

Short Breaks Consultation 2017

Background

Currently approximately 128 children are accessing level one short breaks in the city.

Some young people attend more than one setting but numbers are broken per setting and are as follows:

- Portsmouth Teenage Project - 25 individuals
- Inclusive Holiday Play Scheme - 66 individuals
- Portsmouth Autism Support Network - 18 individuals
- Youth Holiday Programme - 21 individuals

In line with the reduction of budget for the service, it has become necessary to look at how ongoing services could be delivered.

In order to understand how these options may affect the current service users a consultation was launched. Although mainly targeted at families using these services, the consultation was open to all Portsmouth residents should they wish to participate.

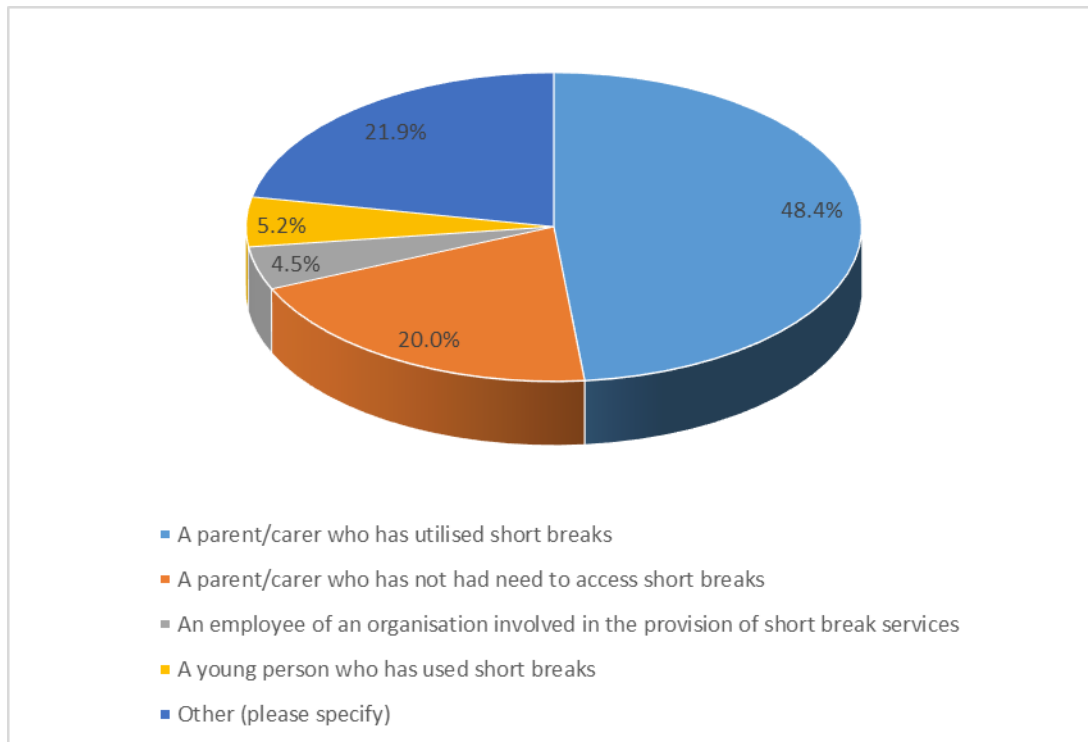
NOTE - this consultation was ascertaining feedback regarding level one breaks ONLY.

Prior to the consultation launching, the co-production group engaged into preliminary conversations around the topic. A consultation questionnaire was developed and the consultation ran from Monday 9th January - Monday 20th March 2017. The education team ensured that all interested parties were invited to comment (i.e. parents currently accessing the service, interested parties/suppliers), as well as being available on the PCC website. There was also some promotion via the citizens' panel.

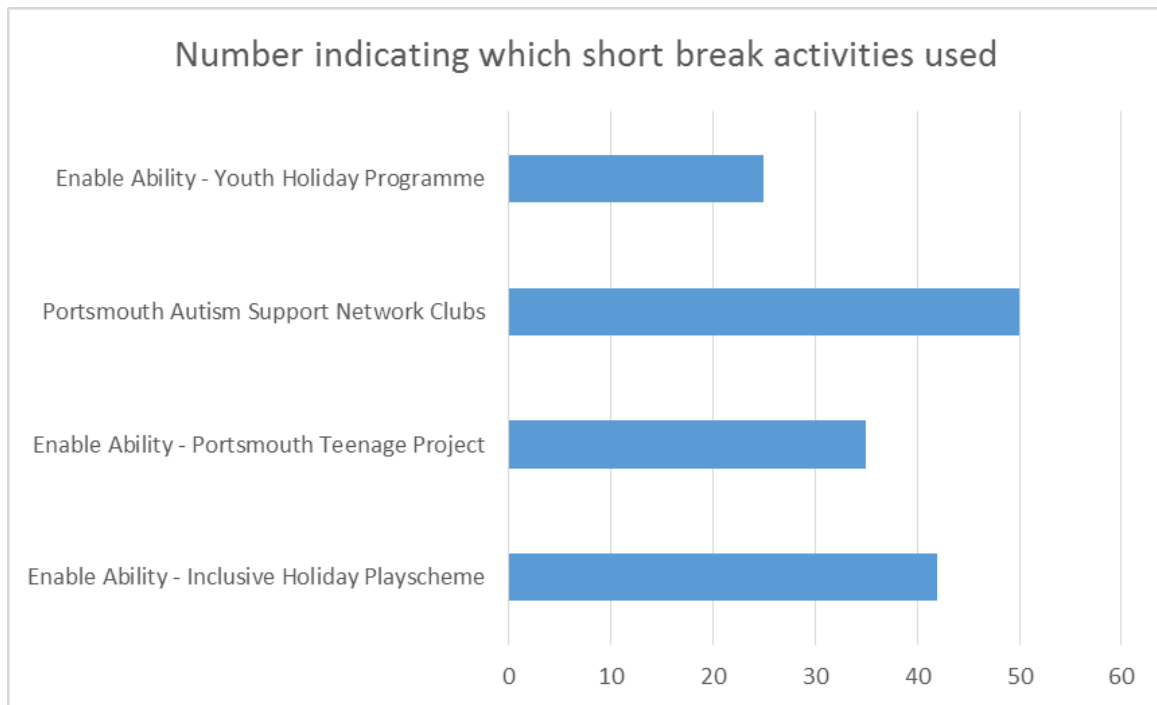
In total 157 individuals participated. All were completed via the electronic link provided. Of those completing the survey, 75 were parents who have used level one short breaks for their child/young person

