

Resident Impact Assessment

Title of policy, procedure, function, service activity or financial decision:

Proposal for the future delivery of services from Lough Road (Centre for Disabled Children).

Service Area: Children's Services

1. What are the intended outcomes of this policy, function etc?

To improve outcomes for disabled children in Islington who require social care support services.

2. Resident Profile

Who is going to be impacted by this change i.e. residents/service users/tenants? Please complete data for your service users. If your data does not fit into the categories in this table, please copy and paste your own table in the space below. Please refer to **section 3.3** of the guidance for more information.

Cohort	Islington children with a statement or an Education Health and Care Plan (SEN/EHCP) to meet special educational needs	Islington parents of children who receive social care support services due to a child having a disability.
Number and Age Range	928 (age 3-19)	250 (age 0-18)

The two cohorts above are not an exact match for data comparison but the closest that can be achieved as some children with SEN/EHCP statements may be looked after and these are not included in the parent count. Equally some parents might have a disabled child but the nature of their disability does not meet the criteria for an SEN/EHCP. Based on the above calculation, approximately 27% of children with an SEN/EHCP will be in receipt of some social care support services.

23 children (9.2% of children who receive social care support due to a disability) currently use the services provided by Lough Road.

3. Equality impacts¹

With reference to the [guidance](#), please describe what are the equality and socio-economic impacts for residents and what are the opportunities to challenge prejudice or promote understanding?

Relevant Equalities Dimensions

Ethnicity

The variance in terms of race when comparing the Lough Road population with the wider Islington child population showed a significantly lower presence of white british children (17.4% vs 32.6%). This is however consistent when comparing Lough Road children to all disabled children receiving social care services where the figure is 17.6%.

English as a second language for parents

English is a second language for the parents of approximately 50% of the children using Lough Road.

Children living in single parent households

Approximately 60% of the children using Lough Road live in a single parent household.

Families reliant on welfare benefits

Whilst this data is not routinely collected, it is estimated based on the knowledge of the current children using Lough Road that 60% of the families are wholly reliant on welfare benefits, with the remaining 40% being parents who work and some of those might also receive some benefits to supplement their income.

Analysis

Lough Road has a high number of parents who have English as a second language and who need more help around communicating with other agencies and in understanding and navigating the complex network of agencies (e.g. health, social care and education) involved in the care of their disabled child. The nature and complexity of the disabilities that the children at Lough Road present with are extremely demanding for their parents on a day to day basis. Most if not all families are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance and most at the higher rate for care and/or mobility.

Lough Road also has a high proportion of children from black and minority ethnic groups who live in a single parent household, and where the parent has little or no support network. There are a number of single parents (most often mothers) where the other parent is either living abroad and/or has disengaged from supporting their family.

¹ Actual numbers have not been published as they are very low and could potentially identify individual families.

This leaves those parents quite isolated and vulnerable and in more need of support. Many also have more than one child to care for and so the challenge of managing a very disabled child as well as other children can become very overwhelming.

The children who use Lough Road have very severe and complex disabilities and are therefore heavily reliant on their parents for their day to day care arrangements. Many parents are therefore in turn heavily reliant on short break services to provide them with a much needed break in caring which if discontinued would most likely result in family breakdown.

The children are therefore also heavily reliant on others helping to care for them and support them and to have those services well co-ordinated, a task which for many parents is very difficult to manage and for which they need help. In summary these families are some of Islington's most vulnerable families.

It is perhaps not surprising therefore that quite a number of parents who were consulted about the proposals described times when they had experienced symptoms of ill mental health, e.g. depression, anxiety and it was identified that more needed to be done to provide them with counselling support at times of crisis.

The above explains why there is lower number of white British children using Lough Road. Their families are more like to be better supported locally through well established family and friends networks. Their parents are more likely to be able to navigate services independently and select services and make other arrangements by which to get the support they need for their families. This would therefore suggest that Children's Social Care Services are correctly supporting more families who are from non white British origin and this is mirrored in the cohort of families using Lough Road.

