

Report Title:	Suggested Scrutiny Topic – Respite Care Provision for Carers
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information?	No - Part I
Meeting and Date:	Adults, Children & Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel – 29 th January 2020
Responsible Officer(s):	David Cook, Scrutiny Officer
Wards affected:	All



REPORT SUMMARY

1. The report outlines a suggested topic received by a resident for onward consideration by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel. Topics can be suggested by residents and then considered by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel for further consideration (criteria outlined in paragraph 1.1.) Residents are able to access the criteria on the [council's website](#).
2. Details of the resident who has submitted this topic have been anonymised.
3. The suggested topic received as follows: “Is the council fulfilling its duties in providing respite to Carers of people with disability? Is this true by age and type of disability?”
4. This suggested topic has been submitted to the Adults, Children & Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel for further consideration.
5. It is recommended that no further scrutiny is required given the services already in place (see details in section 2.1 of the report).

Criteria of assessment for suggested topics received by residents

- 1.1 Residents should only submit topics that relate to **a service, event or issue** which affects the social, environmental or economic wellbeing of a group or community of people in the Borough.
- 1.2 What makes a good scrutiny topic?
 - **Scope** – is it an issue of concern to our local communities and other associated organisations?
 - **Significance**– could a review of this issue improve the Council’s (or other organisations) processes or performance and make a positive difference to the lives of our residents?
 - **Appropriate**– is this review timely and does it avoid duplicating other work?
- 1.3 Items that will not be considered include:
 - Individual service complaints for which there is a corporate complaints procedure (please click [here](#) for more details)
 - Topics outside of the remit of the council or where the council has no powers or influence to change an outcome
 - Issues which scrutiny has considered in the last 12 months

- Areas relating to quasi-judicial functions e.g. planning, licensing and standards

2.1 Initial assessment of suggested topic:

Scope - Currently services are available to provide respite to carers of all type of disability and age. Carers can use their direct payments to pay for respite or Optalis will arrange on their behalf. Contracts are in place to provide both day and overnight care for all carers who are eligible.

In addition, services are also available and being provided to carers of children and young people aged 0 to 25 years who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Carers can use direct payments to pay for respite or Achieving for Children will arrange this on their behalf with an agency. Contracts/ agreements are in place to provide support for carers whose children and young people are eligible.

Significance - Review of this item would result in a duplication of workload, where good service area improvements have already been made from the perspective of Optalis and Achieving for Children.

Appropriate - Unnecessary duplication of workload as there is a range of respite provision that carers can access, whether that be carers for adults or for children and young people.

2.2 Current RBWM service provision includes (but is not exhaustive) as follows:

1. Carers can request an assessment of their needs. If eligible for support, Optalis and Achieving for Children can arrange respite care or provide a direct payment for the carer to arrange the care themselves.
2. Run by Optalis, Allenby Road provides respite accommodation for adults with a learning disability.
3. Family Action is a local charity that the borough commissions to provide activities and other support for young carers.
4. The Council funds Alzheimer's Dementia Support to provide a range of activities and support for carers and former carers.
5. Crossroads is commissioned to provide both day and overnight respite for adults. The service is accessed via any of the G.P. practices within the borough, the social prescribing service or Optalis.
6. Commissioned through the Better Care Fund, the Social Prescribing service provides signposting, support and other practical help to carers. People can be referred to a wellbeing prescriber by a member of staff at their GP surgery. They help identify activities and services which offer emotional and practical

support while improving health. The wellbeing prescriber might suggest activities such as SMILE (So Much Improvement with a Little Exercise) sessions, creative groups like art and music or other services within the borough.

7. Respite provision for adults is also available through day centres that are provided within the Borough either by Optalis or the voluntary sector providers.
8. In relation to respite provision for the carers of children and young people, Achieving for Children commissions support in the home and community via a number of agencies. Commissioned day and overnight respite is provided by local residential units such as Larchwood (Bracknell), Bridgehouse (Slough) and the Chilterns Centre (Henley). Achieving for Children also commissions day support at Thames Valley Adventure playground and other after school or holiday provisions able to meet the specialist support required. All of the respite commissioned is based on an assessment of eligibility and need.
9. Repiste provision for children and young people is available during the school holidays (apart from Christmas) via the Flying High Playscheme which is provided within the Borough by Achieving for Children. Children and young people aged between 5 years (first September after their 5th birthday) to 17 years can access this provision after an assessment has been carried out and the child or young person has been assessed as eligible.

2.3 Further consideration of suggested topic:

A review of the service is not needed because service changes have been made in the last six months. Carers can contact Optalis or Achieving for Children, who will arrange an assessment of the individual's needs and work with them to look at the best and most appropriate provision to meet their outcomes, based on eligibility and need.

2.4 Corporate Priority Areas

When assessing a topic it is important to understand whether this item would fall under one of the Council's six key priority areas. It has been assessed that this topic would fall under the following priorities:

- Healthy, Skilled and independent residents
- Safe and vibrant communities
- An excellent customer experience
- Well managed resources delivering value for money

2.6 Consultation and Comments

The following officers have provided input into this assessment:

Hilary Hall, Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning

Lynne Lidster, Head of Commissioning - People

Lin Ferguson, Director of social Care and Early Help.