

Chief Executive's Budget Proposal**OPTION: ALL AGE DISABILITY SERVICE**

2015/16	2016/17	TOTAL
£000s	£000s	£000s
600	-	600

This option would involve a holistic review and redesign of the way we deliver services to disabled children and their families, including overnight short breaks at Willow Tree and the interface between children's and adults services. It would mean a redesign of how support is delivered, with greater integration with other service areas, in particular early help and adult social care.

Detailed consultation with children and families accessing services will take place before any changes.

IMPACT ON RESIDENTS

Willow Tree is currently accessed by around 58 children and young people. This is a valuable yet high cost intervention and there could be opportunities to deliver the service more efficiently. The priority will be ensuring minimal impact on families.

The Children with Disabilities Team works with around 230 children and young people. Around 1/4 of these children are open to Social Care but do not have a Social Worker.

It is recognised that the majority of parents of disabled children do not want social work intervention; instead they want high quality, reliable consistent support to help them as a family. They also want a smooth transfer into adult services when appropriate. Therefore the benefit of these proposals is that families would receive help and support via an early help approach, and a graduated response to need wherever possible. They could also benefit from an integrated approach between children's and adult services.

The service has a total budget of £5.5 million. Benchmarking Data for this area indicates that Wirral's spend is £35 per chid (aged 0 – 17) and this compares with a Statistical Neighbour average of £17 in 2013-14.

A different approach to helping disabled children and their families could deliver longer-term efficiencies. An early help approach would put the emphasis on helping families in a preventative way, making social work intervention a last resort.

IMPACT ON PARTNERS

The Council has a duty to provide a range of short breaks to disabled children and their families. Whilst the Council is legally responsible it may choose to commission services to partner agencies and/or voluntary organisations as is currently the case.

IMPACT ON COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR

No direct implications, other than the potential for services for children with disabilities being commissioned from the sector in the future.