



Consultation Report

Short Breaks Self-Referral Clubs March 2023

Families of children who currently attend the clubs, have recently attended the clubs or intend to use the clubs were asked to complete a short survey to provide feedback to help shape the next contract which is due to commence 1st April 2024..

The survey was created in Survey Monkey and was shared via the following routes:

- With families on the disability register mailing list (515 contacts)
- Local Offer Facebook Page
- Shared via the club providers directly with families attending their clubs.

The survey was available between 14th February – 10th March 2023. A copy of the survey is embedded below:



Short Breaks Survey -
Part 2 Feb 2023.pdf

We received **32** responses to the survey.

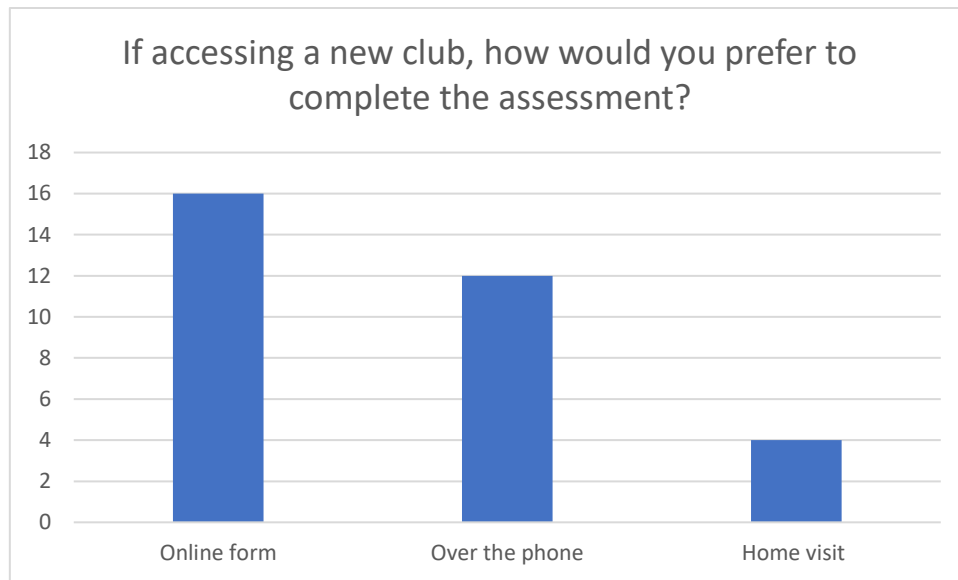
Any personal information has been removed in the published report. Any concerns raised as part of this consultation are being addressed with the club providers directly.

Feedback is outlined below:



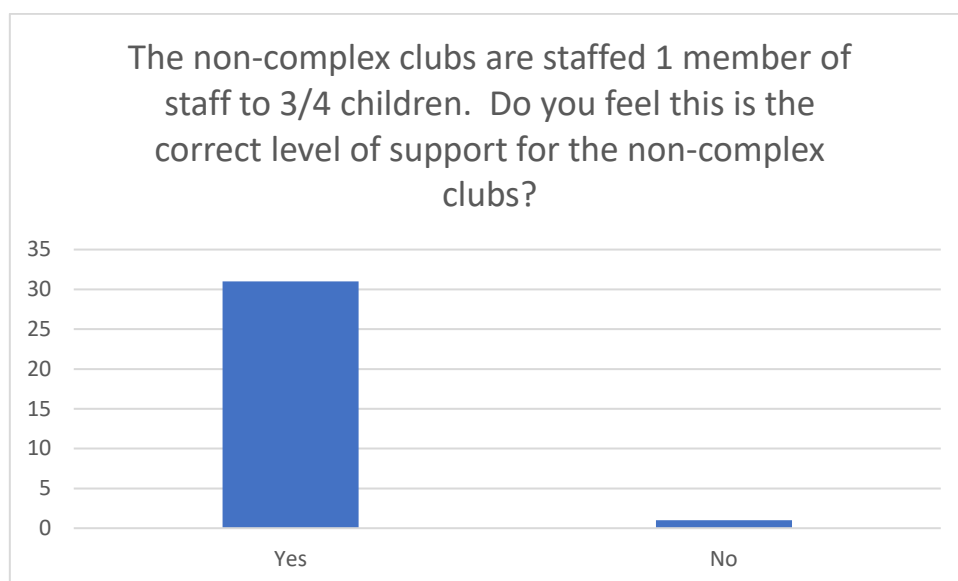
If not, is there anything the club could have done to improve this? Some examples might be a children's guide, social story, video tour of the club

- A few photos and a description of some of the activities.
- Guides and social stories would be beneficial.
- Was brilliant however the autism play group is advertised as that but is when you get there so my friend felt bad she thought it was just a playgroup for anyone.
- I felt very let down by the X club my son tried to join - no one (including staff) turned up after I'd filled out the assessment and arranged a start date. It really put him off going again.
- I made enquiries before my son began to attend which gave me more specific information. A young peoples guide, social story or video tour would be good.



