

Appendix 2

A summary of responses to Cheshire East Council's

# **Learning Disabilities Respite Pre-Consultation Survey**

# Introduction

---

## Purpose of the survey

During October / November 2023 Cheshire East Council undertook a pre-consultation survey to seek views on accommodation-based respite provision for people with learning disabilities.

Services have been in place for several years and the time has come for, the Council to review the current offer and consider what is the best way in the future to provide support to those who access learning disabilities respite services in Cheshire East.

## Promotion and responses

The survey was held online with paper copies being made available on request. Easy read versions of the survey were made available alongside the full version. The survey was promoted to:

- Current learning disability respite service users and their carers
- Potential future service users
- Local stakeholders including relevant organisations
- The general public

In total, 38 responses were received:

- 23 full survey response
- 15 easy read survey responses

## Respondent characteristics

The majority of respondents who answered the full version of the survey ranged between 45-74 (16 out of the 20 who answered the question). 9 out of the 15 who answered the easy read version of the survey were aged between 16-34.

Out of the 23 respondents who answered the full version of the survey:

- 11 have a family member or care for someone who attends a learning disabilities respite service in Cheshire East. 10 stated they or someone they know may attend in the future or and/or have attended in the past. 2 responded as a professional / nurse.
- The majority (18) would describe their ethnic origin as White British / English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish or Irish. 10 were Christian and 6 had no religion.
- 10 stated that they had a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months.
- 14 were female, 5 were male (the remaining respondents preferred not to say or skipped the question).

# Analysis of results

## Current Respite Provision

Respondents who currently attend respite provision or were answering on behalf of someone that attends were asked which service they attend, where they live and which mode of travel they take to get there. Out of the 26 respondents who currently attend or have a family member / care for someone who attends a learning disabilities respite service in Cheshire East:

- 10 attend a commissioned service with 1st Enable (Crewe or Handforth). 11 attend Warwick Mews and 5 stated another provision e.g., Seashell Trust, Meridian, Kidsgrove Care Solutions.
- 25 lived at home with family and 1 lived in their own property with paid support.
- 22 are taken by a family/carer, 7 use own transport and 5 travel by taxi (please note that respondents could select all that apply).

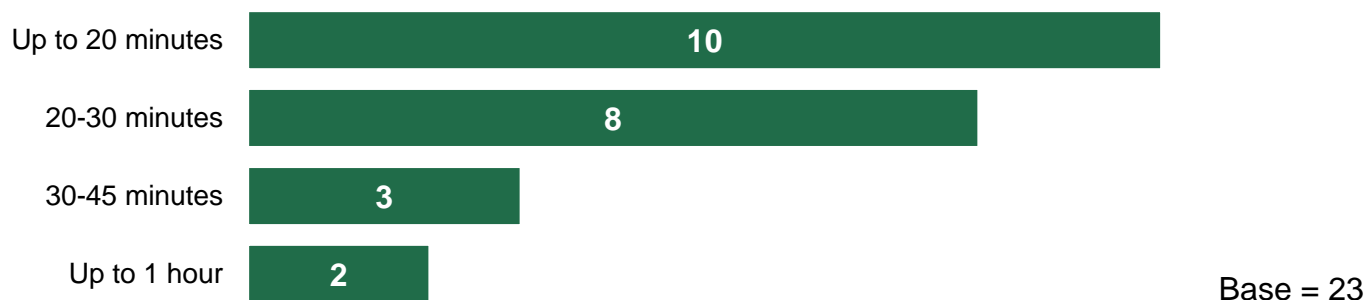
Respondents were then asked what they like or dislike about the learning disabilities respite/services that they currently attend. 31 respondents left a comment, some of those who do not currently attend a service also chose to provide a comment. The comments received are summarised in Table 1 below:

Table 1: What respondents like or dislike about the current respite provision			
Like		Dislike	
Theme / summary		Theme / summary	
Familiar and friendly staff.	12	Nothing, like it here.	10
Socialising with other people, making friends, people to chat and play games with.	12	No trips out or visits, lack of outings in late/afternoon & evening would like to do more things with friends in the local areas.	6
Accommodation is good, private bathroom. Facilities are good.	9	Choice, need more regular updates on when we can use respite, shouldn't be about budget – needs to be person centred.	4
Close to home, local, convenient location.	6	Changing staff, unfamiliar, agency staff.	3
Supports in keeping fit and active, go out in the community and learn new skills, change of scenery.	6	Limited wi-fi, not having Wi-Fi.	2
Know the routines, regular visits allow routine to be maintained, familiar place.	3	Being alone, bored.	2
Warm welcoming and person centred, safe place to stay.	3	None in the South Cheshire area.	1
Nice food.	2	Being alone, bored.	2
Enables families to get a break and stops breakdown.	1		
Bespoke and flexible.	1		
Like everything.	1		

