

Name of meeting: Children’s Scrutiny Panel Meeting

Date: 6th September 2022

Title of report: Changes to the Young Peoples Activity Team (YPAT) Provision

Purpose of report: Provide Children’s Scrutiny Panel Meeting with an update on the ongoing changes to the Young Peoples Activity Team (YPAT) provision as part of the ongoing SEND Transformation Programme and the ongoing development of our Short Breaks Offer.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	For info - Cabinet approved the capital proposal on 26 th July 2022 as a Key Decision. Capital spend over £250k
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council’s Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u>	No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	No
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	Mel Meggs - 09.06.2022 Tom Brailsford 25.8.22
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Eamonn Croston - 13.07.2022
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft - 11.07.2022
Cabinet member <u>portfolio</u>	Cllr V Kendrick - Children’s Cllr C Pattison - Learning, Aspiration & Communities

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: Cllr Darren O’Donovan, Cllr Mussarat Pervaiz and Cllr Ammar Anwar.

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes - there are no GDPR implications relating to this report.

1. Summary

It is a council priority to provide the best possible support for Kirklees families affected by Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Cabinet approved the proposal for the new Young People's Activity Team building, which forms one element of our wider transformation of SEND services and aims to ensure some of our most vulnerable children and young people are able to enjoy high quality facilities which make a lasting difference in their lives. Kirklees SEND provision is undergoing large scale transformation over the next few years.

Children's Service, Best Start capital funding has an allocation of £5 million for the development of children with a disability services; Young Peoples Activity Team (short breaks), Elm Grove (long term) and Orchard View (short breaks) children's homes.

The new premises, the council owned former Children's Place nursery, Netherfield Road, Ravensthorpe, is located within 300 metre from the current location, behind the Greenwood Centre and will set a new quality standard for short breaks provision in Kirklees.

By investing in our most vulnerable children and young people, we support them to achieve the best possible outcomes. The new building proposal is designed to help us support our most disabled children and young people thrive and enjoy the best start in life.

The development of the new Young Peoples Activity Team building provides us with an opportunity to re-shape our in-house short breaks offer, enabling the Young Peoples Activity Team to work more closely with parents and focus on meeting the needs of our most vulnerable children and young people with the most complex health and care needs.

2. Information required to take a decision

The Young Peoples Activity Team short break service is currently run from a large council owned building on Havelock Street, Ravensthorpe, on an industrial estate. The building has been shared with Adult Services, learning disability day service provision for over 15 years. The building requires significant investment, Adult Service and Children's Service are both proposing to leave the Havelock Street building.

In 2018-19 the Young People Activity Team budget was partially reinstated £417,000 on a speculative basis pending a service review. The budget received £82k additional resource in 2019/20 to address the overspending in the previous year. There have been no changes since.

Pre pandemic the Young Peoples Activity Team supported 117 disabled children and young people, 63 live in North Kirklees and 54 live in South Kirklees. The Young Peoples Activity Team also supported one young person during the day 10am-2pm, who was NEET providing support to carers who were struggling.

The Young Peoples Activity Team currently supports around 45 young people this is due to the impact of the pandemic, natural progression, young people turning 18 and some due to the support that was put in place as a result of the pandemic who no longer attend.

Although the Young Peoples Activity Team was unable to operate fully during the pandemic the team worked closely with Orchard View and provided community outreach support to 20 families, who between the two services were identified as most at risk. This work has provided the foundations establishing a strong close working relationship with Orchard View and enable us to offer more personalised, holistic support to the numerous families who attend both services.

Whilst attendance numbers dropped due to the pandemic new referrals are regularly coming through, with the target to increase capacity to support up to 12 young people per session. As a provision the Young Peoples Activity Team aims to support the most complex children and young people throughout Kirklees, providing them with opportunities to socialise and engage in activities with their peers, whilst ensuring that they are in an environment conducive to their needs.

The Young Peoples Activity Team work closely with health, education and other care services, to provide consistency and support for children and families, to meet individual needs and assist with transitioning both to other services and with general day to day activities.

The need for new premises was identified several years ago. The former Children's Place nursery, Netherfield Road, Ravensthorpe has been selected as the best option because of its location, it is very close to the current building which will minimise disruption to the disabled children and young people who attend and parents. The building size is ideal, the accessibility offered by a single storey building located on a level site with a secure enclosed outdoor play area made the former Children's Place nursery the ideal preferred choice.

The Young People Activity Team building design proposal is attached as **Appendix 1**. Detailed designs have identified an estimated outturn cost of up to £1,358,353. The building design has been developed in partnership with the Young Peoples Activity Team, management and staff, a wide range of partners, including disabled children and young people, parents, Children's Service and the Capital Delivery Team.

The new premises will provide significantly improved facilities, establishing a new standard of high quality short breaks provision, capable of meeting the current and future needs of the growing range of our most disabled children and young people for many years to come.

The Young Peoples Activity Team short breaks service supports disabled children and young people aged 5 to 18 with profound and complex needs. The service comprises of;

- Out of school clubs - which operate term time evenings between 3pm and 6.30pm.
- Weekend and holiday sessions - which run year round (except bank holidays) between 10am and 2pm and during school holidays.
- Community sessions – term time only.