The reconfiguration of the services at Lough Road in relation to meeting the identified needs of these families and their children, will impact as set out in the table below.

Service Element	Pre-implementation	Post-implementation
Case Management	163 out of 250 children and their parents do not have their support needs regularly reviewed and have no named lead professional. The resultant risks are in relation to needs no longer being sufficiently met as well as support packages not being appropriate. This means the relationship between outcomes for the child, the services and the costs are lost which means it is not possible to tell if the services provided are meeting the intended outcomes for the child.	All 250 children and their parents will have a named Lead Professional who will offer a level of service which is proportionate to the child and family's needs but will meet basic statutory duties with the requirement of at least one annual support review. No adverse impact
Day Time Short Breaks	23 children are currently using Lough Road for after school, weekend and holiday daytime short breaks. Some of these children genuinely cannot access other suitable short break provision	The admission criteria for daytime Short Breaks Services at Lough Road will be focused on a child's ability to access other provision and they will either work towards that goal with children OR an

	<p>due to the nature of their disability, shortage of alternative weekend provision as well as a shortage of an appropriate child care offer for working parents who have severely disabled children. The hourly unit cost is almost twice that of any other similar commissioned service and the council is subsidising every hour at £20 therefore use should be tightly controlled and based on assessed need.</p>	<p>assessment will evidence that this is not possible and they will continue to use it. This means more children have the potential for accessing services at Lough Road and the unit cost per hour, which will be high as many children require 1:1 or even higher staffing levels can be justified as it will only be for those children with the most severe and complex needs. No adverse impact.</p>
<p>Intensive Behaviour Outreach Support</p>	<p>Lough Road have provided this where there has been capacity to do so. The offer has therefore been sporadic and has not been well embedded into the range of services Islington offers to parents who need help in managing a child's challenging behaviour at home and out in the community.</p>	<p>This will be a properly defined service offer which can deliver a community based intensive intervention for an agreed number of families per annum. This kind of service response is known to be instrumental in avoiding family breakdown and thus mitigating the cost of a child coming into care or the cost of support packages rising year on year as parents struggle more and more and need more and more help at home or breaks in caring. No adverse impact.</p>
<p>Overnight Residential Short Breaks (a.k.a respite care)</p>	<p>Lough Road is registered as a Children's Home so that some children can sleep here from time to time so that their parents have a break in caring. It is estimated that up to 5 young people at any one time require a residentially based service like this. The numbers of children needing this service is so low that to continue to operate the scheme for Islington means important other service gaps cannot be addressed as too much money is tied up into running this resource.</p>	<p>Islington children who require this kind of service will have residential services commissioned from the range of private sector providers. The impact is that these services may not be in Islington but funding for transport will be included where needed. Islington will continue to use the Overnight Short Breaks Steering Group (recently established) to continue to monitor the impact and alert senior officers should difficulties emerge. No adverse impact anticipated.</p>
<p>Counselling for parents and families</p>	<p>Not available through Children's Social Care Services.</p>	<p>We would have some money set aside to fund counselling sessions for families for whom existing services are not available or for example would take too long to access and the need was acute.</p>

- Is the proposal likely to have a negative impact on equality of opportunity for people with protected characteristics? Are there any opportunities for advancing equality of opportunity for people with protected characteristics?

The families using the services currently will continue to be able to use the services and it is not expected that the profile of the families will change. Social Care Services for disabled children will continue to support a high proportion of BME families, many of whom have English as a second language. Many families will continue to be single parent families and many families will continue to be heavily reliant on Council funded services for support as they are reliant on welfare benefits.

However, more Islington disabled children and their families can potentially make use of the widened offer of services at Lough Road and an improved overall case management offer to better ensure services continue to meet outcomes and are offering value for money. The improved oversight of the needs of the families means we can adjust our support levels appropriately and parents will have a named professional to contact in an emergency or if there is a change in circumstances which requires us to respond.

The work of the different service elements will be far more outcome focused and seek to ensure that children will have access to services that match their level of need and where the cost is justified (the more complex the need the higher the cost).