Please feel free to add any further comments about the assessment process.

- Over the phone is good as it gives personal communication. A home visit could be difficult to organise regarding available time.



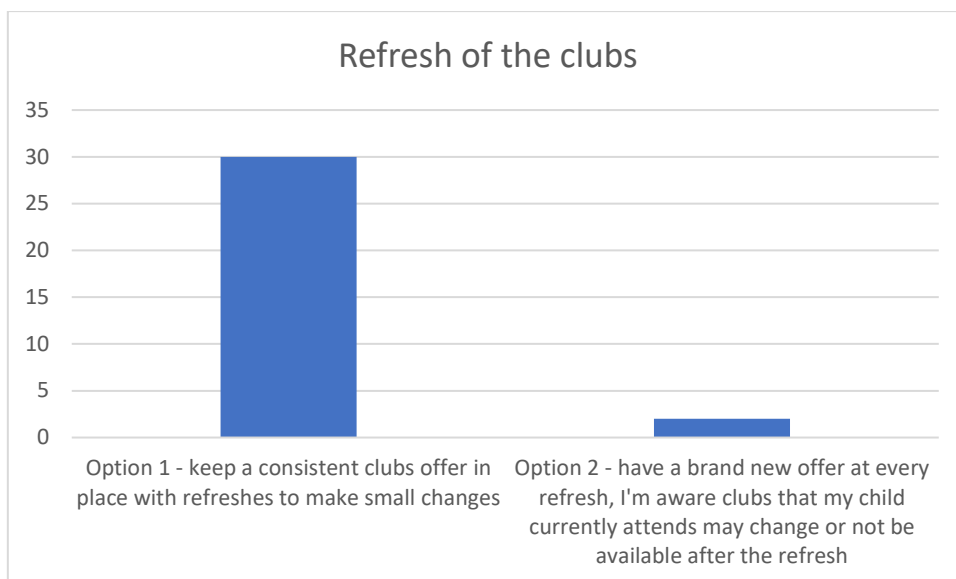
We are proposing that all staff working in clubs have a minimum level of training as outlined below, is there any other training you feel would be beneficial?

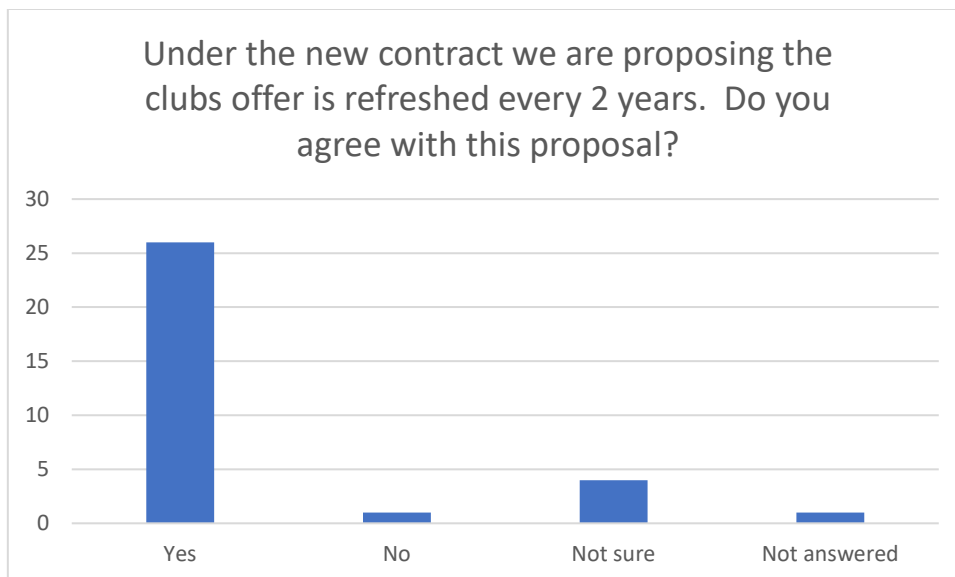
- First Aid
 - Medication Administration
 - Autism/ADHD Training
 - Epilepsy Training
 - Safeguarding
 - Equality and Diversity
 - De-escalation training.
-
- Safe handling
 - Training on communication aids
 - Autism
 - This training looks great
 - Therapeutic type training maybe
 - PACE training is brilliant to understand how children are feeling
 - No
 - Moving and handling
 - Learning disabilities/development delay awareness
 - Emotional awareness
 - Autism

We currently refresh the clubs offer every 12 to 24 months. We do this so families get an opportunity to feedback on the offer and make changes. Some examples of the changes to date are; moving the weekend provision from term time to full time, incorporating day trips and having a free sibling offer. Our aim has been to keep the clubs that are well attended running at the same time and day to provide consistency for families.