The confidence level of this sample is 90%. This is the probability that the sample accurately reflects the attitudes of the entire universe.

Results

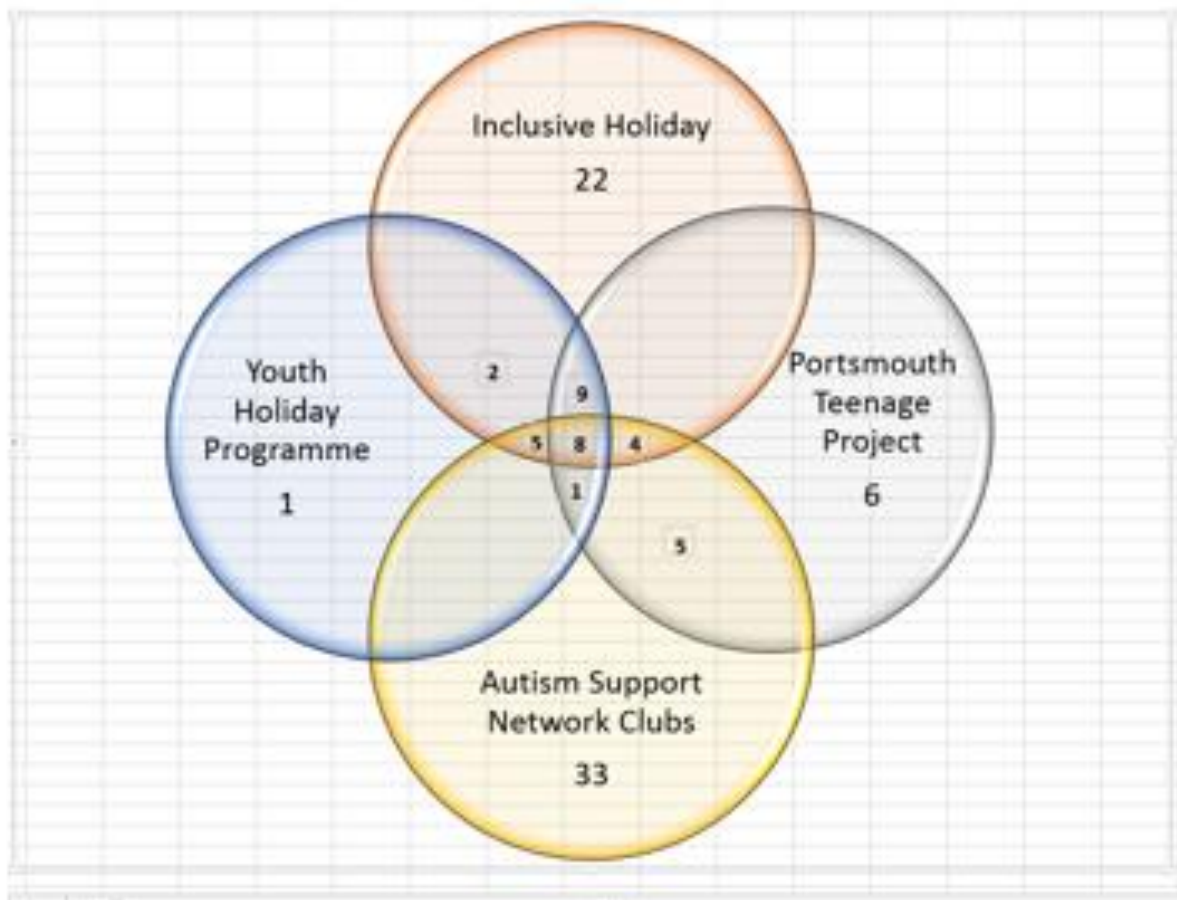


The majority (48.4%) of those responding are parents or carers who have used the short break provision. 'Other' accounted for 21.9% of responses. These included teachers, citizens' panel members, grandparents and other professionals working in the SEN sector (other than from a provider). Seven individuals responded from organisations involved in the provision of short break services.



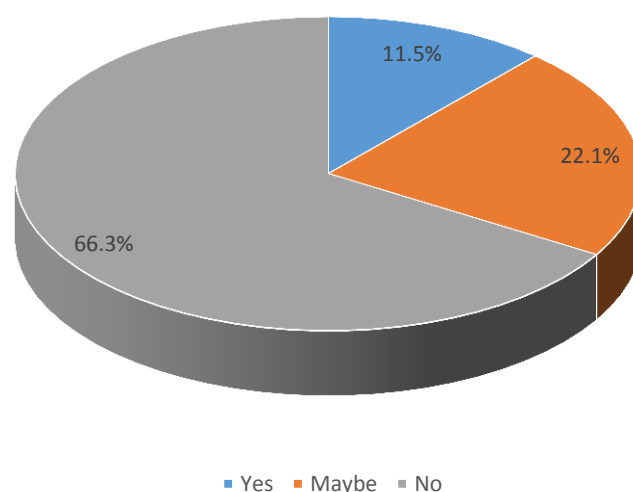
Of those who have used the service, we asked respondents to indicate which services they had used. Of those responding the Autism Support Network Clubs and the Inclusive Holiday Playscheme were the two most widely utilised.