## Future Respite Provision

Those who answered the full version of the survey were asked how long they would be able to travel to a learning disabilities respite service. 10 respondents stated up to 20 minutes, 8 stated 20-30 minutes and 5 stated 30 minutes or longer as can be seen in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: How long would you be able to travel to your learning disabilities respite service? (Count) Full version only**



All respondents were asked what is important to them when considering a learning disabilities respite service. Those who answered the full version of the survey were asked to rank certain service aspects in order of importance on a scale of 1 to 10 whereas those who answered the easy read version were asked to select which aspects were important to them and which aspects were not important to them. They could also select don't know / unsure. Safe and secure accommodation as well as friendly and trained staff were the most important aspects for respondents as shown in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: What is important to respondents in terms of respite services**

	Full Version	Easy Read Version
	Average importance score out of 10	Number of respondents stating this is important to them
Safe and secure accommodation	9.39	15
Friendly and trained staff	9.09	14
Provision of emergency respite to support carer	8.17	6
The flexibility of daytime support in addition to overnight support	8.13	12
A range of different learning activities, including life skills and other development opportunities	7.91	11
Opportunities to get involved in activities within the local and wider community (in the daytime and evening)	7.83	11
A variety of different support needs are met (inc. those with autism/challenging behaviour & physical disabilities)	7.52	-
<b>Base</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>

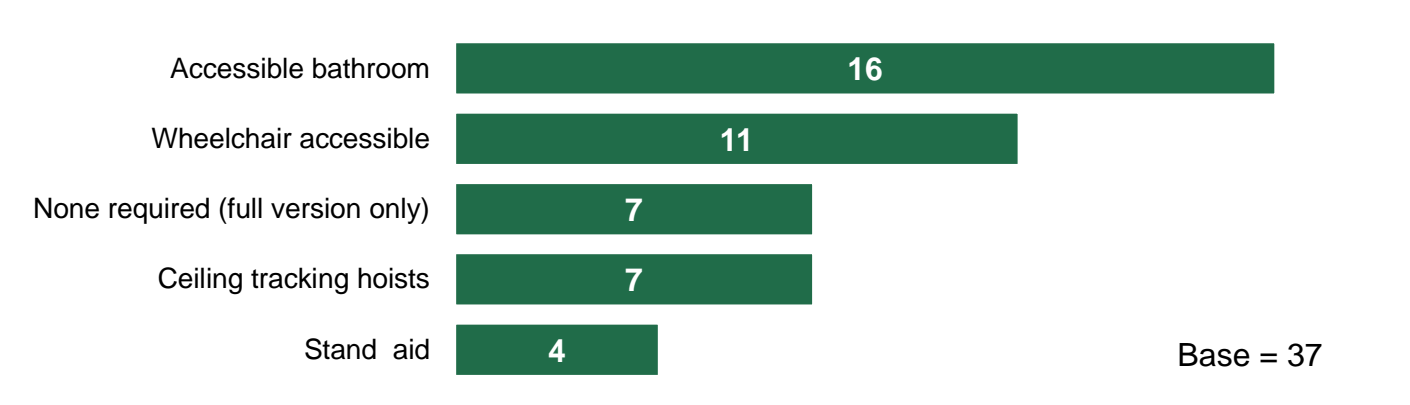
When asked a similar question in terms of facilities, outdoor space was considered the most important for those who answered the full version of the survey and the easy read version of the survey. See Table 3 for the full breakdown of results.

<b>Table 3: What is important to respondents in terms of the facilities at respite services</b>		
	<b>Full Version</b>	<b>Easy Read Version</b>
	<b>Average importance score out of 10</b>	<b>Number of respondents stating this is important to them</b>
Some outdoor space for relaxation, activities etc	8.04	13
Adaptations that can support a variety of different support needs and disabilities (wheelchair users)	7.91	7
Modern technology (including wi-fi, smart technology)	6.91	8
<b>Base</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>

In terms of room availability, the majority of respondents would be willing to share a living room / lounge area (29 out of 37 who answered) and a kitchen area (25 out of the 35 who answered) however would prefer to have their own bathroom (23 out of the 36 who answered).

