the carers 'free' time as my child has very challenging behaviour and is very clingy with me. He needs to realise that others are able to provide similar care/play. It also encourages more social behaviour that my child is in need of - to show that being around others in different situations can be pleasant. The fact that he goes on a bus to play scheme helps him to recognise what the day ahead will bring - seeing the staff wearing their play scheme t-shirts and also seeing the journey through the window helps him prepare for the day ahead. He often finds it distressing when I have to take him to play scheme or respite service as he doesn't want to leave me, this can lead to an awful time for everyone for the rest of the time he is there."
- "By not offering transport vulnerable run the risk of not being able to access activities which are open to them and become isolated in society or will be forced to use public transport when not capable, able or ready do so putting themselves in danger."
- "Well it's not always about having transport. I have transport available but if I dropped and picked up my daughter from YPAT in the school holidays then this would impact on the quality of time I have left with my younger children"
- "So people don't take advantage of the system"
- "This would cut costs if individuals and their families could make their own arrangements. If it is looked at on a case by case basis this should mean that those in need would still receive support."
- "Only those most in need should benefit in my opinion, not one fits all approach."
- "I as a carer work to make ends meet I would not have time to transport to day care and attend work. I already contribute £40.00 a month"
- "It makes sense that if you can get that person to a day care centre etc you should. It would save the council money that could be spent on more important things"
- "My car will not last much longer and I do get a mobility car. I would struggle to buy another car."
- "My son travels to the day centre on a bus"
- "Loosing the present transport would place an additional burden on parents who need all the help they can get either physical or financial"
- "So funding us shared and used correctly"
- "If people can pay or are willing to pay then that's good."
- "[He] lives in a supported living home which he shares with a few other adults. He would not get 1-1 support to transport him each day"
- "[She] can not travel alone, Kirklees would need to provide 1-1 support to accompany her to and from services"
- "[She] would be unable to attend the centre without transport unless Kirklees provided extra hours for 1-1 support to travel"
- "It is important to understand that people with autism or significant mental health issues struggle to travel independently ."
- "So it's clear who uses this service and the need for it"
- "I think it is reasonable not to fund transport if the family can arrange their own eg they have a car or it is possible to use public transport. Of course this depends on the severity of the additional needs."
- "Cases should be assessed individually."
- "If people are able to make their own way to a facility that is being provided then this may help to save money for other areas of support for them. These other things may be more beneficial for them."
- "Inability to being able to work full-time hours as a consequence, then household income reduces, inability to take other family members out due to the lower amount of time by

adding in time to transport given the distance to travel to centres and respite due to centres being closed and now centralised in one side of Huddersfield"

- "Due to my age I am not always well to take my son which I do now but I do rely on transport for back up"
- "I need the car for work and my husband does not drive so if there was no transport our daughter would not be able to go to day services"
- "I shouldn't matter or not whether a family member is able to make the travel arrangements. It is not 100% reliable - illness or lack of transport being 2 reasons"
- "I need continuity"
- "Parents work"
- "A parent with Disabled child /adult has added extra responsibilities and knowing transport will pick up child is one lesss worry and will give the parent some free time"
- "Make it fairer for all."
- "If people can sort their own transport they should"
- "Same people can afford and some can not"
- "Ok for people who can afford it"
- "If they save money on this, it could be put back into other things, like Access Fund."
- "Assessing individuals on a case by case basis also has costs and is open to abuse"
- "I know many people who care for a family member. They don't get a lot of time out, and don't usually manage to hold down a job which pays enough to be able to pay for additional support. I suspect your definition of 'make their own arrangements' will come down to money. But the pay off is always money versus time, and while they might have enough to cover the bus fare, taking the time out to travel that way with someone takes out the time they are trying to have as respite; so really you're talking about taxis. No-one has the money for regular taxis, so they will stop taking the respite and giving their loved one time out. Then they will both get ill, and need more health care and social support. I've seen this logic from the Self-Directed Support team, and it's an escalating probability of disaster wrapped up to sound like a good idea and financially responsible. It's a disaster, and I don't think we've seen the impact of the outcome of existing changes yet."
- "This may cause problems for families of disabled children, it could impact on the disabled child and their parents and siblings. Some families such as these struggle particularly on a morning. This is valuable time that families can be spending with their other children who quite often miss out on many things other children can do and quality time with parents. This could potentially make this difficult and is an added stress when in reality it should be a time that parents can relax and let go for a day of all the stress and worry of caring for a child with additional needs. Many parents may find it difficult to travel certain distances and by the time you have got up and got a disabled child ready got in the car and travelled to the place of activity and travelled home and then have to travel back to pick your child up it may not be even worth them going in the first place because it may give you 2-3 hours free time before having to travails back meaning that you could not make any plans or use the day to spend quality time with other children and it could end up being more of a hindrance than a help."
- "If people can do this, then they should which might free up money for wheelchair services, equipment that is needed in homes for children with additional needs. If they have a Motability car, it should be used for that child not the rest of the household."
- "I think an assessment is fine as long as it considers the following; where the parent/parents work, how the child would be collected at the end of the day given that most jobs finish at 5, if the family have a car, would it impact on any siblings? and proximity to home (few, if any centers/schools are close by) what is deemed a reasonable distance to be transporting your child?"
- "I feel it is a good idea provided it is not just means tested, the whole requirements of the family should be taken into account, especially the needs of the disabled person. It

would not be right for the best needs of the disabled person to be compromised because of family conflict either amongst themselves or with the authority."

- "If it is needs assessed and fair, that's ok."
- "it is vital that people on low income have this service ensuring the children get to school on time i beleive t would increse truancy in many schools if children had to make there own way to school and also put them at risk of harm"
- "The start of the school day can be very stressful for some families - children behave differently for parents. Stepping into a taxi or onto a bus marks the start of the school day for many children with additional needs who thrive on routines and familiarity. Services users going to daycare facilities may be in the same position."
- "Because I think the council will just cut it anyway"
- "Each case is personal so each case is looked at on personal needs"
- "For people with disabilities part of the ride on transport is their social life - chatting on the bus, learning where people live, etc. It helps them with relationships and friendships."
- "This should be provided on a needs basis"
- "When things are done in assessment some of the vulnerable people miss out"
- "Some day centres residential out of town some children with additional needs nut waking not financed for motability public transport with overnight luggage would be problematic"
- "I think when it involves a person with a disability they should not be worried about transport. Providing transport takes a lot of stress off the individual and families concerned."
- "I would have no way of getting to day services as I live with an elderly parent and rely on transport"
- "Not al families have the funding or the transport"
- "I think that children or parents struggling to get their child to school would struggle so funding is needed"
- "Some people clearly take advantage in current system whilst others are left out. Unfair."
- "What the council might think is suitable may be completely unsuitable for the family."
- "It would not be good because I rely on public transport"
- "Even though my son can come across as very capable in some areas I would never let him use public transport alone"
- "Affects vulnerable families"
- "People can't always afford or have the capacity t - the council asking lots of questions about means testing would make me anxious and be intrusive"
- "My child gets school transport the school is far away. I have other children who need to get to school too, I drop my children off at school. My child loves school transport he is very difficult at times but loves school and social carel transport"
- "We already take her on a Sunday but it is not possible to take in the summer holidays so we need transport then"
- "Families have enough stress so please help families take the pressure of htem"
- "I do not need it at the moment but as my child gets older we would need it"
- "I don't get any services yet. This is a bad idea if the activity is a long way away or almost impossible on public transport, is ok if it's not too far away or an easy route"
- "Decisions made on an individuals needs rather than 'one size fits all' policy - which seems prevalent in Kirklees"
- "It could be a barrier and stop people that need the services stop using them."
- "i can not always transport my child as i have to work and have other children to care for as well."
- "I may be able to transport my child during holidays but my child is not able to access a bus or public transport on his own and i cant drive far due to anxiety."
- "A person with special needs or disabilities should automatically qualify for transport, this ensures that they are all receiving the same level of care and support."

- "These families are already stretched and face far greater hardship than normal families is it right to add to their plight"
- "Good idea but money could be put to better use"
- "It would be very costly to assess everyone and take up staff time that could be put to better use."
- "Transport services are vital to ensure people with disabilities are able to fully participate in the community or attend the right school for their needs, parents of children with disabilities face enough challenges without the the added stress these assessments may bring."
- "Some people can't drive and some of the places are a long way away"
- "No semi-independent travel so total reliance on a care-giver. Children become too dependent on their care-givers and it's very tying for the carers. Trying to get children to use transport at a later age then becomes much more stressful and dangerous."
- "If you get this service its to get a bit of stress off but if you had to take them a long way then you won't get the break as it would be taken up by travelling."
- "I can see the benefits of the model that Compass Bridge use as they transport from a central location to compass bridge. However I still have to drag my younger child out to take the older one to the station. This has an impact on him as he cant get to do things."
- "This would be more fair. If you check every family, you will know who has the real need or not."
- "If this is means tested I feel this very unfair. We work hard and earn well, but at a complete struggle with our family situation. We believe in working... We miss out on a lot of disability help (e.g. carers allowance and funding) because we earn. Professionals have even advised us to give up work as we would be better off! If it was assessed on a practicality/holisitc side of things e.g. do they have a car / other children / is it possible.... then YES! We should be helping ourselves when we can."
- "There needs to be some discretion, I agree with that. There are people who could make their own arrangements, can afford to do but don't. This is mainly because transport has always been offered free by the Council (for children's services anyway) and no-one has been asked to contribute, and many would have. There are some people who milk the system, but I believe these to be a minority. However, even sometimes when you can afford it and have transport, you just need a break, and having transport extends that break. It might be the only real break you get. In school holidays especially some people need their car (Motability or otherwise) to go to work and if settings opened earlier and closed later they would use their own transport and drop off/pick up on the way to and from work. So please just go off on one and target people who are apparently wealthier or have a Motability car. Look at the whole circumstances and the outcomes for the young person and family. Remember that transport also has benefits for a young person starting out to be more independent and not relying on Mum and Dad to do everything and always be there."
- "Each persons circumstances are different so each family should be assessed."
- "it is not always obvious how much help a disabled person needs and help may be wrongly withdrawn"
- "It is probably fair enough to expect those with mobility cars to use them at least some of the time. But this might not be possible e.g. if it is for a holiday club as opposed to a weekend activity. But if you are given respite you want the time off- not to spend 2 hours of it in the car taking and picking up from the activity."
- "Please see Southgate Governing body comments at end of section with issues identified . (Not: last section on this page used as general comments section did not come upw hen completing the form)"
- "1971 Chronically Sick And Disables Person' s Act does require support with transport to respite and I think this section is still current notwithstanding the Care Act"
- "Most people commented that they were not very clear about what the option was. An explanation is there but was worded in such as way that people did not really understand