Some respondents indicated that they used multiple activities and the cross-over can be seen in the Venn diagram below.



Thirty-one (32%) of the 97 who responded to this question indicated that they had used more than one of the services.

Do you agree that expenditure on short breaks activities should be reduced in order to contribute to the savings required?



Unsurprisingly, the majority of those who responded - 66.3% - did not agree that short breaks activities should be reduced to contribute to the savings required. However, of those who responded, alternative cost saving suggestions were very limited.

Forty-seven individuals offered an alternative but for the most part they were unviable and demonstrated a lack of understanding in the way council funding works across the organisation, in so much as the general feeling was that cutbacks should be employed elsewhere or further increases in council tax should be considered to plug any savings/cost gaps in this particular budget.

"Reduce expenditure within the council, e.g. Wages or benefits such as company cars."

"Cut budgets from elsewhere such as stop changing road systems that work perfectly well. Or cut schemes like park and ride."

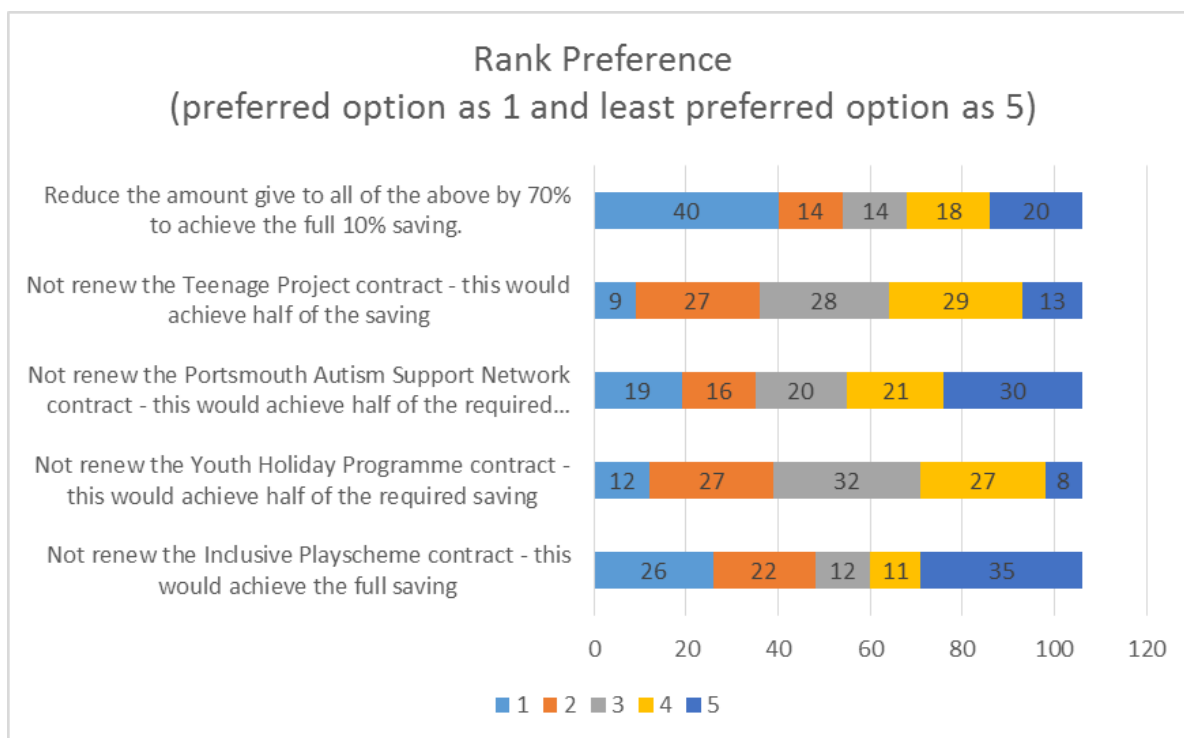
"Find funding from another source."

Others indicated that more fundraising or contributions to attendance would contribute to maintaining the services.

"Fund raisers."

"Council to identify self-funders over thresholds of financial support who can self-fund / contribute towards the cost of care and short breaks."

"Paid membership of charity, increase of charge to attendees of events."



Although those who responded do not wish to see a reduction in budget for this area, it is evident that few ideas provided would realistically enable services to be maintained in their current format.

We also know from some of the pre-consultation engagement work we carried out that parents did appreciate the complexity the local authority was facing when deciding on a way forward and they themselves could not clearly articulate a solution.

