

FOI – 1618

12th May 2023**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

Question 1:**What trust centres and centres with a trust contract are currently offering short term respite placements for both under and over 18s in the 2022/23 year?****Under 18**

The Southern Trust provides short breaks placements for Children with a disability (under18) via two residential facilities. Oaklands is a Short Break unit in Armagh which is a Trust facility and the Trust has a contract with Barnardos which is a charitable organisation for the delivery of Residential Short Breaks in Willowgrove in Banbridge.

Over 18**Bed Based Short Break commissioned providers with the SHSCT for Adults over 18 years old**

1. Bawn Cottage
2. St Joseph's
3. Nightingale
4. Dungannon Care Home
5. The Haven
6. Incredible

All of the above services are for individuals with a learning disability. The Trust does not contract with any independent providers for short break beds for those with a physical disability, however where needed, this can be commissioned on a spot purchase basis.

Trust bed based Short Break providers for Adults over 18years old

1. Woodlawn
2. Hillview

Within Adult Community Services (ACS) respite is provided across the four Trust Statutory Residential Homes. In addition ACS spot purchase respite care in the service user's Nursing or Residential Care Home of choice.

Question 2:

How many families within the trust were supported in the 2022/23 year with short term respite placements for both over and under 18s?

Under 18

The Southern Trust supported a total of 72 families through overnight short breaks from 1/4/22 -31/3/23.

Over 18

Please see table below for number of clients who received a Short Break by Programme of Care for the Financial Year 2022/23. These figures include adults over 18s

ACS	MS	MH	LD	PD	Grand Total
388	125	12	303	28	856

ACS: Adult Community Service
MS: Memory Service
MH: Mental Health
LD: Learning Disability
PD: Physical Disability

Question 3:

What policies and procedures are used to determine a respite care need and who is involved in this decision?

Under 18

All children and families known to CWD teams receive a service based on an assessment of each child's needs through the Understanding the Needs of Children in Northern Ireland (UNOCINI) framework assessment. These assessments are reviewed on a regular basis and seek to provide appropriate services including the need for short break/ respite care where required to support and meet the child's assessed needs. The CWD service convenes a short breaks forum on a monthly basis which is attended by a range of multi-disciplinary professionals. If a child's needs are identified as requiring residential overnight short breaks the child's needs are considered and the forum make a decision as to which facility can best meet the child's needs.

Over 18

The Keyworker based in the Adult Disability Community Teams will complete an assessment of need, develop a care and risk management plan and commission relevant services under the HSC Case Management Circular (DOH, 2010). As part of this assessment process, the keyworker will usually complete a Carers Assessment (where relevant) to identify any additional supports required to meet the carers needs in their caring duties in partnership with the Multi – disciplinary team (MDT). Following the Carer Assessment, additional supports identified to meet carer's needs may be provided e.g. bed based short breaks, flexible self-directed support, a domiciliary care package and / or local Community & Voluntary supports.

Ordinarily bed-based respite in a care home facility will take place following an assessment of need for the individual service user Northern Ireland Single Assessment Tool (NISAT) and also a carer's assessment (NISAT Carers Assessment or Carer's Conversation Wheel) for the primary carer or multiple carers, in order to determine if a need for respite is evident. The Service User and Carer will be involved.

In some circumstances bed-based respite is accessed in an emergency situation whereby care arrangements have unexpectedly reached a crisis point and respite is required with a brief assessment of the situation.

The procedure for assessing and organising respite care is outlined in ACS's Care Management Standard Operating Procedure (2022) see below;



SHSCT OPPC ICT
Care Management S

Legislation includes the "Carers and Direct Payments Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 see below;



Carers and Direct
Payments Act NI 200

Question 4:

Has the capacity of the centres used for short term respite been reduced following the pandemic?

Under 18

In April 2020 at the start of the Covid Pandemic the Southern Trust made the decision to increase the number of Residential overnights available which offset the reduction on number of children per night due to IPC restrictions. The Trust continues to rebuild short breaks provision, and has maintained the increased number of nights open in respect of both facilities as a permanent change.

Capacity has not been reduced, and there has been an increase in Short Breaks fostering provision.

Over 18

No, however, uptake of respite care in the over 65 age group has been slow to return to pre-pandemic levels as service users and their families remain cautious about attending a facility for respite.

Prior to the pandemic (pre March 2020) the Trust contracted with twelve short break care providers for bed based short breaks for service users with a learning disability. At this time the Trust contracted a total of 28 commissioned beds. As a result of the Covid

Pandemic all short breaks beds were stood down to prevent the transmission of the virus and protect those living in residential / nursing care.

Following the resumption of short breaks four providers with whom the SHSCT commissioned short breaks services took the decision to terminate their short break contract with the Trust. This reduced the number of short break beds from 28 to the current 25 beds. Whilst the number of beds has reduced from 28 to 25 the number of nights provided by the Trust has increased significantly since the resumption of short breaks post covid.

Contact: FOI.team@southerntrust.hscni.net