Moving forward, we need to know if families would prefer refreshes which provide small changes to the current clubs (current process) or if families would prefer a brand new offer at every refresh, this may mean clubs which children attend take place on different days/times or are no longer available but would allow new clubs to be part of the offer until the next refresh.

Please confirm which option you prefer:



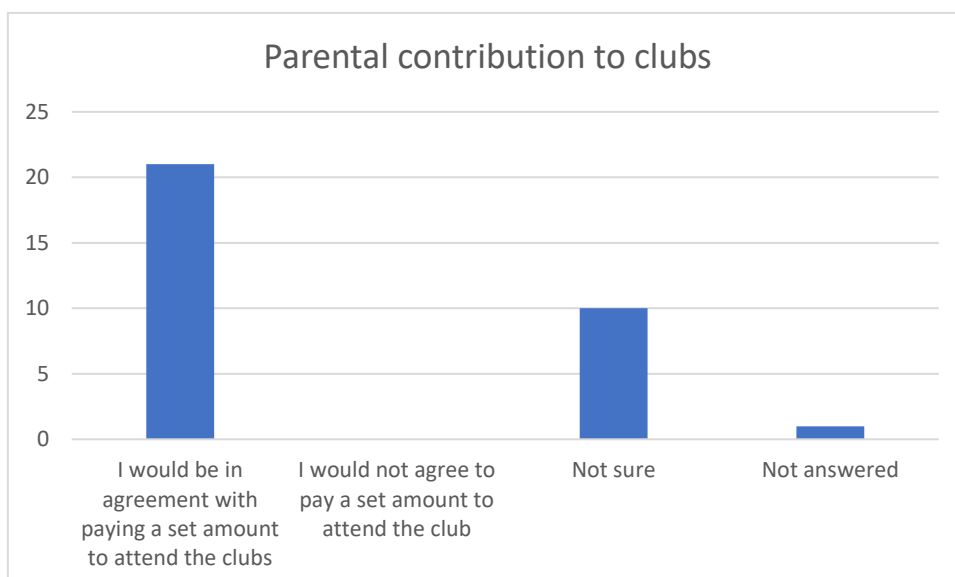


Comments about the refresh

- I'm tired of 1:1 clubs being the 'poor relative' these families are under more stress yet have less choice. Why can't some 1:1 be provided alongside the main clubs for those who sit on the middle?
- I think it should be more often

In the current offer clubs are permitted to charge a voluntary contribution towards the club provision, this money is used to pay for materials and activities. The cost of delivering the clubs service is increasing which may mean we can no longer continue offering the same number of places per week. We would like to know your thoughts on having a set contribution from parents to attend the clubs with 100% of this going back into the club provision. Suggested amounts would be:

- After school clubs £3.00 (2 hour session)
- Weekend club £5.00 (3 hour session)
- Holiday club £8.00 (5 hour session)



Comments relating to parents paying a set contribution to access the clubs

- No way can I afford those prices you have suggested! The cost of living is going to make people choose and charging that is going to mean the most vulnerable children get zero interaction in the holidays and out of school
- Too much as families are with bills also, but willing to pay something

- Happy paying £5 for holiday club but no more than this
- I understand with cost of living but things are tight we are on benefits
- Financially we can afford these charges. Is there a way of enabling families who are struggling financially to be offered a reduction, perhaps.
- If it supports the children's needs I won't mind sometimes funding isn't enough to cover cost.

Any other feedback you would like to share?

- Need more provision for children with more complex needs (1:1 or 2:1 kids)
- It would be good if the venue was consistent and communication between those that run the group notify of change by phone call or text message as this can be distressing to the young person and also an issue when parent or carer doesn't drive a car and relies on public transport.
- These clubs are so valuable and a lifeline to families during school holidays
- No
- Our son has begun attending the Join-Ups Plus group at 25K on a Tuesday evening. He has been reluctant to attend any social clubs independently since Covid and so we were unsure regarding how he would manage. However, we were thrilled to find that he loved the experience and soon asked to stay without his dad to support him. So thank you to this club for making the experience so interesting and engaging for our teenage son.
- As a parent of an autistic child it would be nice to see more options or more sessions available for 1:1 care needs. Unfortunately, places tend to go very quickly and on several occasions we have missed out. Also, maybe a holiday club at a local SEN school once a week. I feel myself and lots of other parents would use this facility
- *Feedback received about a club provider, this is being reviewed and addressed by the Commissioning Team.*

Thank you to everyone who took part in this consultation 😊

Next steps

- The feedback will be reviewed with club organisations (new and those already delivering clubs) at an upcoming Market Engagement Event to gain their feedback on potential changes to the next Short Breaks Contract. (March 2023)
- The Local Authority will consider feedback from families and feedback from providers and will incorporate the agreed changes into the next Short Breaks Contract. (April 2023)
- Updated consultation report to be created for families – You said we did. (May/June 2023)