The aim of the intensive behaviour outreach service is to reduce the overall risk of family breakdown by intervening early with children who are presenting with challenging behaviours at home and where other parent focused interventions (e.g. specialist parenting programmes) have not been sufficient.

The small group of children needing occasional overnight residential short breaks may have to travel further. Children normally only go for an overnight stay once or twice a month and we do not anticipate any significant adverse impact. Family friends and relatives also do not always live in the same borough for disabled children who do not need to access council commissioned services because they are supported in their own family network. There is a real need to improve early planning with parents who we can predict may need respite care services so that referrals can be made in a timely way and we avoid needing these services in an emergency. Ensuring all families have an annual support review will address this.

- Is the proposal likely to have a negative impact on good relations between communities with protected characteristics and the rest of the population in Islington? Are there any opportunities for fostering good relations?

The specification of the different elements of service delivery has been co-produced with parents using Lough Road through a series of workshops. We have also consulted and involved key professionals from Whittington Health, Pupil Services and the Special Needs Schools.

There is no adverse impact from the reconfiguration of Lough Road services on the immediate neighbours, the centre will still be working with disabled children and their families and relationships currently are understood to be very good.

- Is the proposal a strategic decision where inequalities associated with socio-economic disadvantage can be reduced?

One of the issues identified during the consultation workshops was a lack of appropriate child care provision for parents of children with severe disabilities. Parents of non-disabled children can choose from a range of places by which to secure child care between school time and when a parents comes in from work or for holiday times. We are planning to address this with relevant partners, so that more parents of disabled children could take up employment opportunities and are not disadvantaged through a lack of provision.

4. Safeguarding and Human Rights impacts

a) Safeguarding risks and Human Rights breaches

Please describe any safeguarding risks for children or vulnerable adults AND any potential human rights breaches that may occur as a result of the proposal? Please refer to **section 4.8** of the [guidance](#) for more information.

No adverse impacts have been identified. Social care services have a duty to promote and safeguard the welfare of children in need and their families and the 250 children in the cohort subject to this RIA fall into that category. As such social care services will continue to assess their needs and ensure they are in receipt of appropriate services and arguably in a far more robust way than it has been able to hitherto by redirecting the funding for Lough Road to deliver the same services differently with some at a lower cost and thereby ensuring all families have access to a named professional who can continue to monitor and oversee that services are working effectively together to ensure we have good outcomes for children and families.

If potential safeguarding and human rights risks are identified then please contact equalities@islington.gov.uk to discuss further:

5. Action

How will you respond to the impacts that you have identified in sections 3 and 4, or address any gaps in data or information?

For more information on identifying actions that will limit the negative impact of the policy for protected groups see the [guidance](#).

Action	Responsible person or team	Deadline
1. Overnight Short Breaks Steering Group to continue to monitor the range of provision available for overnight breaks for parents.	Social Care lead commissioner, reporting to SEND Joint Commissioning subgroup.	Already Implemented

2. Lough Road Centre Management Board to be established to monitor the overall performance of the different services (cost/quality and outcomes) and consider any equality impacts (positive and negative). The forum to include parent reps as well as representation from Whittington Health, Pupil Services, Early Years and Special Schools.	Social Care lead commissioner, reporting to SEND Joint Commissioning subgroup.	Ongoing (to commence from start of new service delivery model)
3. Parents to have access to timely and helpful information about services they may need now as well as in future and to be supported in considering those services as part of the annual review process, so that timely referrals are made for specific services as well as in meeting the Transition Duty under the Care Act through effective pathways to Adult Social Care Services.	Operational Manager for Children in Need / Disabled Children	July 2016

NB this RIA was taken for consultation and sign off from parents who are users of Lough Road Centre on 10.12.2015.

Please send the completed RIA to equalities@islington.gov.uk and also make it publicly available online along with the relevant policy or service change.

This Resident Impact Assessment has been completed in accordance with the guidance and using appropriate evidence.

Staff member completing this form: Ida Cohen

Signed:



Date: 18/01/2016

Head of Service or higher: Cathy Blair

Signed:



Date: 18/01/2016