(particularly those who did not have English as a first language). However, once explained most people thought that this was neither good nor bad, good, or very good. Parents had comments about people who take benefits and anything else they are given and contribute nothing. Some people considered having a Motability car a privilege, and would absolutely use it for the benefit of the child. Some people had a Motability car but felt that there were times when it could not be used (for example if the only driver in the house was unavailable or at work – not necessarily in the car, or if they couldn't get other younger siblings ready in time to go out, who couldn't be left alone at home). Despite the fact that they agreed with the principle, a lot of people were fearful that the transport would just be removed without time for assessments on eligibility to take place, thus removing their only break. The point that was resoundingly made was that they would rather the transport be there and be contribution based rather than losing it altogether and be forced to make their own arrangements, which for lots of families could be really challenging. We agree with all these points and agree in principle with the concept of making the offer of transport fair and for those who really need it. However, we have a question around the cost of assessing those who may be eligible versus the cost of providing the transport. No projected savings figure is quoted here, so is this really a saving or will it cost more in terms of hourly rate of professionals, more paperwork processing etc? Kirklees Council has fewer people on the ground so tying them up in further bureaucracy might not be the best option. We would say that it is neither a good nor a bad idea, and support the idea of making a contribution rather than losing out altogether. Services need to take account of what a family has to do to make things work in their household and how apparently small things like someone being picked up can make life much less stressful. Also as a number of people pointed out, using transport can help young people towards independence."

- "The way It is phrased makes it look like a good idea however it would depend on exactly what would change."
- "If this was done case by case, however, I would be concerned by other criteria and professionals own bias"
- "Would have to use taxis which would cost a lot"
- "Equitable use of resources, very laudable policy aims which should have been part of tax payers money before the governments austerity cuts were implemented. It does suggest that there was less than acceptable value for money and scrutiny of spending."
- "I have a child who accesses this at the moment as he is vulnerable"
- "Inconvenient, do not feel safe in taxi, no one at home during day time. I live alone - take me a long time to get out of house due to mobility - so taxi no good"
- "Older people have limited funds. Many will stop using current services and this will adversely impact on thoeir health."
- "I need support all the time especially when I am leaving the house"
- "My wife looks after me and I am unable to speak and suffered a stroke. I have no confidence and do not like to sit in taxis with new faces. Cost of travel is expensive."
- "No one at home during the day time so no one can take me anywhere"
- "I am in a wheel chair and taxis cost, they are very expensive. As a result of not using taxis I will not use the services I do at the moment."
- "my daughter does not drive. Disability taxi is expensive. It will cost the council more money if I go into a nursing home"
- "Escort also available with mini bus. Some people may decide not to spend on transport. Long term having an adverse affect on health ie due to not accessing services"
- "My mother will not pay the transport costs. Hence I will be 'forced' to take her. transport helps her to access services and gives me time to do my own things."
- "I live with my wife and need support to leave the house and to come back from day care"

If you feel this will have an impact on you, your family or someone you care for, please tell us what this would be:

- "I would not be able to collect both children from 2 schools so far apart and get my daughter to her short breaks. My daughter is on school transport with other school peers and feel this is working."
- "Kids with additional needs require additional help to access things that other kids access. Transport helps this."
- "No impact"
- "In terms of the private sector anything is possible and this would have a huge effect"
- "I wasn't aware that I was entitled to help with travel to school for my youngest child until I have just been told whilst filling in but now it seems you may take that entitlement away. It seems that a lot of people are not routinely made aware of their rights and only end up claiming after finding out by chance. It seems that anything we owe you is advertised but anything we can claim from you is kept quiet"
- "We currently catch buses but would have liked to get transport"
- "I will become housebound"
- "We would end up with a child that doesn't get as much independence through the travel scheme, or that would miss out on the social element to name a few"
- "If my son could go to the local activities I would gladly walk him there, unfortunately he is in a wheelchair the only disabled activities are either 6 miles, 9 miles or 10miles away from our house. I do not drive. A disabled taxi is a minimum of £15 each way. Busses are a nightmare with a wheelchair. He gets dropped off at home from school so I dont see any difference to drop him off at respite (infact its closer to school). The holiday club is again 10 miles from our house, it takes 2 buses and takes over 1.5 hours to get there on the bus with a stop inbetween. The activities and respite are supposed to give us a break from our caring role I feel this would add massively to it and quite frankly he wouldn't be able to attend the day sessions we have other children to care for hence cant leave them"
- "Would limit the choices they have and put some young people at risk if they had to use public transport"
- "Just another cut coming from a different direction"
- "Many of the children I work with will not be able to access nursery education and our waiting lists will be longer and our families will be left with little or no support if we pull out and they are not able to attend a setting."
- "Very hard to say as it would depend on what transport needs we have in 4 years. I work in Batley, if my daughter is going to a centre near there I would take myself, if she going to other side of Huddersfield it would be very difficult for us and impact on my ability to continue to work"
- "It will impact me in my local taxation."
- "I have to care for someone else too so would be time consuming and difficult."
- "Yes. Distance to Highfields, travel time, availability of car, service is ok at present"
- "We would struggle to afford to get our son to school. We already have a reduced income and to stretch it further would break us."
- "We do not currently use transport but my son will go to school next year. There is a chance that he will not go to the same school as his older brother - as such transport would be invaluable. We would not be able to cope otherwise as his father works away."
- "My son relies on the transport for to attend respite and return to school. My son will hopefully be attending a school in Huddersfield next year and will need help with transport as I dont drive"
- "Additional burden to the family budget"
- "Money, time and family sometimes unwell"
- "Funding"

- "I think the impact of a review of transport on an individual basis would see many families struggling to cope with the complex needs of their child. This could include further strain being placed on other services that would then need to support these families on a longer term basis."
- "Dad does not drive so maybe have to use a taxi"
- "It would have an impact"
- "Doesn't affect me at the moment because we don't use any of those services, but it could have an impact if we did."
- "N/A"
- "I feel that this would add further stress/pressure to an already stressful life. If a carer becomes unable to care then the fallout could mean a heavier impact on already stretched services."
- "My family and many in the same position as us would be unable to attend certain short breaks which provide transport."
- "It would cut into the precious hours I have with my other two children if I'm transporting my SEN child"
- "Inconsistency"
- "This may impact on us if it meant that our disabled foster child could no longer have transport to her short break service at Orchard View. I would hope however that she would still receive transport as she has a sever disaviity and complex medical needs and attends Fairfield School due to this."
- "I would not be able to attend work"
- "I would impact [his] ability to access YPAT, and Orchard View"
- "This would impact as we do not have our own transport"
- "The burden of caring is already great enough without any additional cuts in service or funding that would possibly lead to more expencive services having to be provided"
- "Not at the present time"
- "This would have an impact on some but if it done fairly then those people who are able to support their family to provisions genuinely there should be no impact on them. It would have to be a fair process though."
- "As above, massive impact. Are you going to compensate us for lack of being at work? Taking time off from work?"
- "I already provide transport for my son to day care in the morning as he gets very frustrated waiting in the mornings, he comes home by transport. Due to my age andf health problems I do my best but worry that I might not be able to continue."
- "It would make it more difficult to get about."
- "I'm not aware of what help my child can have, so can't really comment here."
- "I don't think I use this type of travel, but the SDS team are going through similar logic. The person I care for is unable to use buses on their own due to paranoia, but the team feel going by car isn't necessary as he has a bus pass. So, instead, I am unable to work as I have to travel everywhere with him, to his many medical appointments. I've lost my job, have no life of my own, and am getting ill. To you, this is about money, but there's a lot more than money at stake. If I can't cope any longer, you'll have to take him into residential care. Where's the 'value for money' in that? Every cost saving comes from someone's life."
- "I couldn't do it all the time and we wouldn't be able to benefit form the respite id we were doing the transport"
- "At the moment our daughter is unable to travel to Slaithwaite independently for daycare. It would take hours for her to travel to town and out again. She would feel frightened and vulnerable."
- "No but that shouldn't matter as a society we should care about one another"
- "It would just add more stress. Having an assessment which i may not agree with."
- "Would impact my son going to school without free transport"

- "We have two children attending two different schools, one of which attends a specialist Autism unit within his High School. It would be impossible to transport them both to their relevant schools at the same time and our autistic son would not be able to travel independently as he needs support."
- "Our child may not be able to attend the school which he will have to move to for the next phase of his education. Parents have no say in picking a school. Decisions are made based on finding an environment which is the most suitable to helping the child achieve his or her potential."
- "First I must say that transport to day care is paid for - £1.95 per journey. Families already have a short day to themselves, transporting themselves would make it shorter. I do think if families have a mobility car then they should be responsible for transport."
- "It may limit access to essential social interactions and /or make disabled people and their families feel even more isolated."
- "Probably not because I don't get this type of transport now."
- "If we were assessed financially we would get no help I'm sure. But practically how would I get my disabled child to school when she has a sibling 18 months older in a different location altogether."
- "No impact"
- "extra physical burden on health/capability of carers"
- "My adult daughter does not receive help with transport to day care. This takes up 8-10 hours of my time each week, and amounts to 145 miles per week. This is not insignificant in either time or cost and at times of ill health (e.g broken arm) has been problematic"
- "Some people felt that unless the assessment was carried out in a very holistic way, they might be penalised and lose the transport. There were comments about children who go to Orchard View or YPAT straight from school. It was not clear who pays for this and if it is social care, would this transport be threatened? If people who can manage without transport now (mainly using public transport) find that in the future this is no longer viable, how can they get transport at a later date? A significant number of people said that if they lose the transport and can't get their child there any other way, then they would not be able to access what might be the only break they get. They all felt that the impact of not getting a regular break was extremely negative and could have an impact on their continuing to care."
- "no impact at present but if my daughter decided to go to compass ridge then the removal of the transport would mean that she would not be able to go."
- "We used this scenario in the past"
- "I have a child who is soon 16 and will go to further education as he is legally bound to do this but can't go on public transport, I am concerned."
- "I can not afford to pay extra to what I already pay. I feel the council want me to sell my house and live in a council (residential) home"
- "I will reduce the services I access"
- "Transport costs not a good idea as every penny counts to us as older people with limited income and barely any savings"
- "I will not be able to go out on outings, day care and will miss meeting friends. This means my daughter in law will need to support me more at times when she needs time of her own."
- "Isolation if stay in the house"
- "With a family I find it hard to cope and look after an extended family. A choice I don't want to consider is putting them in a nursing home."