The new premises will provide an opportunity for the facilities to be used more frequently for new additional and alternative uses, for example;

- Parent and carer support sessions
- Training sessions
- Supporting older children who are NEET
- Pilot Assistive Technology and VR sessions
- Provide a building our health partners could deliver specialist children's clinic sessions from

Our aim is to maximise the usage and benefits from having a new purpose built facility.

Children's Service are progressing with the implementation of the modernisation programme, enabling more SEND children and young people to access mainstream local community social and informal learning activities, and short breaks.

By providing the new building the redesign of Young Peoples Activity Team role within the short breaks market can evolve further over time. The service will test out new models of support. For example;

- Provide targeted support in times of high need, crisis
- Develop outreach family support, helping families learn new or further develop existing skills
- Support parents and young people transitioning into adulthood
- Pilot how best to implement the ever increase range of assistive technologies, provide virtual reality sessions
- Provide a facility for parents / carers home schooling to meet and enable children / young people opportunities to socialise with others

The Young Peoples Activity Team have drafted an admissions policy statement. This will help everyone understand more clearly the service offer.

Over time our ambition is to identify and establish a second Young Peoples Activity Team building in South Kirklees. The second building will be based on the learning from the new Ravensthorpe building and the evolving role in-house short breaks services will play in the overall short breaks market. Two sites will make it easier for families to access, keeping children and young people closer to home, and their local communities.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

There will be a positive impact on parents, carers and families' members and staff. It is hoped the new building will provide an opportunity for all parties to work together more closely.

3.2 Working with Partners

There will be a positive impact for our health partners, enabling closer partnerships to develop and find joint solutions. We will be better placed to meet the needs of our most complex disabled children and young people.

3.3 Place Based Working

There will be a positive impact for families as care provision is provided from new high quality facilities delivered closer to home.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

There will be a reduction in emissions from delivering the service from a more energy efficient building. There will be a neutral impact on transport.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

There will be a positive impact on our most disabled children and young people and parents.

3.6 Financial Implications for the people living or working in Kirklees

There will be no financial impact on families and staff as the new building facility is located within 300 metre of the old facility.

3.7 Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources) Consultees and their opinions

The capital investment of up to £1,358,353 is budgeted for within the overall Best Start Capital Programme. The scheme is primarily funded from Council borrowing. The revenue cost of delivering the Young Peoples Activity Team short breaks service has been built into the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). The impact of this proposal on current revenue funding is neutral.

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

Members should have due regard to the Integrated Impact assessment screening tool attached to the July Cabinet report which showed no adverse effect on the protected groups.

4. Consultees and their opinions

A key part of our approach in transforming SEND provision is to seek the views of children, young people and families so that their voice is influential in our planning. Kirklees families have helped to shape the proposed designs for a new, market leading YPAT facility.

The design proposal has been shared with Parents of Children with additional needs (PCAN) who fully support the proposal. A series of consultation events have taken place with parents. Parents consultation comments;

“A much needed provision. Plans look amazing and would be a huge asset. Outdoor space looks fantastic”

“Looks amazing - definitely think the sensory room is a great idea for relaxing. Plenty of outdoor space is great too”

Consultation with young people who access the service is ongoing. Young person quote;

“I like the gym equipment, the music boxes, the trampoline, the waterwall, climbing equipment and the wooden tepee. It will be good to have our own building and lots of outdoor space”

The building design proposal has been shared with Dewsbury West ward members May 2022. Cllr O'Donovan suggested The Mansion at Crow Nest Park, a discussion took place setting out the reasons when The Children's place was preferred over the Mansion at Crow nest Park.

The building design proposal was approved at Children's Service Senior Management Team and Children's Service Capital Board. Portfolio Leads were consulted and briefed by Service Directors, Strategic Director.

In addition to the above, officers have throughout this capital scheme worked in partnership with disabled children and young people, families, carers, staff and will continue to do so.

5. Next steps and timelines

Main milestones and dates:	Proposed start:	Proposed end:
Planning Application	August 2022	October 2022
Develop and gain sign off for the new Admission Policy Statement	August 2022	September 2022
Continue developing individualised flexible support packages, linked to close partnership working with Orchard View (overnight Respite provision)	August 2022	Review April 2023
Architect and build tender	Nov 2022	Jan 2023
Tender Validation and Letter of Acceptance	Feb 2023	Feb 2023

Complete Works	March 2023	May 2023
Prepare for new YPAT building opening	June 2023	
Begin testing assistive technologies, provide virtual reality sessions, continue the transformation journey of the YPAT service	June 2023	December 2023

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

That Children’s Scrutiny Panel note the content of this report outlining the ongoing and future development of the Young Peoples Activity Team short breaks offer.

7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder’s recommendations

Cabinet approved the conversion of the former Children’s Place nursery 26th July 2022. <https://democracy.kirklees.gov.uk/documents/g7181/Decisions%2026th-Jul-2022%2015.30%20Cabinet.pdf?T=2>

Children’s Scrutiny Panel are requested to note the report and give views on the proposals.

8. Contact officer

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9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Cabinet Budget Report 29th January 2019 [Cabinet Budget Report.pdf \(kirklees.gov.uk\)](#)

Council budget 16th February 2022 [Budget Motion - Feb 22.pdf \(kirklees.gov.uk\)](#)

10. Service Director responsible

Tom Brailsford, Service Director, Children and Families, Resources, Improvement and Partnerships