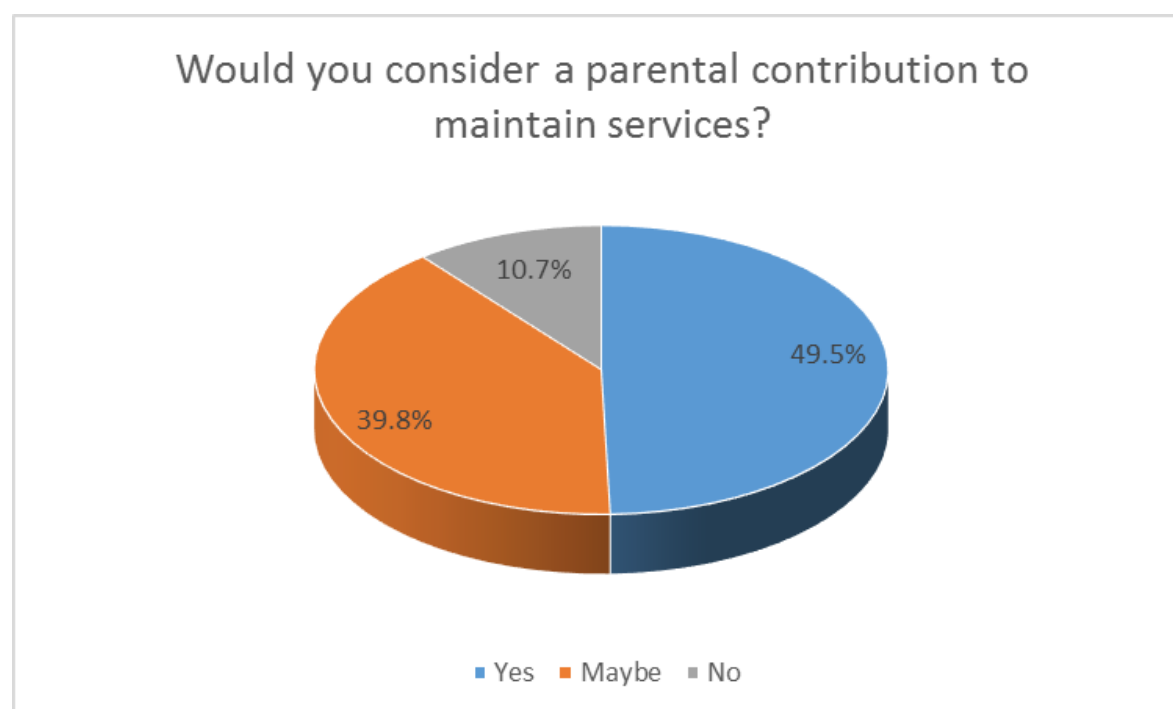
We asked participants to indicate which of the following options they preferred, by asking them to rank each of them - with being their preferred option and 5 their least.

- Reduce the amount given to all of the providers by 70% to achieve the full 10% saving.
- Not renew the Teenage Project contract - this would achieve half of the saving.
- Not renew the Portsmouth Autism Support Network contract - this would achieve half of the saving.
- Not renew the Youth Holiday Programme contract - this would achieve half of the required saving.
- Not renew the Inclusive Playscheme contract - this would achieve the full saving.

The most frequently chosen option to be ranked '1' was to reduce the amount given to all of the options in order to achieve the full savings. It was noted by some respondents that this would in fact deliver more than the required saving and there was a worry that more would be lost than was required. It would therefore be prudent to communicate such a change clearly and give details on where any additional savings would be made, i.e. would other services for this group be commissioned or would they be used in another way.

The least popular option was not to renew the Inclusive Playscheme contract, although a significant proportion also chose it as their most preferred option. Looking at combined scores of 4 and 5, the highest scoring option was 'Not to renew the Portsmouth Autism Support Network.

Overall, there seems to be a sentiment that it is more 'fair' to shave some off every service rather than remove any one service. Given the usage and preference of certain provisions, it may be a case of considering staggered or proportional reduction across all services rather than a blanket 10%.



Again we know from conversations in pre-consultation meetings that some parents would be happy to contribute to the maintenance of services. Just under 50% said they would consider a parental contribution, with many more (39.8%) indicating that they might, from comments this would seemingly be dependent on means testing or levels of contribution required. Only 10.7% dismissed the idea of a parental contribution entirely.

When asked what a reasonable contribution looked like, there were many different responses and there can all be seen in the verbatim section of the report. However, means testing and affordability of provision remained paramount. It was also important that any cost incurred should not be more than the standard provision for such services as holiday clubs that could be accessed by those without a disability.

Below are a small number of examples of comments given:

"Not sure as parents contribute anyway. As far as holiday provision goes, I had understood there was a drive to ensure parents of special needs children did not pay more than those without disabilities."

"An affordable amount so that a family on benefit could still utilise services."

"10 pounds per session."

"We already pay for teenage project and paid for play scheme. A small increase would be acceptable but anything too high would stop us attending"

Grant based funding

When asked about grant based funding, it seems that there is split opinion amongst respondents. Some indicated they preferred a grant based process or to keep long term contracts but were maybe open to a mix of both. Twenty-eight individuals said 'Yes' to the introduction of a grant based system, 38 wanted to keep long-term contracts and 43 thought a mix of both would be the better option.

Without doubt the most important thing for respondents is that they are kept up to date and well informed regarding any changes. Those who like the idea of a grant based system like the idea of its flexibility and this is perhaps a consideration and should be promoted as a benefit if a grant system is adopted.

Full comments relating to the grant based funding proposal can be found in the verbatim section of the report.

Feedback from Organisations Providing Short Break Provision

Interestingly when asked if funding should be reduced to short breaks provision, opinion was divided.

Only 7 did respond, but only 5 responded to the question regarding a reduction in funding and of those 5, 1 agreed and 2 answered 'maybe'.

The 2 who did not agree gave the following comments:

- Council to identify self-funders over thresholds of financial support who can self-fund / contribute towards the cost of care and short breaks.
- I understand that if PCC determine that a cut has to be made to short breaks services then this will have to be implemented. I think it would have been helpful to have made representation to the councillors regarding the benefits to the recipients and the potential for alternatives to be considered instead - though I appreciate that the survey would have needed to have been completed much earlier to have been in a position to do so.