What transport, if any, is used to enable you or a family member to receive social care or short breaks? – other

- "Schooo transport mini bus"
- "Not used this service but in future I would prefer taxi"
- "Wheelchair bus"
- "Depending on where the service is I Use the best form of transport but my children cannot do this by themselves so I have to take them"
- "Bus is paid for each times it is used"
- "Service bus for Kirklees"
- "Personal Assistant's own car"
- "Other vehical if driver is unavailable"
- "School transport only at the moment"
- "Motorbility car driven by parents"
- "- none of which is funded by you, just in case you misinterpret this data."
- "As I am privileged to have a Motability car, I use it for what it is provided for."
- "if i had a support worker for my child he would have to travel in workers car."
- "Non"
- "Getting lifts of my parents when I can not get on public transport with my wheelchair"
- "People we spoke to ticked most of the options. The most popular were transport from a service provider, public transport and own arrangements"
- "Bus with carers card"

**How helpful is the transport support that you currently use, or used previously?
Please include details of any support which is not helpful, and why:**

- "It enables my daughter to get to short breaks straight from school on a Friday and back to school Monday morning (like her regular school transport) and I can continue to take my other child to school on time. We live too far away from school and short breaks to be able to do it all. We also have transport for YPAT which is also essential as in holiday time I have 4 children in the house and it is impossible to get to the service on time then make good use of the free time."
- "My daughter would not be able to access this service without transport being provided."
- "Very helpful."
- "Extremely. Wouldn't be able to get him to school without it."
- "School transport escorts struggle with children with additional needs and rather than having training to understand why certain behaviours occur, they ban them from transport, which has a massive impact on the families and makes the service really unhelpful and pushes families closer to breakdown. Educate the escorts and the service would be very powerful and would provide a more solid link between home, school and short breaks providers"
- "My son is comfortable in taxi as not much people and safe for him"
- "Extremely useful. Without it my child cannot access the service as it is not on a bus route."
- "Minibuses from setting"
- "We get school transport which is helpful and catch the bus or taxi"
- "Due to me not driving, I have rely on my husband or family friend to help out with transport"
- "Essential."
- "[He] gets a taxi to school in the morning and this provides plenty of self help skills"
- "Helpful that we receive free bus travel, but would be more useful if it started before 9.30am for children of high school age as we are unable to sue this on the travel to school so we have to arrange this travel as a family in our own vehicle and can limit working arrangements."

- "We couldn't cope without the transport from the house. My son is permanently in a wheel chair has bad seizures and needs to travel with emergency medication."
- "We don't get any help with transport!"
- "My child is expected to use the general school bus, as she is not eligible for school transport. However this is very challenging for someone who has Autism, and is already causing significant issues for her. If she ends up being unable to cope with the school bus, I would have to give up work to be able to transport her myself. Changes such as these make it harder and harder for carers to continue to work."
- "[She] doesn't like the driver of the bus and there are too many people shouting and talking"
- "Was very helpful and necessary, removes a worry from parents/carer's stressful world"
- "Not just useful but essential."
- "I don't expect anyone else to pay for my family's expenses"
- "We would be willing to pay towards transport costs to and from day care to relieve pressure on us."
- "Good service"
- "The service has just been revised by Highfields. It is efficient and safe for our autistic son. Highfields is 20/25 mins from our home. The escorts and drivers know our son's special needs. Kirklees already makes a (big) assessed community charge of £185 per week plus we pay for transport and meals. Cherry Trees is a vital break for us and is convenient. Suggest you look at management costs for saving rather than cut the services for users"
- "For my daughter transport is fine"
- "It would be very helpful when my son starts his new school"
- "Extremely helpful as it enables the respite period to start straight after school and is less confusing for my son"
- "It is very satisfactory with dedicated caring staff & reliable"
- "I like it, it makes me feel wonderful, feel happy, like my friends"
- "I enjoy coming on transport as I see my friends"
- "Great, like it"
- "I enjoy getting picked up and dropped off at home and the centre with staff and service users on the bus"
- "It's good that the bus comes and gets me and takes me to the day centre otherwise I couldn't come because my dad does not drive"
- "The transport we have to Kirklees College is fine but we are expected to contribute to it which we do each term"
- "We have no problems with our current arrangements and wish to continue with this as our lives would become intolerable if this arrangement were to change as we would become slaves to the clock"
- "Excellent"
- "Using the day centre mini bus is very convenient and we already pay for the service"
- "I think it is good. It helps me to broaden my experiences, I feel safe"
- "It should only be available for those with no car or with limited mobility and should be means tested."
- "It's a good service but we have to be ready on time and remember to cancel if poorly or away on holiday."
- "We use our own transport to access short breaks and social care, we can manage this but it is not an option for everyone"
- "We have always found transport to be a very supportive service."
- "It is extremely helpful when the short breaks provide a mini bus as I cannot drive and quiet often the centres are located centrally on a bus route and can be difficult to get with a child disabilities. My husband (who can drive) does his best to drop off and pick up or son from clubs but he does have to work so fitting it can be a challenge."

- "Vary helpful as I've said above my SEN child gets the transport whilst I'm hable to spend the time with my other two children or carrying out important chores"
- "Transport to the respite provision from school and back for our foster child is vital to give us a proper break as a family from our caring duties."
- "Taxis charge a lot for a wheel chair access car, costing more than twice the normal taxi charge"
- "It's reliable, safe and I know they will be ok and arrive safely at the day care centre."
- "The transport is excellent and the escorts are always well trained and sensitive to my child's needs. Sometimes the bus that ACTIVE is very late to pick up [name] from home and this can leave him anxious as he finds waiting difficult."
- "My son in the past has used his service providers transport to and from the day centre which he pays for and I feel this service is very important to service users at the centre and should carry on. at the moment my son used the local bus services should the bus miss anytime than he would have to use transport provided by his service user"
- "Very good and it takes the pressure off my older parents. Very necessary."
- "There are no council provided short breaks suitable for my son. However he attended NCS and we took him to the drop off point in our own car"
- "The transport as it is now is person centred, people can travel without 1-1 support therefore making it cheaper"
- "The support allows [name] to have her own independence travelling to and from day services. It is very reliable."
- "The transport is very reliable and allows [name] her independence to travel to Waverley Hall and Highfields"
- "None needed at the moment as we walk to school and drive to out of school club"
- "More help is required for day centres, out of school clubs"
- "Good"
- "Some of the vehicles have reached their sell by date, otherwise, they do turn up (not always early enough) and bring my daughter home again"
- "Very good"
- "Very good"
- "It's ok but some times it can cost too much"
- "Extremely helpful one less job to worry about"
- "Very helpful. Distance wise, financial wise, to allow me to work."
- "We have sight vehicles which are used with a driver who takes me and picks me up"
- "Being able to travel with a care worker he knows, in their car, has been vital to my family member's health, and enables us both to have a break. Having to travel by bus to keep him safe takes all day to attend one appointment, and is killing us both. We can't afford taxis, other than in an emergency."
- "I use my son's Motability car, going on buses was horrendous with him and for him."
- "previously used school transport which was invaluable and allowed me to continue to work part time. We still receive school transport but now have to make a contribution ."
- "Without it i could not work, if you took it away from me i would be unemployed."
- "At the moment I use own but due to fluctuating conditions this may change"
- "It enables her to feel independent. It is door to door."
- "Very helpful. The transport forms part of the care package."
- "All transport is excellent but home to school transport, change every year. This does not help my child who becomes very agitated and irritated because he does not understand why the transport has changed."
- "The mini bus is nice, the drivers are good"
- "The transport is good reliable and staffed by people who I know and can cater for my needs"
- "Travel training is needed by many people"
- "It is ok but sometimes it can be late so I am late getting to places"

- "Very positive and services I use like the escorts, we are grateful for the service and don't want to loose any of them"
- "I could not manage if my child could not have transport. He needs transport because he loves going to his respite day care which is far away from home. I have other children who needs need to be met so I can't be at three places at once. I can't afford the petrol to take my child to respite. Need more local establishments."
- "Good"
- "We use transport support to college"
- "The current transport is fantastic, the staff are very competent and are able to deal with my son's additional needs. The support my autistic son receives is absolutely necessary as he is unable to travel independently."
- "N/a"
- "Very helpful"
- "Extremely helpful."
- "Very helpful or he wouldn't have been able to access the short breaks. The mini-bus enabled him to travel semi-independently and if I didn't have the car (we only have one car) then he wouldn't be able to go. It also gave us time to do something else. If these short breaks started earlier/finished later it would be easier to use own transport around working hours. Disabled children are very expensive and it is a great opportunity NOT to have to pay for everything. They are also extremely stressful to be around and can be difficult to travel with in a private car without any other assistance."
- "I like the compass bridge bus. Seems the best way they could do it."
- "N/A"
- "We don't get anything any more but have used our own travel arrangements in the past with occasional use of a bus from the setting, eg. summer holiday YPAT. This is valuable as you get a proper break to spend time with other children, or to rest yourself (you might not have slept all night). Without that transport the break is too short: EG. in holidays YPAT runs from 10 till 3. If you don't live near and have to drive both ways, you only get a couple of hours in the middle which is not worthwhile, adds stress driving and having to drag other kids with you if they are young. It's just a hassle not a break. So the transport can make the break wonderful!!"
- "no help with transport to/from respite means carer cannot benefit from the full break as they have to spend large chunks of time transporting to/from respite"
- "I do not receive any help with transport"
- "Southgate general comments: There have been many comments shared with school governors and high level of concerns about any potential changes from Governors and families. It needs to be noted that the school has moved location which has changed the arrangements for getting to/from school for all parents. We understand the need to find the cheapest and most efficient options but there are a number of concerns/issues noted below re Southgate and the special school context. Issues:- The school governing body does not agree that an option for special schools would to extend the school day with wrap around provision to enable parents to drop off children earlier to enable them to get to work/drop off other children and then collect later. The reasons for this are the impact on school staff and extra costs which includes preparation, monitoring and management of children before/after school time, the need to arrange staffing so children can be brought into the school from the road and the reality that many parents cannot and will not be able to make their own arrangements for getting children to/from school. Reduction of school transport costs for the school would simply shunt costs onto the school which would inevitably be filling gaps. There are various factors limiting the ability of many families to manage their own transport arrangements such as no car, limited money (eg First bus pass is £4 per day per adult), time needed for what for many would be 2 buses for one journey. The majority of our children can not use public transport and find it stressful. Independence training is a skilled task and needs careful assessment for or older pupils There would be health and safety concerns re cars parking/parents

coming in and opening/closing the secure gates at the school entrance. Our school is not set up for dropping off/collecting. It is on a busy through road which includes a bus route both ways. Changing arrangements so that parents had reduced transport options would inevitably have an impact on the ability to work, keep a job and the local economy. The school is also concerned that there could be a reduction in school attendance if transport is not accessible with consequent poor outcomes for pupils."