In terms of support requirements, 16 out of the 37 respondents who answered would prefer respite support provision to have an accessible bathroom and 11 would prefer it to be wheelchair accessible. See Figure 2 for the full breakdown of results.

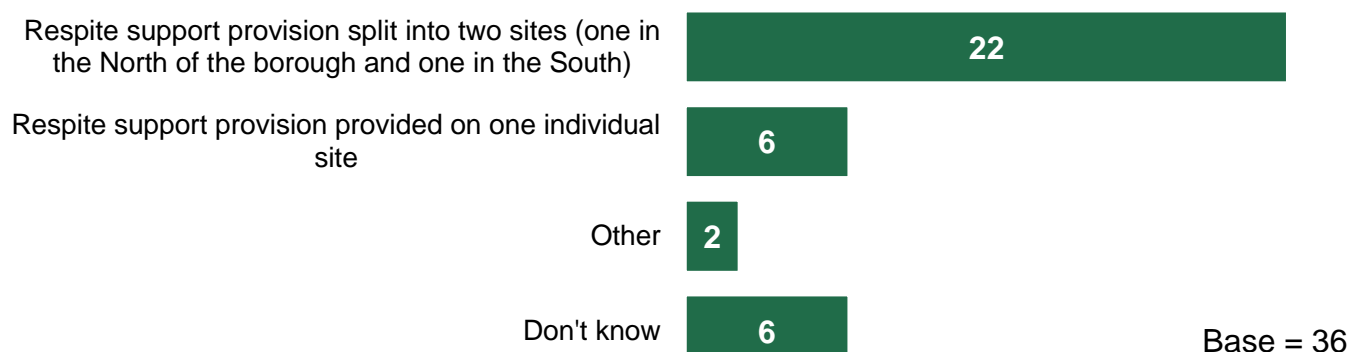
**Figure 2: Which of the following options would you prefer for respite support provision? (Count)**



Other support required included sensory area, wider corridors, help making meals, help brushing hair, minibus, full support at all times.

In terms of future respite provision, 22 out of the 36 respondents who answered would prefer respite support provision split into two sites (one in the North of the borough and one in the South). Of those who stated other, 1 would prefer it to stay as it is now and one stated that provision in the North is needed to avoid travelling long distances. See Figure 3.

### Figure 3: Which of the following options would you prefer for respite support provision? (Count)



Finally, respondents were asked if they would like to add anything else about current or future learning disabilities respite. 24 respondents left a comment. The comments received are summarised in Table 4 below:

**Table 4: Other comments on current or future learning disabilities respite**

Theme	Summary	
Respite should be located locally	Respite resource should be located locally - person should be able to mix with the local community and friends / should be close to the person's family so if there is an emergency they could get there quickly / need to keep a respite service in Crewe.	6
Happy with current provision	Current resource is excellent / Warwick Mews suits needs well - enjoyed staying at the Warwick Mews centre/ Support at Valleybrook court is really good / respite extends social group and contact with others which gives a wider friendship base.	5
Need to be inviting / offer more opportunities	Needs to offer more than being at home - an inviting environment both physical and support / offer wi-fi, like going on i-pad / more community opportunities rather than day centre / more creative options e.g. weekends away, city breaks, shared lives etc.	4
Respite is a vital service	Vital service giving adults a chance to experience and become familiar with out of care home / need a break from caring and will need it more so as we age / needs to continue to function with specific needs for adults with learning difficulties.	3
Friendships	Being happy and making friends.	2
Experienced staff	Employ care staff who and can take them to activities / good training and experience is essential / higher pay to get and retain good staff.	2
Consider needs of young people / future service users	Respite facilities for younger people are not adequate / take on board the views of young people who will use these services in the future.	2
Conder specialist needs	Need safe accommodation for severely autistic children / those with autism need a lot of sensory movement input / may need to be split into physical disabilities respite and learning disability respite.	2
Stability required	It is important to provide as much stability in the care arrangements as possible. Shuffling vulnerable people around and changing from the familiar could be catastrophic.	2
Consider impact of any change	Understand the vulnerability of the people impacted by any changes.	1

## Recommendations

The Research and Consultation Team recommend that the details of this report are considered alongside any other supporting information when reviewing the future of respite support provision in Cheshire East. Continued engagement with service users, their carers and staff would be beneficial especially if any change to the current service is recommended following this review.

---

Report produced 05 December 2023 by the Research and Consultation Team, Cheshire East Council.

Email [RandC@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:RandC@cheshireeast.gov.uk) for further information.

OFFICIAL