



Dumfries and Galloway  
IJB Finance, Performance and Quality

13<sup>th</sup> April 2023

This Report relates to  
Item 9 on the Agenda

# Short Breaks Service

*Paper presented by Fiona Paton*

*For Noting*

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<b>Approved for Submission by:</b>	Julie White, Chief Operating Officer
<b>List of Background Papers:</b>	<b>Appendix 1</b> – IJB paper – 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 <b>Appendix 2</b> – Action for Children Options Appraisal Report
<b>Appendices:</b>	Not applicable

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 Action for Children were commissioned by the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) to complete an Independent Review on Acorn House in 2019. Following this, Action for Children were commissioned by the IJB to complete an Options Appraisal Report which they shared with the IJB on 20th January 2022. The outcome of the IJB was that further work was required to consider the Options Appraisal recommendations submitted by Action for Children.

1.2 The Short Breaks Options Appraisal Group was established to consider the three preferred recommendations from an original list of eleven proposals presented to the IJB by Action for Children. The preferred options were:

### Proposal 6:

- Retain existing building but introduce a social care-led model of support.
- Service managed and coordinated by a Health and Social Care Partnership.
- Re-balance overnight residential short breaks and add alternative, flexible and diverse support after school and/or at weekends.
- Flexibility and diversity in types of support within the same service, e.g., group work, intensive support, and therapeutic sessions.

### Proposal 7:

- Retain the existing building but introduce a social care-led model of support.
- Service managed and coordinated by one provider.
- Make use of two separate areas in existing building for: 1. Overnight short breaks 2. Longer-term residential care/crisis support.
- Seek an additional base to act as a hub for providing additional, flexible and diverse daytime services, e.g., outreach support, group work, drop-in sessions, afterschool and weekend sessions.

### Proposal 8:

- Retain the existing building but introduce a social care-led model of support.
- Service managed and coordinated by a Health and Social Care Partnership.
- Make use of two separate areas in existing building for: 1. Overnight short breaks 2. Longer-term residential care/crisis support.
- Seek an additional base to act as a hub for providing additional, flexible and diverse daytime services, e.g., outreach support, group work, drop-in sessions, afterschool and weekend sessions

1.3 Following consideration of the options listed above, it is apparent that all 3 options are not deliverable from a financial perspective. Further work needs to be undertaken to establish what can be delivered within the financial envelope before a final recommendation is made to IJB.

## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 **The Integration Joint Board is asked to:**

- **Note that further work is required as per section 1.3 and a**

**recommendation on how to proceed will be brought back to a future meeting**

**3. Background and Main Report**

3.1 Acorn House is the service which currently provides residential short breaks and support to children and young people (up to 18 years old) with complex disabilities and/or profound health care needs and challenging behaviour, and their families/carers. It is the only provider of residential short breaks for children and young people throughout Dumfries and Galloway. NHS Dumfries and Galloway manage this facility in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Council. Health Care staff deliver the service following a nurse-led model. 17 children currently access this service. It is equipped with ten single occupancy bedrooms, an interactive sensory room, and a large secure garden with a play area.

**4. Conclusions**

4.1 Further work needs to be undertaken to establish what can be delivered within the financial envelope before a final recommendation is made to IJB.

**5. Resource Implications**

5.1 Not applicable.

**6. Impact on Integration Joint Board Outcomes, Priorities and Policy**

6.1 The proposed options considered will be cognisant of the IJB Strategic Commissioning Plan and the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes.

**7. Legal and Risk Implications**

7.1 We are unable to quantify the reputational, clinical and financial risk until the options appraisal exercise has been completed.

**8. Consultation**

8.1 Not applicable, update for noting only on the ongoing process.

**9. Equality Impact Assessment**

9.1 An EQIA will be completed as part of the process for consideration.

**10. Glossary**

<b>EQIA</b>	<b>Equalities Impact Assessment</b>
<b>IJB</b>	<b>Integration Joint Board</b>