- "Trips costs to short breaks are currently claimed through direct payments, but not any costs to day care. This is really helpful as best short break provision is at considerable distance. I always advance purchase to keep down costs and accompany her"
- "People felt that the transport straight from school from a provider (eg. YPAT, Orchard View) were extremely valuable. In most cases it was because they were working or picking up other children from different schools. Transport at weekends or during school holidays were also extremely valuable for a variety of reasons: Having a proper break – if you have to transport your child each way, you don't get much of a break. Not having to drag other siblings everywhere who are too young to leave at home on their own. This can be very stressful getting other children ready to be somewhere by 10 am on a Saturday or Sunday morning, and who might want to stay somewhere like YPAT and are not happy when they have to go back home again. Then they all have to go back again to pick up! We didn't speak to anyone whose child had had travel training and were able to use this to access a short break. Most of the Council funded short breaks are all over Kirklees and we didn't speak to a single family for whom this would be a simple journey – simple enough for someone who had had the travel training. Difficulties with the timing: Having to be at work earlier or later so needing to use the transport which picks up earlier and drops off later. (A suggestion made by several people was to have earlier start and finish times for people who have drop early or late to get to/from work). We spoke to a significant number of people who would not qualify for transport and due to anxiety or behavioural reasons (mainly) they did not access any short break activities because they didn't drive, have access to a car, or were able to take the child on public transport. So PCAN would like to raise the issue about making short breaks more accessible for people who don't qualify for social care support. (Including helping them to get to know about them in the first place). It helps to promote independence for children who totally rely on Mum and Dad. There was no question about people contributing towards the cost of transport which is surprising considering that a number of people suggested it in the short breaks survey last year. And you have asked this question in relation to short break activities for which charges are already being made. We would ask that this be considered rather than the seemingly expensive route of assessing everyone for transport eligibility? It would have been really helpful and relevant to gather people's views on this and an estimate of what they might be willing to pay, and we feel that this was a serious omission from the survey. As mentioned earlier in the survey, people would rather the transport existed for a cost than be forced to make their own arrangements (which would often work out more money for them or more inconvenient)"
- "as said before if she did go (which is possible even likely in the future) she would not be able to as compass bridge isn't very accessible by public transport and we don't always have the car."
- "Helps us financially having the carers card to go out with my child"
- "We have our own mobility vehicle which allows us flexibility - we don't want to have to wait for services that others could use."
- "Someone has to drive me I can not drive due to my disability"
- "Very successful"
- "The service helps me to get out of the house"
- "Very good"
- "Very helpful"
- "Invaluable - can not explain how helpful free transport is, keeps me independent and have a quality of life"

- "Very useful when gets picked up from home and dropped off with support staff"
- "Really good"
- "Great help, without which we would be stranded as none of our family members drive"
- "Useful and efficient"

The overall services and support offered by the Council

Do you have any suggestions for how the Council should change the services it offers? – Yes – please tell us more below:

- "Better schools"
- "Look at the overall service for disabled children and their families. You keep making short term cuts that have devastating long term impact on these children, which in turn will cost the council more money. Reconsider and make disabled children a priority, show them they are important instead of making them a cash burden."
- "Tell people what they can apply for and how to do it."
- "The council should be more open about their plans to reduce/stop services to the most vulnerable people in our society. Changes such as these have dramatically negative impact on families such as mine, and can put individuals at significant risk of harm."
- "Make services more accessible. I have a daughter who clearly had SEN and had been in a programme for years yet the council have not once offered additional help or support. It is all the school."
- "Inject money into disabled children, instead of taking away."
- "Contact should be made with all parents/ carers of all children/ adults who have special needs or are awaiting assessment. This needs to happen in a timely fashion and not take months. It appears that unless you keep chasing nothing happens"
- "so closing down SEND youth clubs"
- "Yes provide MORE support. This enables and empowers Carers to continue in their caring roles. Without the support I have received I would probably have had a breakdown and my Daughter would be in care. This would cost you a damn site more in the long run. Unpaid Carers are saving you hundreds of thousands of pounds a year. You should be helping us rather than beating us down. Not exactly Rocket science is it???"
- "By reviewing each person individually and not making assumptions based only on the written information. Actually meeting disabled people and their families and understanding their needs fully is a more fair way of making decisions."
- "Let people know what services you offer. Not widely known."
- "Carry out a survey and see how many parents require support or not like the universal credit changes"
- "stop selecting older adults who are vulnerable and have long term/chronic conditions as areas to cut! There are now more over 65's living in Kirklees and nobody chooses to be disabled or need support! Rather than supporting more obscure services as part of positive discrimination you should be more aware of older people who need support."
- "See previous responses"
- "explained throughout survey"
- "SEN paperwork for the council is repetitive and time consuming for settings requiring access funding. Reducing this would mean Sencos would have more time to implement programs to support SEN children. Moreover, reduce administration costs in Kirklees. Having access panel observe children in setting or at home would ensure those who had the most need received what was needed."

- "Better links between council services and Nhs to ensure a holistic approach and everyone working towards the same aims and objectives More sessions available for children with additional needs i.e. Stay and play, baby sensory, baby and toddler groups. I know tha these sessions are available at the moment, but there are no specific sessions for parents of children with additional needs who may find a normal session intimidating."
- "Consistency needed and continuity of services without it being a constant battle, I save you hundreds of thousands as a carer of my son, provide the support needed without a battle"
- "Better information and support re out of school childcare for children with disabilities. Better support through the EHCP process. Complying with the law around EHCP."
- "I can't get much help as my son is not diagnosed and waiting list is long. I don't have a care worker also because of this reason and I can't get any respite care. At the moment my son goes to nursery 12 to 3. But in 6 weeks holidays was hard for me and I had to put him in private nursery two times a week."
- "It needs to offer more for the parents who I see constantly at breaking point, left vulnerable and unsupported. Shame on kirklees for thinking of making cuts to yet more disability services.help more instead of taking more away."
- "We should get the same support as other councils and I no that in Barnsley there is a lot more support and help for families and children's with additional needs!"
- "Don't change the services you are providing. You are actually providing something worthwhile to us parents and careers of a child with a disability. Don't do the wrong thing to save abit of money there are plenty of other things you could do to save money, cutting funding for people with disabilities is not giving them a chance of a normal life the more funding for them the better!"
- "Cancel the £250 a year administration fee levied on the elderly who receive care but are not eligible for funding"
- "I would be willing to pay a little bit more for the service to include cost of transport if it is included in the price of each session provided it doesn't get too much."
- "Transparency , fairness, better trained staff, staff who own up to faults. Understanding of the lives of the families with disabled children and their needs and asperations of children and families so they can have a life outside their disability"
- "Yes, children's services should be funding more things for children to do so they can access different activities."
- "Instruct staff to be helpful and show respect to the disabled."
- "I feel that if a system works don't change it especially with the most vunerable in society"
- "Linking services to make it easier to access, as a service provider to can be difficult to get other professionals to speak tome."
- "More services for children with complex needs who need 1 to 1 care. YPAT are amazing but very busy. Hollybank is also amazing and a real lifeline to get a nights sleep once a month. Other than that there is nothing much - other activities or one off summer camps etc would be great, something outdoors specifically for disabled / complex needs etc would be amazing."
- "For the council to STOP removing all the current services and support which we had until recently and have now stopped due to the council removing most of the funding for such activities. We as parents only have so much that we can pay ourselves and our son who is loosing out because of this through no fault of his or our own."
- "The services I receive are good - the level of service offered, and the support to families is poor. Reinstate the previous level of short break offer, this was a preventative service designed to support families and avoid family breakdown."
- "More supported units within local schools to reduce the need for pupils to have to travel in the first place - my son had to attend a school in other side of Kirklees as there was no provision in North Kirklees at all. This had an impact on his health as he had a lengthy

daily commute 1.5 - 2 hours each way, and also on his social life/isolation as his school friends were too far away for him to see outside of school. It also made travelling to appointments with his teaching & support staff leaving me having to take a days leave due to travelling."

- "The Council should offer more support, not less. Respite care for carers is essential or more carers will be unable to cope actually increasing the pressure on Council finances."
- "Concentrate on commissioning good quality services rather than continuing to provide them. Encourage use of direct payments"
- "Having a child in the setting with needs that are not going to change from term to term should not need to keep applying for the same amount of funding every term it should only be at the start of the school year and if there are any changes as it takes time to fill in the paperwork that could be spent with the child."
- "Make the information about what is available for children with disabilities more readily available, especially for people who work full time and do not go into Kirklees departments where information is usually."
- "Concentrate on basic council services such as waste collection, local roads, street cleaning, winter gritting & salting etc. and stop wasting our money on ""politically popular"" schemes."
- "Better communication and a fairer system of assessing day care costs and transport arrangements."
- "Review management costs and costs of financial services"
- "I don't think the council should change anything especially for the children services as they need it desperately"
- "Be honest about what's on offer, your teams are deflated and spend half their time apologising for the lack in service that they have to offer. How can they be effective to already struggling families,"
- "Make it easier for those in need to access funding without having to battle for it! It's hard enough bringing up a child with complex special needs without having to worry about cuts in essential funding."
- "More resources are needed... not cutbacks towards the vulnerable again"
- "Full garden and hedge maintenance to 50+ aged non council tenants at a nominal cost."
- "If it's not broken don't fix it"
- "Don't get any services to be able to comment on."
- "Most of the council run services we have accessed have been very good or excellent, some of the private sector is more variable, it makes us nervous for the future there is a push towards the private sector."
- "Focussing on supporting settings with the requirements for EHCP and implementing my support plans. This can be very time consuming for Managers when settings don't receive any additional funds to cover the time and meetings required for these children with additional needs."
- "social services need to have people who can deal with complex cases and not that they think we all fit into a pigeon box and tick it as correct when actually the box ticked could be very wrong"
- "Staff with more understanding of people as individuals not just jobsworths that think they know better"
- "I think to be cut back further would have a real negative effect on services at the present time. We also have financial constraints and that would cause further pressure on family which at the moment in the present climate is almost unbendable."
- "If individual needs are to be met and diverse multifaceted services needs to be maintained to ensure that individual goals can be met both for service users and carers"
- "Yes , give people services for as long as they need them. Lots of things are only on for say 8 weeks or 8 sessions and often that's not enough"