The most popular option of the ranking questions was 'Not to renew the inclusive play scheme contract' - one must remember that very small numbers are at play here and any consideration should be looked at in terms of parental/user priority as well as provider priority.

Reasons for ranking given included:

- I know least about the works that the youth holiday programme does and the autism support network.
- I don't particularly think either option is the right one. Maybe a better/fairer option would be to take 55% from inclusive and 20% from the other projects saving an estimated £45,350. At Enable Ability I think we would rather take the cut from the inclusive play scheme
- I don't really think that any of these alternatives is ideal (especially as a cut of 70% to all projects amounts to almost double the required saving needed & a 70% cut to the Inclusive Play scheme would nearly meet the full requirement (a 100% cut would be £13,000 more than is needed). If there has to be a cut I think that, for the projects run by Enable Ability, there is considerably more capacity for a cut to the Inclusive Play scheme but that it may be more equitable to balance a more sizeable cut to this project with a significantly smaller cut to the other 3 projects. As the Youth Holiday Scheme and the Teenage Project are both so

successful and provide regular support to such a vulnerable group of young people I think that the cutting of either one or both of these services would be devastating to its participants.

- Inclusive was designed to be short term, it seems unwise to continue a service that needs to be scaled down, rather than scaling down services that present opportunities for expansion.

All providers agreed that a parental contribution would be welcome with suggestions ranging from a flat £100 fee to introducing an increase in 30% of the current contribution.

Finally when asked for any additional comments, the following two statements were submitted:

- I think that the final decision needs to be carefully considered - not only based on parental feedback but value for money, outcomes, alternatives (or the lack of them) that may be available, etc. As the provider for 3 of the 4 projects Enable Ability would really appreciate the opportunity to discuss the outcome of the survey with a view to exploring the most equitable and realistic way forward before the final decision is taken if at all possible.
- Combine services for reduced cost - Teenage Project & Youth Holiday Programme.

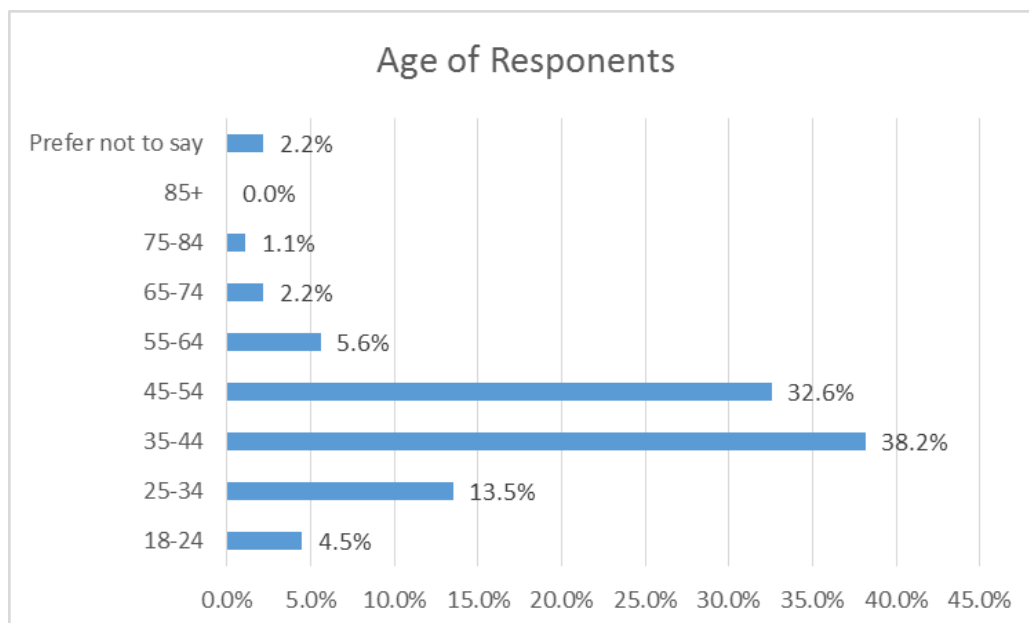
MOSAIC Split of Respondents

We have an overarching MOSAIC profile of the city as a whole and broadly speaking those who responded are similar to the overarching profile.

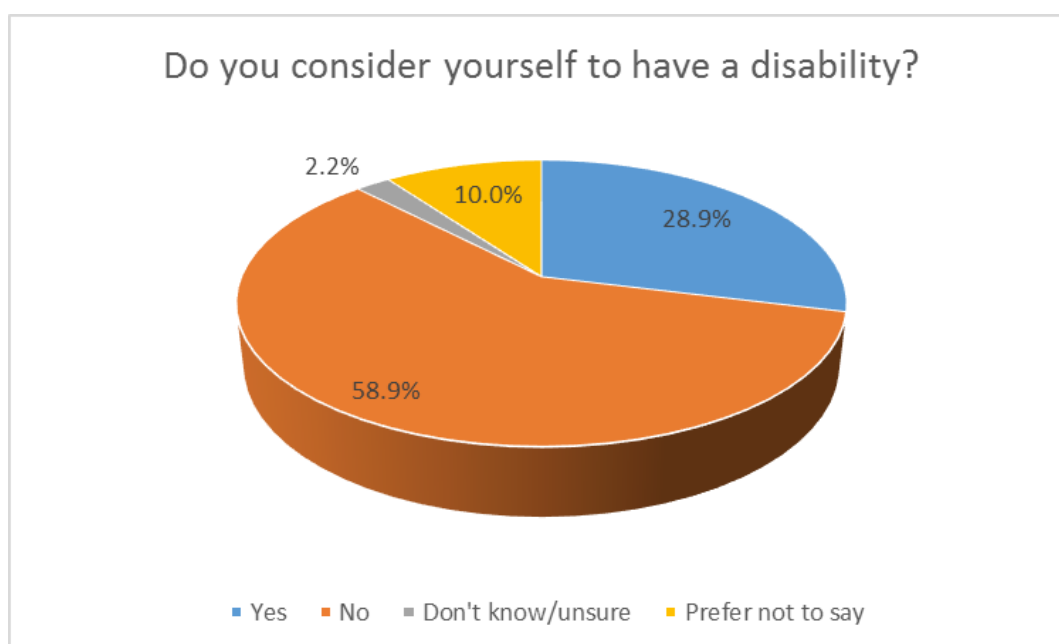
However, some of the more affluent groups that are less significant in the overall Portsmouth population are over-represented in the group of responders for consultation. They include Domestic Success, Suburban Stability, Urban Cohesion and Prestige Positions. All groups that have higher incomes and more affluent lifestyles generally. This may be because these groups are more likely to comment on such types of consultation. It is important to note that some of the comments made by these groups in terms of financial contribution may be less popular amongst other families that are struggling more. It should also be noted, these individuals account for 20.61% of all responses.