- "There is no support for us and the two times we've requested it we've been turned down."
- "Please don't take away funding for support at mainstream schools/out of school clubs, this will result in more people having to leave work."
- "I would rather not see these cuts in funding which add a lot of stress to families already under a lot of pressure. We need to know that support is available to help us to continue caring for our disabled children which is a full time job in itself. It's hard to hear other parents struggling with their children and not getting the support or recognition they need."
- "Bad long term management by some services means we are being penalised. Eg, why charge for Out of school clubs on evenings, but not on weekends. Why charge for transport on school holiday clubs, but not on others. Why not request support for incontinence, trips to shops, all of this comes out of budget when it should go towards clubs. Culture in management is the problem"
- "Don't really know what the council can do when their hands are tied because of the Tory government cuts. As always the most vulnerable get hit the worst. You could try raising council tax, although I doubt this would go down well with residents that actually pay it."
- "I would like to go back to work, however, there are no childcare facilities for my daughter, I think you get nothing if you don't try & better yourself"
- "Consultation and views from parents to be heard and acknowledged"
- "It's difficult finding out what services/help families are entitled to, and what is offered. There doesn't appear to be one place which can provide this. It is also concerning when children/young adults are covered up to 25 yrs under the EHCP, that certain services stop at 16, some at 18 - it's confusing, but yet the EHCP is a legal document which applies until the person is 25."
- "More funding towards studies"
- "A consistent approach and not just for those on benefits"
- "The Council need to work with Health services to make sure they are providing the services needed for everybody. For example wheelchair services. Housing and Adaptations: this is how the Council wastes money: by seeing fit to keep a family in a house that do not use the adaptations in that house rather than move them so that a family who need the adaptations can't move in. Housing think it's OK to adapt another house (paying double) instead of just moving the family that don't need it. The family currently in the house don't use the through the floor lift or the ramp. There is a family that needs those things, but there is no option for them to move - rather adapt yet another house!"
- "sometimes the times of the activities arranged are not suitable for us to get the young person there/pick up after and work too."
- "Review cost cuttings elsewhere and don't pick on the most vulnerable section of society."
- "More direct payments for respite as council run respite is very limited. I really need weekends as can only get on weekend night per month and also this has to be booked 6 months in advance. How do you know what night you want to go out in March 2018"
- "Please do not alter the much needed respite apart from including looking at taking into account a couple together. It would be awful to lose respite as life would be more stressful than it is now. 24 hours with a person with problems particularly ill health/dementia is vital that respite remains to help cope."
- "Need more services for groups of disabled to access supported independent living."
- "Do not be short sighted and make changes which look as if they save money but cost more longer term."
- "Carry on the funding and help all of the families that need it"
- "Clearer referral routes."

- "The councils services that I access are absolutely fantastic but I have had to find out about them all by myself. and any information all by myself. Services need to be advertised more."
- "More support to parent of children with mental health problems"
- "There are too many cutbacks my child needs full support I am a single parent mother and I need full support I think there are so many mothers in my position."
- "I need more support and they do not reply when I ask them. If it wasn't for YAPT and the staff who are great things would be very bad."
- "Help parents more!!!!!! DO NOT TAKE OUR SCHOOL TRANSPORT FROM US!!1"
- "I have no support worker for my child after longer than 6 months!"
- "Social workers should have a duty to liaise with all families at specified intervals. Children who are disabled have changing needs especially as they get older."
- "Tell more people about it. I have no idea any of this was available"
- "Provide more information on what is available as it is hard to get hold of this. Before I joined PCAN I had no idea of what was available."
- "We have had some very good services - YPAT was great and additional funding at playgroup and for my son in school nursery was good. Short breaks are good. However, the transition into suitable adult health, education and social care is appalling. It's not joined up with other services such as health and relies totally on a parent's ability to seek out what's right for their young person and to make their needs known. (They're not always in a position to do this for themselves)."
- "See comment below"
- "Once you finally get it, it works reasonably well but accessing it is incredibly complex and emotionally draining. I have to do this whilst st work as well as you can't do it when you're at home with the children (and there's one there in the evenings). Maybe hey should work longer hours or one evening a week when we could ring them or one Saturday a month."
- "To assess every family properly and talk with parents about the issues and solutions and think about the child. if we help the child when he is young, he will cost less money later. He might develop more quickly and be more able when older so save money in the future. Best to help children under 10 to prepare them for independence, learning, adulthood. Then later, he might not need so much assistance"
- "Adaptations Team: Our first encounter with the adaptations team was dissapointing. We were encouraged to contact them via our hospice & care network to see what they could offer us in enhancing our ability to manouvre our youngest daughters wheelchair around the house. The team indicated all the reasons why they couldn't offer support, mainly for reasons such as ""compliance"" to building regulations on an existing property, which would have been appropriate for a new build property. I believe that the adaptations team should change their approach in providing reasons why they can't provide solutions due to compliance to standards, and offer solutions based on most practicable for the users need, highlighting any increased level of risk and providing a disclaimer & risk based approach, and assessment documentation for the user. This would also ensure that the council is providing an appropriate solution, ensuring value for money and minimum disruption for all."
- "Get your Preparing for Adulthood processes right and recruit adequate staff to do the job. It's costing you more in anguish, crisis management etc than just employing the right team to do the job right first ;time. If our transition hadn't been so thoroughly messed up, the Council would have scored ""Very Good above. But it's an absolute nightmare and has been for months. I have also had to really negotiate in the past for any help. More recent years have been more enlightened and we have had some really excellent children's social workers. Sadly, in my recent experience adult services don't live up to their standards."
- "Bring back the taxi vouchers that you use to supply with the kirklees passport cards"

- "Not enough is known about what services are on offer and how to qualify for them. it is always a fight to get anything and there is no other help on offer if turned down by the council. Don't know what charities do but they don't work with children especially if there is challenging behaviour - they pick disabled kids who are easy to cope with not those who are challenging or with highly complex needs. I have to be my daughters PA for any activity she might actually choose to do as her anxieties are so extreme that her behaviour is very unpredictable (at least until she's used to it). This isn't a Short Break for her now she is 17 - having her mother hanging around!"
- "The question about the overall support received from the Council is an incredibly broad one and we question its relevance in the survey? It is hard for PCAN to give a balanced response to this. Sadly, few people we spoke thought the service was good, although we tried to help people to think about what is and has been good and balance that against what they thought was bad. Lots ended up with neither good nor bad. Please see our comments below about areas that parents felt to be poor or otherwise. This will give an indication about where services should be improved/changed. However, it is hard to be sufficiently specific here as the subject area is too broad."
- "more communication e.g. about access fund. also should inform parents of children with additional needs what services it offers and how to access them."
- "We need the support but when we have tried we are told we don't meet the criteria"
- "More clubs for people with disabilities"
- "The timing of social services reviews is long winded and time of intervals seem to get longer each time. We don't get the same social worker each cycle so continuity is difficult (present one is good and we have seen her twice so that is good)."
- "Better communication. Be listened to. Do not assume clients are stupid , demented or lying. Where a care agency or the like denies that there is abuse or care failures which the client has reported, do not assume that the care worker is necessarily right."

Do you have any other comments?

- "After waiting 5 years for a diagnosis in north Kirklees, as soon as we get the diagnosis, the services and support are being cut left right and centre. It feels like you are picking on the most vulnerable members of Kirklees as they can't vote and cause an issue. I'm ashamed of my council."
- "I think services offered should be based on a case by case basis and how that family are coping."
- "Medical science is a wonderful thing and we are all living longer - therefore the issues of support will be increasing issue and involve big money spending."
- "Parents and carers as well as providers need to stop having to worry about whether their short breaks provision will be removed. There has been too much uncertainty for too long and it impacts greatly on the families and providers. There is the potential if Kirklees get this wrong that there are significant numbers of families breakdowns and no experienced and knowledgeable staff left in short breaks to support the families that are barely holding things together!"
- "Cutting public sector help is a big mistake"
- "You make changes anyway like all the other surveys and it's a tick box exercise"
- "Please stop targeting the most vulnerable people for service cuts"
- "You need to be more clear in explaining what respite care actually is. I didn't realise the groups my child attends is classed as respite care until I was told by PCAN trustees."
- "Professionals to understand the imbalance of power of our SEN family's and what they have to cope with"
- "No"
- "It's always the vulnerable that have services cut if savings have to be made."

- "For us as a family the access fund and send support we receive have been invaluable. Any cut in funding, as this is what these suggestions are, would be extremely detrimental to my children's development and the opportunity for equality to their peers. I appreciate that with government funding been squeezed and councils receiving less and less money then something has to give but surely not such a valued service to families and vulnerable people."
- "Please don't take care and services away from some of the most vulnerable children in our society. They didn't ask to be born this way and parents are just trying to make their lives as happy and full as they possibly can while keeping themselves and their other family members sane. We do need more help than other families I know but the rewards of having happy children can't be beaten."
- "Very confused survey. Most Carers of adults thought it was only about children until it was pointed out to them that it wasn't. Also not a good idea to mix short stays and transport in the same survey."
- "Really worried how families at breaking point already are going to manage - very little out there for children with disabilities and now looking for more ways to cut services - nobody in Kirklees seems to care anymore!!!"
- "These questionnaires are written in such a way as to not allow us to put our true feelings and limit the answers we can we can actually fill in. They do not truly reflect what is happening to young vulnerable people."
- "I don't think my child has ever received any more support from the Council that she was entitled to. There has never been any more support than 15 h/week. What has been making difference is individuals that have been involved. If there has been a skilled professional person with clear understanding of bureaucratic procedures there always was a hope that things would turn out right in the end. However constant insecurity of working positions and constant decrease of funding upset people. Parents of disabled children - we are tough people as we have no choice. But please don't take away our hope that we could work and our child could actually be at least safe in nursery."
- "These proposed changes are mean minded and mean spirited. They lack empathy and humanity."
- "This is an essential fund which must continue"
- "The council should assess each individual case and try to cater for families needs."
- "It would be nice to think that our views matter. Without knowing your full costs/income of providing the service it is one sided to look at costs to users only. We pay high user costs already for both day care and short stay. We object to any changes to transport provision, better to put on another 50p a day to the existing charge. Provision should be based on assessed needs of the individual not on their ability to pay. Regards, from ex-employee of Social Services of another council."
- "MY daughter is 54 years old I am almost 82 my husband 78 and is not well so for us things are ok as they are. My daughter is happy at Active but that's at Huddersfield so we can't take her in the morning and she would miss out a lot as she loves to go to active."
- "continuing to cut or remove services for our children and adults will have a long term effect, not only on the individual but the family's. The mental well being of a family is paramount when supporting a child or adult with additional needs, as without their family who else is going to support them if you keep making cuts. I am proud of how my daughter is developing she didn't ask to have a disability but I will do what I need to ensure she has a fulfilled life where she will thrive. Without the extra support we receive from her nursery team she would not be where she is now, they are passionate and driven to help my daughter succeed."
- "Unless we know what changes are likely to be introduced and how that impacts on existing services, it is difficult to say!"
- "I am happy, everything at the centre is good"
- "Some of the drivers don't know the area so turn up late."

- "The service our son receives at cherry trees is invaluable both to him and his parents. My wife and I are getting older and we really appreciate the breaks he receives at Cherry Trees. The staff are excellent and the facility support. Please do not stop thinking of stopping this support facility and service as it is so important for ourselves and our young adult."
- "My child's happy at school and the teachers are really good and work around children's individual needs."
- "If transport to day services was stopped [name] would be unable to attend Waverley Hall unless Kirklees gave him more support hours to allow a support worker to accompany him to the centre each day and home again. This is [his] main activity throughout the week, it would be detrimental to his social wellbeing and make his world smaller. He would also then need extra hours to support him at home throughout the day if he is not at the centre."
- "If transport was stopped and Kirklees did not put alternative arrangements in place, such as extra staffing hours for the journeys, [name] would not be able to go to day services. She relies on Waverley Hall and Highfields to allow her to have social activities and see her friends. If she couldn't get to day services and had to stay at home Kirklees would need to provide extra hours to support her at home each day. She can not stay alone."
- "If transport was stopped, [name] would not be able to travel to day services without 1-1 support. This would end up costing Kirklees money. If the support was not given and she had to stay at home Kirklees would then need to provide staffing hours at home as [she] can not be left unattended. It would mean [she] would suffer with her social interaction as she wouldn't be seeing her friends at day services"
- "Early intervention might have helped - we have now have a teenager who won't leave his room and is getting more anxious."
- "Short Breaks are vital for any family with a child with special needs. Parents need that time to take care of themselves, to spend quality time together or with another sibling. In the long run, if Short Breaks are cut this will be very detrimental to many families already struggling to care for their disabled children and detrimental to our society in general. Provision of adequate Short Breaks shows that the local authority acknowledges the needs of disabled children and their families and prioritises support to those who really need it. If our family did not have access to Short Breaks it would have an extremely negative impact on our family's wellbeing, balance, relationships and ability to continue caring for our daughter in a stable family situation."
- "Yes- it is very sneaky that this survey is being repeated and placed as being about transport, when really it is about cutting all services based on the questions asked. Find this very underhand."
- "Have a pay review and slash the fat cat salaries paid to those at the top that wouldn't be received favourably either."
- "It will make it easier to access CAM's"
- "The only I receive is school transport for my daughter to attend Southgate. It is very good, I know she's safe, she's with people I trust and I get my other children to their school"
- "Perhaps I'm just a skeptic, but it seems to me from this survey that this isn't really a consultation. You've made a plan which you intend to follow, and you're asking people about it after the fact. I'd like to be wrong."
- "Our young person attends an activity at the weekend which has been fantastic for her and has seen her grow in confidence. It allows me/other members of the family a much needed break from the constant attention that is required by our child. We all benefit greatly from this short break apart."
- "We need a labour government."
- "I think you are doing a brilliant job. Keep up the good work."

- "Funding is essential to a lot of families trying to earn and support their families so all that helps helps more than you realise"
- "The council provide transport to get my child to and from his special needs school, without this transport my child would arrive at school late and have to leave early every day!"
- "Please do not cut the services they are extremely valuable to families and our children. Without them I feel I would be isolated and my child would suffer the same isolation which would effect his mental health and he may need services in the future. This help prevents that."
- "It isn't easy to access services - not clear where you need to go get help. As my daughter get older it gets harder - she is heavier"
- "Medical and educational services and provision in the area need a jolly good shake up!!"
- "I feel that school transport is great and hope my son can still access it post 16."
- "We would not be happy with any changes to the current transport as it could potentially put our autistic child's safety at risk. He needs additional support at all times as he is a vulnerable child and is easily distracted. He needs support to keep him calm."
- "The consultation period was for an inadequate length and the face to face meetings poorly advertised. It would seem the council aim must be to push this change through without allowing those affected to have much say."
- "I do hope the council realise how important respite care is - I am sure if it was withdrawn many families would be in crisis and require permanent care for their disabled family member."
- "Delays in diagnosis don't help me. So the help he gets at school is not as good as it could be."
- "I don't feel that this consultation gives enough opportunities to state what's needed and is too regimented in its questions. I don't think it's clear or easy to understand and if English isn't your first language you will really struggle."
- "We had a support worker but it was only when her boss came in that he was referred for diagnosis with CAMHS - they had been working with us for 2 years before this happened. Now there is no support worker and they say this is because my son won't all to them. They spent a lot of time looking at my health conditions not on working with him. It seemed like they only wanted to say it was about me but my son has always had these issues from birth."
- "Am really not sure what you are planning to change."
- "We are trying to get help but are told we are not eligible because of his age, We don't think this is true. We don't have enough information about anything - where we can go to ask for help or support or things we can do ourselves to make the best for our children and help ourselves emotionally and minimise the impact on our own health. If we knew about more things, we could make contributions, do more things ourselves."
- "Focus on outcomes and not on services - what you should be doing anyway. Make sure that families get the right assessment and are not turned down all the time until it reaches crisis point. The current early intervention teams don't have appropriate resources for families of children with additional needs, just all generic stuff. This consultation has been poor. The information is hard to understand the questions are inconsistent. Make sure you pilot these things with a group of people (not Council employees who use the jargon) before it goes out to the public. I never got to hear about this consultation except through PCAN. My son is in an out of authority school so they didn't let me know about it (they didn't know). Think about how you are going to get these surveys out to the right people and ensure they have the right support to be able to fill them in."
- "Look at expecting the providers to consider transport options? I know Compass Bridge do this."

- "Southgate school governing body general comments: We recognise the importance of the consultation and potential impacts/changes and Southgate school has supported a number of parents to contribute individually in addition to completing this note of comments/observations which is presented on behalf of the whole Governing Body. Comments have been shared within the Governing Body and as well as in dialogue with parents of children at the school. Parent Governors have also contributed in writing with regards to their own situations and a number of comments have been shared at various drop-in events/contacts which you will have noted. This includes the Chair of Governors at the parents evening setting out issues re school transport in particular and contributions from 2 governors at the Huddersfield drop in at Civic one. As part of feedback there have been issues with publicity and purpose of the consultation as a number of parents were unaware of the consultation taking place or of the existence of the 'easy read' version. This will impact on numbers and we would ask that you note this when feeding back re the findings. We make these comments fully understanding the context for the council and impact of cuts already made and decisions to be made by councillors for some of the most vulnerable children and young people in Kirklees."
- "Without daycare and short breaks my daughter would require expensive specialist residential services. She has self harmed in the past in inappropriate residential setting and I am keen to support her to maintain her within her community as long as I can, but need regular supports to be able to do so. This may seem expensive (day care, short breaks) but it is a cost effective way for the council as I provide her with hours of unpaid support each week to ensure she is happy."
- "A large number of families have children with high needs, but don't meet the criteria for the Disabled Children's Service. They appear consistently to not receive an assessment of their needs, or an adequate assessment. Too many people seemed to be told they were not eligible or their child was not old enough. On trying to unpick some of this, it would appear that they are getting inconsistent messages from different Council departments. Eg. Gateway to Care only dealing with adults and only signposting to Disabled Children's Service (for which they were apparently not eligible). Poor feedback regarding early support included inappropriate parenting courses, and not having an offer for families of children with additional needs, only a generic one. Homestart got very good feedback but people felt their support was for too short a period of time. Very negative feedback about CAMHS services in the main, some positive feedback about recent training provided by them regarding ADHD. Parents felt that if their child was in a mainstream school they did not get to find out what was going on the world of additional needs, including the short breaks offer. People felt that schools offered good support in the main (they were thinking broadly about their whole family, not just their child with additional needs) but others felt that they were not meeting the needs of their child with SEND, or did not listen to what parents said about what is happening at home and therefore not referring them for appropriate help ("there's nothing wrong with your child"). Positives and negative about school transport – highly valued but negative comments about poorly trained escorts, disinterested drivers, lack of any escort at all for children travelling alone in taxis. Social care – very hard to get. Turned away several times before getting an assessment. Not outcome focussed and very service led. Very negative feedback about the Preparing for Adulthood/transition process. Health – very negative about the transition to adult services which appears to be non-existent. General: people are aware that there is less money and cuts have to be made but feel that children and adults with SEND are being targeted."
- "Feel let down by the system"
- "The timing/notification of this survey is late - it came well into the consultation period and too late to go to the drop in sessions. Bad planning which does not give us confidence in the process."
- "To provide transport to those in need post 16 to create an equal playing field"

- "Please be honest and direct - if the council can not provide a service - EG no money - please tell the client honestly."
-

Freeformat responses received

Email Subject: Proposed Changes to Access Funding consultation letter

Ref: [name and DOB]

I am emailing because I have received a letter from you dated 25.09.2017 about the changes Kirklees Council supports local people.

The letter states that the consultations opened on Monday 04.09.2017 and will close 22.10.2017. I would like to know why as a parent am I receiving this information after the consultation period has already started? The letter was delivered to my address on the 27.09.2017 which is dated 25.09.2017, therefore I am receiving this news 22 days after the consultation period has begun, therefore being informed late.

As a service you are already aware of the restructure/funding future plans, therefore as a service you were well aware of these proposals and are informing parents/carers late, especially when the consultation period begun on 04.09.2017, this is not acceptable from a service such as yourselves that deal with sensitive matters such as the proposed.