Demographic Information

Respondents were split as follows: 17.78% Male, 78.89% Female and 3.3% opted not disclose their gender.



The age range of those who responded is as would be expected in such a consultation with the majority of individuals indicating that they fall into either the 34-44 year or 45-54 year age brackets.



When asked about ethnicity, 92.22% indicated they were white English, Welsh, Scottish, Norther Irish or British. Again this in line with other consultations and is broadly representative of the city.

Others identified their ethnicity as Irish, Asian/Asian British: Indian, Black/African/Caribbean/ Black British: African. Three opted not to say, while a fourth chose 'other' but expressed a view that this information is unnecessary.

Verbatim Responses

Verbatim 1 - If you do not agree with the proposed budget reductions, do you have any alternative proposals that you would wish to suggest?

1. cutbacks elsewhere
2. Stop giving benefits to everyone who strolls into our country, and to those who can't be bothered to work
3. Support for these parents and their kids is already so limited, don't take away precious support or they will cost more when things break down. Increase the Tax for people who earn the most.
4. The money should be saved elsewhere in the council but not reducing services for some of the most vulnerable children in the city. Services are already quite limited.
5. Portsmouth City Council spends a lot of money buying properties in other areas. This small saving could have come from that budget.
6. Without a list of expenditure by the Council complete with budgets listed it would be impossible to say.
7. To liaise more with local community/sports/entertainment facilities e.g. The Pyramids, Cinemas etc. to hold special sessions for those on the Autism spectrum and other disabilities for a Autism/disability family only session much like Tesco's have introduced an hour for shopping on the weekends 9am-10am for families to access during a quiet time. This could be something the local centres could do so that families can enjoy time together in a less stressful environment. Families would be prepared to pay for this but it would be a designated time for them to enjoy without prejudice or anxieties.
8. No
9. It's a massive help who families who. Have daily struggles
10. Reduce expenditure within the council, e.g. Wages or benefits such as company cars.
11. There isn't a great deal for children with Autism can do. We enjoy Gym ,on a regular basis as a family and really enjoy it
12. Remove the layers of middle management.
13. Better procurement, control of unnecessary waste, without the need to cut - what is often the only safe environment for those with Mental Health issues to freely be themselves without fear of judgement.
14. Seek cost savings elsewhere, through process improvement.
15. Find funding from somewhere else
16. Cut budgets from elsewhere such as stop changing road systems that work perfectly well. Or cut schemes like park and ride
17. Small increase to tax
18. I suggest that senior management could take a pay cut rather than have the very limited activities for disabled children to be reduced further
19. As someone who has friends whose children use Autinet and other PASN services, I think it is essential PCC continues to support this function. Without the work of PASN, there is no support network for children with autism in the city due to previous funding being slashed.
20. The people that use the service cannot access social interaction and group events in the "normal way" so need this to feel like other people do that can go out without the services.
21. None, Carer break are vital to ensure the wellbeing of carers who reduce the budgetary spend

22. These are some of the most vulnerable families in the City. Parental stress for this population is high. Taking away opportunities for short periods of respite will increase parental mental health difficulties, decreasing resilience, and this will have knock on effect with other services, which will increase costs to services over all. I would not want to see any further reduction in a budget associated with children with SEND.
23. Ring fence funds created by the investment in shopping centres elsewhere in the county, and the money generated by selling the Spinnaker Tower to Middle Eastern oil-rich states.
24. The cut backs are short term as the cuts will cause expense in the future due to the young adults not gaining skills
25. How about the £30,000 proposed facelift for commercial rd.?
26. I think that you should invest in parental education which would in turn mean that they would better support children and their education which would in turn reduce unemployment and the high levels of exclusion and truancy and the negative behaviour associated with it.
27. My family is in the fortunate position of being able to contribute more than the current daily rate required, however this is a vital service to our family and we would really struggle without it. I think you are looking for savings in entirely the wrong place by targeting vulnerable families who are already facing challenges and for whom other childcare options are severely limited.
28. Not at present
29. Council to identify self-funders over thresholds of financial support who can self-fund / contribute towards the cost of care and short breaks.
30. That the provider raise the cost by a small amount.
31. I understand that if PCC determine that a cut has to be made to short breaks services then this will have to be implemented. I think it would have been helpful to have made representation to the councillors regarding the benefits to the recipients and the potential for alternatives to be considered instead - though I appreciate that the survey would have needed to have been completed much earlier to have been in a position to do so.
32. Make cuts fairly through all projects
33. Find funding from another source
34. Increase council tax for citizens who voted to leave the EU.
35. No - stop taking services away from the vulnerable
36. Because it is a lifeline for family's allowing children to benefit from activities that wouldn't be accessible elsewhere and allowing siblings to get time to do normal stuff
37. Cut other services that does not involve disabled young people.
38. Focus on the benefit abuse from people from abroad and here, do more checks and actually catch them and stop them. If you take it away maybe reduce council tax for family's who are given larger properties due to Sen Needs so they can save to take that short break.
Why target Sen Children who have a tougher life then a drug addict alcoholic who choose that life, who you house pay for their needs. It's wrong!!!!
39. Fundraising instead of cuts
40. Paid membership of charity, increase of charge to attendees of events
41. Fund raisers
42. Parents of Sen kids need a break - and unable to send kids to normal mainstream groups
43. This is a life line for parents in the holidays and is important for the children too
44. We did not take up short breaks after application as the very short hours allowance given is already way behind other authorities.