As a parent with a little boy who receives access funding this is heartbreaking news that changes are going to be made which will have detrimental affects on him if the funding is seized. My son receives Early Years additional funding for children with SEN. He is non-verbal and has concerns regarding his communication, social interaction and behaviour with the suspicion of a complex communication disorder and is awaiting an Autism Spectrum Disorder assessment.

If this funding is taken away this opens up major problems and hazards, in terms of health and safety for both my sons well-being and the safety of other children around him. [He] has no environmental or surrounding awareness and will climb or jump or push and pull without realising the potential dangers. He throws objects, kicks, flaps his arms when distressed or upset without realising that he could hurt himself or others around him. My son is sensory directed and touches anything that he seeks which is very dangerous if not with a supervised adult. [My son] has a tendency to put items or objects in his mouth causing him to choke and this requires constant supervision. He is not toilet trained and has his nappy changed by his 1:1 key carer.

I have had so much help from [name] and Portage with transitioning [my son] from the home setting to having him attend private day nursery. it has been a emotional and stressful journey and the whole process has been a whirlwind of ups and downs but has been successful due to the support these two ladies have given me and the input they have put into [his] well-being within the Nursery setting.

Working together with the Nursery, [name] and [name] having put in all the hard-work and paperwork required to get the funding, we are now being told that its going to be withdrawn. This is insane especially when you work so hard to achieve it only to be told its going to be taken away. This letter you have sent is devastating and heartbreaking to a parent who needs this funding to keep her son safe and looked aftered whilst in the nursery setting as well as the safety of other children around him.

What will happen to the safety of my child if this funding is taken? Who will be responsible for the safety of [my son] and others?

After withdrawing the Access funding from my son what will you be doing with this fund or what will it go towards? What other systems and procedures have you got in place for a child like my son that requires constant 1:1 support?

I look forward to hearing from you soon, and hope that the questions raised regarding my son's safety and well-being within the setting will be addressed.

Kind regards,

29 September 2017

To: Kirklees Council Consultation team

As members of Huddersfield Down Syndrome Support Group, we express our great concerns regarding cuts of funding for Early Years services for disabled children, short breaks and social care transport. **In particular, it is Kirklees' proposal to limit the funding the Access Fund provides so that it would only fund support for the hours of national free entitlement to early education and childcare (15 hours per week for vulnerable 2 year olds (term time only) and 30 hours per week for 3-4 year olds with working parents (term time only)).**

There are 19 families in the group that have one or more children with a disability (Down Syndrome or Williams Syndrome) under the age of 5. About half of them have used nurseries in order to be able to work and accessed Early Years Services for more than proposed 15h/week term time. Some of those families have new born babies and have yet to face the question of how many hours a week they will be able to use nurseries in order to work.

Our children often require support in nurseries due to a variety of additional needs, including health needs, developmental delay, physical needs, learning needs, problems with eyesight and hearing and delayed self-care skills. The list of support typically includes (it varies from child to child and is not exhaustive):

- Keeping children safe as they often tend to have poor sense of danger and poor understanding of the world around them, e.g. danger of falling from the steps, danger of climbing on the furniture, danger of throwing things;
- Helping children interact with the peers, scaffolding the play and providing inclusion;
- Providing help with self-care: often under the age of 5 our children have rather poor skills in dressing, turning taps on/off, washing hands, helping themselves at the dinner table, etc.;
- Providing extra and prolonged assistance with toilet training: it is very rare when our children are fully potty trained under the age of 5. Although often potty training starts at age 2-3, it takes several years for the children to master the skill;
- Providing vital exercises for development of gross motor skills;
- Providing vital exercises and activities for development of fine motor skills;
- Having meetings and discussions with parents and health professionals;
- Keeping My Support Plans up to date;
- Keeping communication diaries as there are many children that would not share anything about their day with the parents even at age close to 5 years old.

All the parents/carers in our group have to change/adjust/give up their working lives after the arrival of a disabled child. Most of us still want to work for many reasons. Cutting the access fund would mean even harder strain on the parents/carers' ability to carry on working. To reduce access funding support in the way proposed is likely to have the following negative impacts on disabled children, their families and the community.

- **Impact on child development:** children benefit from attending nursery and childcare settings alongside their peers. It is particularly important for disabled children to learn from other children, for their speech, social and self-help skills and

to learn age-appropriate behaviour. As described above, the access fund enables nursery staff to provide the one to one developmental support that these children need, which can be difficult to provide in the home environment.

- **Discrimination against people with disabilities:** If access funding is reduced as proposed, this will effectively prevent children with disabilities from attending childcare alongside their typical peers. If your child does not require additional support you can find childcare in a wide range of settings, full-time, all year round, from a few weeks of age. The same should be available to children with disabilities. This proposal sends the message that children with disabilities are second class citizens.
- **Inclusion:** It should be self-evident that typically developing children of all ages benefit from learning with and making friends with children with disabilities. They learn about equality, diversity, respect, patience and fun and this early years experience will help them grow into well-rounded members of society.
- **Isolation of families of disabled children:** This proposal will further increase the loneliness and segregation that many families of disabled children feel. It is fundamental that disabled children should be integrated into their community from birth and that their families should be supported too.
- **Financial impact on family:** If access funding is reduced as proposed this will make it much more difficult parents to work (or find work if they are currently unemployed). This will place those families into financial hardship, alongside the additional challenges they face raising a disabled child. They are more likely to claim benefits and require other forms of financial support from the local authority.
- **Family breakdown:** With all these additional pressures family breakdown is much more likely, having a further knock-on impact on all the members of the family, particular the disabled child and their siblings.
- This proposal is also likely to have a particularly **detrimental impact on women**, as they are more likely to be the primary carer. Mothers of disabled children are much less likely to work than other mothers. Kirklees should be supporting these women to find and maintain employment, not make it even more difficult.
- **Impact on mental health:** Feeling of loss of support from the community, reduced chances to arrange appropriate childcare in order to work and increased worry about a young disabled child will further increase risks of mental health problems in parents and carers of disabled children.
- **Impact on social services:** All the above factors are likely to increase the pressure on Kirklees' social services. In a worse-case scenario these pressures may even lead to more disabled children being placed into the care system.
- **Health and safety:** It is possible that some children would be placed in childcare settings without the additional support that the Access Fund provides. We find it difficult to see how providers can care for children with additional needs properly and safely without the access fund.

As parents and members of HDSSG we'd like to advise the consultation team:

Please consider needs of the entire family including the parents/carers' access to work and, therefore, accessing adequate and safe childcare. Please calculate the possible impact of cuts carefully.

Please provide the settings and families with clear guidelines of possible ways to access additional support needed for children with SEN. Please tell us how we can continue to work if this support is reduced.

Please reduce the amount of red tape where possible. For example, there are cases when My Support Plan, that takes many hours to fill in, is never taken into consideration for

funding applications (EHC or Access Fund). Also, there is no continuation between supports of children in nurseries and schools. All the assessments and planning starts from scratch when child goes to school wasting all the effort of Early Years team.

Please take into account that education and professional supervision of nurseries and other childcare providers looking after young children with SEN can be crucial in increasing the effectiveness of the childcare.

We believe that our concerns and highlight of the impacts of the cuts can be relevant if case of cuts in short breaks and transport, although we couldn't collect enough information on our members' using the services by the time we wrote this letter.

Yours sincerely

Huddersfield Down Syndrome Support Group

To: Kirklees Council Consultation team

Kirklees' proposal to limit the funding the Access Fund provides so that it would only fund support for the hours of national free entitlement to early education and childcare (15 hours per week for vulnerable 2 year olds (term time only) and 30 hours per week for 3-4 year olds with working parents (term time only))

Society has changed massively in recent years in the way in which it treats disabled people and as a result children with disabilities are achieving more than ever before. Disabled children are some of the most vulnerable members of our society. Society can be judged by the way in which it treats the most vulnerable. To remove or reduce this fundamental support for children and their hard-working families would be a hugely retrograde and devastating step. The Access Fund is not "a nice to have". It is essential in order for disabled children to access childcare and for their families to work.

Our family's perspective – how the access fund has been invaluable to us

I am the mother of 3 daughters. My middle daughter is 5 years old, and she happens to have Down Syndrome. She is a bright and beautiful little girl. She is full of life, cheekiness and fun. She loves reading, parties and chocolate cake, and has an ability to wrap even the grumpiest person around her little finger. I couldn't be prouder that she is my daughter. I also work part-time and this is an important part of my identity. I have worked 3 days a week, all year round, ever since my eldest daughter was born.

When my middle daughter was diagnosed with Down Syndrome shortly after she was born, I was full of fear and I thought life as I knew it was over. I thought I would have to give up work and that we wouldn't be able to pay the mortgage. I thought we would have to move house and that we would never go on holiday again. I was so wrong.

The following day we were visited in the special care unit by the then manager of the Ellerslie Child Development Centre (which has now closed down, removing a vital source of local support for disabled children and their families in Huddersfield). "It's OK", she said. "She can go to nursery. You can go back to work if you want to". Right, I thought. Things will be OK. I can keep working in the job I enjoy. I can provide for my family. I can pay the bills. We can do this.

It is not easy being a parent, and bringing up a child with disabilities brings additional challenges. It is more expensive. You have less free time, and less sleep. You are busy with doctors' and therapists' appointments. You worry a lot: am I doing enough for my child? Should I be doing more? Am I getting it right? How is this affecting my other children? What about the future? How will I support my child and the rest of the family? For me, as well as providing the financial security that every family needs, going to work provides a respite from what can be a stressful home-life. I can use my brain in a different way. I get out of the

house, mix with work colleagues and just be “me” for the day. I am also paying tax, national insurance and so on and contributing to the economy. The future of the whole family is more secure.

My daughter attended mainstream nursery (alongside her sisters) from the age of 12 months (when my maternity leave ended) until she started school at 4 and a half. As my husband and I don't work in schools, like most of the population, we required childcare all year round, 8am-5pm. We were relieved that the nursery were able to apply (through an extremely rigorous process every 3 months) for access funding to provide our daughter with the extra support that she needed. Even as a baby, she needed extra help with her feeding and drinking. She needed daily physiotherapy exercises. She needed one-to-one speech therapy activities daily. The staff needed to learn and use Makaton sign language with her. She had one-to-one portage activities that had to be practised daily. She needed structured support to encourage her to play and interact with other children. And, of course, she also needed all the other care that every typical child needs. She loved nursery the whole time she was there, and the staff loved her. She thrived in the company of other children and made firm friends. When she left she was running, talking and becoming increasingly independent and was ready to start school alongside her peers. There were many tears when she left!

If she had not had this additional support, the nursery would not have been able to cater for her needs. It is highly likely that I would have been forced to stop work to look after her myself full time and to provide all the extra care that she needed. It would also have been very difficult to find another job in my profession after a long break. I honestly dread to think what the impact on me and the rest of the family would have been.

Now that my daughter is at school we need childcare in the school holidays. We manage during the week with a combination of my part-time work and help from family. In the holidays she attends a holiday club with additional support from the access fund. If this was not available we would be forced to take unpaid leave (if our employers would permit this). The statutory parental leave entitlement would not be sufficient for the whole of her school career.

The impacts of reducing access funding

To reduce access funding support in the way proposed is likely to have the following negative impacts on disabled children, their families and the community.

- **Impact on child development:** children benefit from attending nursery and childcare settings alongside their peers. It is particularly important for disabled children to learn from other children, for their speech, social and self-help skills and to learn age-appropriate behaviour. As described above, the access fund enables nursery staff to provide the one to one developmental support that these children need, which can be difficult to provide in the home environment.
- **Discrimination against people with disabilities:** If access funding is reduced as proposed, this will effectively prevent children with disabilities from attending childcare alongside their typical peers. If your child does not require additional support you can find childcare in a wide range of settings, full-time, all year round, from a few weeks of age. The same should be available to children with disabilities. This proposal sends the message that children with disabilities are second class citizens.
- **Inclusion:** It should be self-evident that typically developing children of all ages benefit from learning with and making friends with children with disabilities. They learn about equality, diversity, respect, patience and fun and this early years experience will help them grow into well-rounded members of society.
- **Isolation of families of disabled children:** This proposal will further increase the loneliness and segregation that many families of disabled children feel. It is fundamental that disabled children should be integrated into their community from birth and that their families should be supported too.

- **Financial impact on family:** If access funding is reduced as proposed this will make it much more difficult parents to work (or find work if they are currently unemployed). This will place those families into financial hardship, alongside the additional challenges they face raising a disabled child. They are more likely to claim benefits and require other forms of financial support from the local authority.
- **Family breakdown:** With all these additional pressures family breakdown is much more likely, having a further knock-on impact on all the members of the family, particular the disabled child and their siblings.
- This proposal is also likely to have a particularly **detrimental impact on women**, as they are more likely to be the primary carer. Mothers of disabled children are much less likely to work than other mothers. Kirklees should be supporting these women to find and maintain employment, not make it even more difficult.
- **Impact on mental health:** As discussed above, the fact that I have been able to continue to work has been hugely beneficial for my own mental health.
- **Impact on social services:** All the above factors are likely to increase the pressure on Kirklees' social services. In a worse-case scenario these pressures may even lead to more disabled children being placed into the care system.
- **Health and safety:** It is possible that some children would be placed in childcare settings without the additional support that the Access Fund provides. I find it difficult to see how providers can care for children with additional needs properly and safely without the access fund.

Another blow to disabled children and their families

Austerity measures over the last few years have seen service after service close or reduce. The Ellerslie centre has closed. Sure Start centres have shut down. The portage service has been cut. Other voluntary sector organisations providing vital support to disabled children have had their funding cut. To reduce the Access Fund as well would be yet another blow to families already struggling.

Value for money

I was astonished to read that this proposal is only forecast to save £130,000.00. What if you could reduce all the negative impacts discussed above by spending £130,000 per year? What incredible value for money that investment represents.

[name]

28 September 2017

Late response received from Thelma Walker MP:



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Thelma Walker MP

Member of Parliament for Colne Valley

This matter is being dealt with by the constituency office. Please send any related correspondence to the address below.

11/11/2017

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you today in regard to the proposed changes to the Access Fund budget.

I am informed that the proposal is to cut £130,000.00 per year; I understand and sympathise that any cuts you, as our council, are making, are as a result of significantly decreased levels of funding from the government. However, it appears to me that this proposed cut will have a significant impact on the most vulnerable in our society. I would suggest that further reducing the level of support children with additional needs and their families receive should be avoided at all costs.

I understand that these proposed changes were up for consultation until the 22nd of October. Upon reading the consultation questionnaire it does not appear immediately obvious what the result of these changes will be. For example, what was the provision of care prior to this budget change, what will it be following the cut and how many children and families will it effect?

I would like to be assured that Kirklees have fully thought through the long-term impact of these proposed cuts; both on the individual children it will affect and their families, as well as the financial ramifications removing this form of early intervention support will have on the cost of supporting these children in their later life.

I further understand that these cuts will bring the level of provision SEND children in Kirklees receive in line with the national free entitlement to early education and childcare, however, I would again suggest that this level of support does not reflect the additional needs faced by families and argue that it is an unfair comparison to draw.

Thank you very much and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Thelma Walker MP

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Consultation feedback (copy of completed PDF) from a group of young people who attend Sports Works grant funded short breaks. 7 young people gave their views. Any questions they could not answer are left blank.

This section asks for some details about you. Your answers will help us understand your circumstances and who you are thinking of when answering questions in the next section. This information will help us to understand any differences in views between groups. Your responses are completely confidential and will not be used to identify you as an individual.

Are you completing this questionnaire... (Please tick all those that apply)

- ☒ as someone who lives in Kirklees
- ☒ as a young person (up to 16 years old)
- ☒ as a young person with additional needs or disability (up to 25 years old)
- ☐ as an adult with additional needs or disability (over 25 years old)
- ☐ as a parent or carer of a child (up to 16 years old) who does not have additional needs or disability
- ☐ as a parent or carer of someone with additional needs or disability who is aged between:
 - ☐ 0-4 years old
 - ☐ 5-16 years old
 - ☐ 17-25 years old
 - ☐ 25+ years old
- ☐ as an education professional (e.g. teacher / head teacher / school governor)
- ☐ as a health professional (e.g. GP or speech and language therapist)
- ☐ on behalf of a local community group or organisation (e.g. playgroup or carers' group)
- ☐ on behalf of a local business (including childcare providers such as nurseries, playgroups and childminders)
- ☐ as a Kirklees Council employee
- ☐ in another capacity (please specify):

Do you or a member of your family:

	Yes	No
Attend childcare such as a nursery, playgroup or childminder or out-of-school childcare?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Receive extra support in a nursery or other childcare because of special educational needs or a disability?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Receive free transport from home to school? <small>3 definite no 4 weren't sure</small>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use short break services for children or young people with additional needs?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Receive free transport to access services or activities for adults with a disability? <small>not applicable</small>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have a physical condition or disability which limits access to activities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What is your postcode? This will help us see if results vary in different areas.

non of the young people knew their postcodes

This section asks for your views on our proposals for some of our disability services, including Short Breaks, support with learning, and support with transport.

Short Breaks

Anyone may respond to this section of the questionnaire, but it is most relevant to the people and families who currently receive Short Breaks / respite or may do so in future.

Kirklees Council provides Short Break and respite opportunities for the parents and carers of children, young people and adults with additional or complex needs. These include fun activities for children and young people. The purpose of arranging these is to assist carers by giving them a break so they can continue to provide care in the long term or do so more effectively.

Kirklees Council has a statutory duty to consult annually to understand whether its current provision is effective, which is why we're consulting this year as well as last year.

The annual Short Breaks consultation has been included as a section in this questionnaire because we expect that many of the people who want to share their views on Short Breaks will also want to share their views on Social Care Transport and the support provided to children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in their Early Years (the next two sections after this one).

Kirklees Council has a statutory duty to provide Short Breaks for children. We want to make sure that our Short Breaks offer is as effective as possible, so if you, your family or someone you care for use Short Breaks or might use them in future, please help us by answering the questions in the section below.

For more information about Short Breaks visit

Local Offer: www.kirkleeslocaloffer.org.uk

Short breaks statement: www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/special-education/pdf/short-breaks-statement.pdf

What Short Break support do you or your family currently receive? (Please tick all those that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day-time care at home | <input type="checkbox"/> Services which assist carers in the evenings and / or at weekends |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day-time care elsewhere | <input type="checkbox"/> Services which assist carers during the school holidays |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overnight care at home | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please enter below) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overnight care elsewhere | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational or leisure activities away from home | |

How valuable do you find each type of support you receive?

	N/A (I don't receive this service)	Not valuable	Partially valuable	Valuable	Very valuable	Extremely valuable
Day-time care at home	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Day-time care elsewhere	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overnight care at home	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overnight care elsewhere	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educational or leisure activities away from home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Services which assist carers in the evenings and / or at weekends	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Services which assist carers during the school holidays	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please enter below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you find any of your support only partially valuable or not valuable, please tell us why below

.....

.....

.....

Short Breaks Support

	Yes	No
Do you think the Short Breaks support on offer to you and your family is missing anything?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If yes, what is it: The young people weren't sure that anything specific was missing.

They nearly all attended other activities, universal provision

one young lady age 18 hearing impaired said she would like a bigger choice of things to do, like Mencap and Sports works where she is safe and there is lots to do

and why would it be valuable?

It would be valuable for this young lady as she told us how much she benefitted from attending activities independantly. She had travel training and was now able to catch the bus by herself and go places to do fun things with her friends. She shared how her confidence had grown and that she had fun things to do that she really enjoyed, she was extremely emotional.

If yes, would you be prepared to make a contribution towards funding it? ☒ ☐

Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

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Social Care Transport for children, young people and adults

Kirklees Council helps people with assessed social care needs to get about (for example an adult or older person with a disability who goes to a day centre, or a disabled child on a short break).

The Council has no specific statutory duty to provide transport, however we currently choose to provide transport support in specific cases where it is necessary to support people with eligible needs under statute.

We want to implement a new policy, so that:

- We are more transparent with the public and our service-users
- Our decisions around transport are more consistent and equitable across service-users
- We can improve value-for-money for the public

In the future we are looking to assess individuals and their families on a case-by-case basis, so that the council would not necessarily fund transportation if a family is able to make their own arrangements for the transportation themselves.

What do you think of this option?

4 were not sure

Very good idea	Good idea	Neither good nor bad	Bad idea	Very bad idea
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please explain the reason for your choice:

If you feel this will have an impact on you, your family or someone you care for, please tell us what this would be:

What transport, if any, is used to enable you or a family member to receive social care or short breaks?

(Tick all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Travel training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Taxis | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Your own arrangements, including personal vehicles (e.g. your car) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public transport following travel training | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please enter below) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transport from a service provider (e.g. a minibus) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking | |

How helpful is the transport support that you currently use, or used previously?