45. Services to vulnerable disabled children should be protected. The Council should use their reserves, or utilise funding from projects that are not essential
46. Parents of children on tier 1 save the council lots of money as they are badly paid carers and these are the only "respite" they get.
47. Everyone with family members with a disability should be entitled to a short break

Verbatim 2 - Reasons given for ranking question (more detail in how they correspond with the choices are in the main body of the report)

1. I really like the Teenage Project and would miss it if it wasn't there
2. All services offer valuable activities for young people with SEND but PASN activities are not for all with SEND only those with autism. The Teenage project offers young people the opportunity to take part in activities that others of their age enjoy, with their peers, without their parents and supported by the staff which promotes their independence and provides parents with a break.
3. cutting the funding across the board is superficially fairer, but 30% of current funding might not be enough for the services to be meaningful
4. my child's needs
5. priorities
6. None of the above are ideal so found this very difficult to put in order of preference. Obviously a lot depends on the age of your child and how it affects you personally
7. Play scheme offers family's an often needed break and a chance to spend time with siblings doing things they would not be able to do. Playscheme also offers children routine and structure in their holidays and this so important to some children. It also enables parents to continue working knowing that their child/children are cared for by people who can manage their complex and often challenging needs that could not be met at alternative childcare placements. I feel that all 5 are equally as important and would not want cuts from any of the 5 you have identified.
8. Cutting all options by 70% means more people suffer.
9. To be fair
10. To be fair instead of wiping out a whole service
11. None of these services should be cut but that wasn't the question
12. I did not rank these in order. I would not say any one service is less important than the other. I only ranked these as it would not let you move on without completing
13. I have ranked this as it doesn't give me the option to disagree with any of this statement so ignore my ranking as these are badly worded question and answers and no options given to say none of the above.
14. Inclusive playscheme is not well utilised at all of the settings and I believe it to be not cost-effective against benefits to families. I believe SOME settings should go and SOME should stay. Your last option to reduce all by 70% to achieve the full 10% savings does not add up. It makes the Council look untrustworthy as they must know this. Youth Holiday programme is new and has been well attended and vibrant. This is a very good alternative to the Exclusive playscheme, particularly for older children.
15. All the above are vital support for young adults and children within the local area so a saving on each is the fairest.
16. Seems most fair which are most utilised? Can't it be looked at that way?
17. No

18. This is my preferred choice
19. As a parent of an autistic child there is not a lot of support out there for us. You can feel very isolated the fairest option if cuts must be made if to reduce all by 70% but I don't really think any should be cut.
20. I assumed these breaks were funded by charities.
21. I would not want to close any of the services - they are the only support many families have. There is no other support available in the city for families with autistic children -CAMHS offer no direct support. Parents are directed to PASN and for some families, this is a lifeline to allow their children to take part in activities and for parents to meet.
22. Very little clubs and respite for parents of autistic children exists. However I would prefer that all clubs receive a percentage of the funding they already get as each will be able to make up the gap far easier and ultimately increases the chances of all clubs/provision remaining available
23. As autism service is the only service many asd children can regularly attend. The only social activity for most children who attend. The play scheme is very necessary for parents of disabled children. Fairer to reduce funding for all services and not lose one service.
24. Don't take any of the funding. Stop giving drug addicts and alcoholics Medicine. These children cannot help their disabilities
25. Everything is needed so impact to all is equitable.
26. Because this is fair to all
27. Young children do not have enough activities
28. Children with Mental Health issues, diagnosis deserve the best opportunities from the outset to integrate into the wider, often non-understanding world, and to have a normal childhood.
29. The inclusive playscheme is taking a large amount of the budget that could support other activities.
30. Because it is run during half term when there are other events and things to do.
31. Want to save service my child uses.
32. My son attends autinet and is the only outside school and home activity he attends it is already expensive. If funding is cut we would not be able to attend.
33. Because my family depend on Portsmouth Autism Network to provide a short break for my teenage son who attends the teenage group. He has not managed to settle happily in any of the other activities.
34. Because it would not let me put 5 for each one
35. All of these services are critical for the city, and Portsmouth City Council are already failing to meet even a basic duty of care for the most vulnerable in the city, so honestly I think it is a disgrace that this is even being discussed. We hear about the economic impact of a huge number of events and activities in the city - find the funding here to meet these cuts, or give away fewer incentives to businesses and events.
36. I think the council SHOULD NOT reduce any money going to these services as they are valued. They need to look at reducing cost/services elsewhere like supplying bus passes to people that can't or don't use them.
37. I have tried to consider the effect on the individuals and families of each area of support not being available.
38. I feel it's level of importance
39. The fairest if a cut is made is to all equally
40. Benefits of this kind abuse the concept of positive discrimination giving the recipients luxuries.

41. Option 5 skims an equal amount from each choice. It seems fairer.
42. This survey is unfair. You have given parents the option to come up with an alternative way to save money but have made it compulsory to rank these pre-selected options. This is very underhand. Do not use my response to question 6.
43. Please disregard the answers above, which simply are designed to create false support for these proposed savings. All the above are essential services which must be defended for the good of the finances of the country. As we will save billions of pounds by leaving the EU, there should be no need to make these savings. Cutting these services will have the effect of pushing more families to the brink, putting more strain on the health and social care budgets.
44. Prioritised the current needs of my own child
45. Where my daughter has gained the most in skills and growth
46. In truth, I cannot support the complete cancellation of any one of these provisions. We currently only access the Teenage Project but have used both the Youth Holiday Programme and the Inclusive Playscheme in the past. I don't feel I can recommend the closure of any programme which I know, from personal experience, hugely benefits children with learning difficulties and their families. It allows our children social interaction with their peers, which all young people require as part of their growing up experience, which we, as individual parents, cannot arrange ourselves.
47. He least of the evils. I think it's disgusting that families of kids with disabilities are being hit by these cuts. We struggle so hard with day to day living and these schemes make life just that little bit more manageable.
48. I find this whole process poorly designed. You are forcing people to make decisions that they do not want. For question 6 I think that I really have NO preferred option. There are other ways to save this money and doing it this way is unacceptable as it affects those most in need. Those most likely to cost money later in life. I have chosen the Playscheme contract as important as early intervention can completely turn children around and is worth the investment. Pay now and save later.
49. In reality our children need all of these services and I don't believe it is fair to take any one service away. I have left the PASN in as a last resort to cut as the service they provide has been vital to my sanity over the last few years. I would be more willing to pay towards it if necessary.
50. I do not agree that any of the programmes should simply just be cut it is unfair on all that utilise these services I have a special needs child age 7 that uses the inclusive playscheme she cannot just go to any playscheme for children without these difficulties due to the nature of her disabilities to have this cut would have a major effect on her in the holidays and us as her parents/carers. I feel if money needs to be saved then at least reducing the funding for all the schemes rather than cutting them will at least give people an opportunity to use them still they are a lifeline for many
51. PASN works with less severely autistic children - it offers nothing that is suitable for my son who has a much greater level of need. These children deserve extra support but are more able to access other provision. Of the other choices, I really don't know what provision each provides, so my answers are a bit pot luck with the proviso of the EA holiday club which is a vital resource for our family.
52. I have chosen this way because of my Son's needs, the Teenage Project has been very good for him, it has given him independence and somewhere to meet other teenagers, and he really enjoys it there.

53. I know least about the works that the youth holiday programme does and the autism support network.
54. They are all very worthy and worthwhile for the children involved - they have the chance to make friends and be able to do different activities. No one club deserves any less than the other
55. All these services are vital and I don't agree to any losing funding
56. Inclusive play scheme didn't work well. Teenage project is easy to access, works well mostly and can be tailored to meet the young people's needs and interests
57. I do like teenage Project group and teenage project staff are good with young people at teenage project
58. I don't particularly think either option is the right one. Maybe a better/fairer option would be to take 55% from inclusive and 20% from the other projects saving an estimated £45,350. At Enable Ability I think we would rather take the cut from the inclusive playscheme.
59. All the schemes are equal and it would not be fair to remove funding from 1 individual scheme
60. I would prefer to see the cost reduced equally across all projects - much fairer.
61. I don't really think that any of these alternatives is ideal (especially as a cut of 70% to all projects amounts to almost double the required saving needed & a 70% cut to the Inclusive Playscheme would nearly meet the full requirement (a 100% cut would be £13,000 more than is needed). If there has to be a cut I think that, for the projects run by Enable Ability, there is considerably more capacity for a cut to the Inclusive Playscheme but that it may be more equitable to balance a more sizeable cut to this project with a significantly smaller cut to the other 3 projects. As the Youth Holiday Scheme and the Teenage Project are both so successful and provide regular support to such a vulnerable group of young people I think that the cutting of either one or both of these services would be devastating to its participants.
62. Inclusive was designed to be short term, it seems unwise to continue a service that needs to be scaled down, rather than scaling down services that present opportunities for expansion.
63. As result of budget costs difficult decisions have to be made. Reducing funding to all the charities and having each one figure out how to save on costs seems like the fairest option
64. Why get rid of a whole project when all can continue with a smaller budget?
65. None of these should be reduced
66. Do not use others at the moment other than PASN
67. I have chosen this way because I attend teenage project and I do not want it stop because it is only fair for me to still have a social life and I think the same for all the other clubs as well and it is also not fair that the government are having major cut backs.
68. I access and rely on the services
69. All provisions have valid reasons for their existence. My order of preference is my opinion on which are more relevant and take into account that parents have a break from their children when they attend school day during term time.
70. I feel you can't really reduce much more anyway as the services are limited because of the previous cuts!!!
71. I found it hard to pick. All valuable services & so important to give our children the chance to socialise, be a child without parents watching. For parents to have a well-deserved break from caring duties & for us playscheme enables us to work during school holiday.
72. I haven't heard of the Youth Holiday Programme unless that means Beachside nor PALS. I've never used PASN. I use PPV & Enable Ability Playscheme. We also use Family Link as it's been impossible to get a space at Beachside.

73. I am guessing that the YHP and Teenage Project might provide support to the same group of young people? The option to reduce the amount given to all would be fairer but I didn't choose this because 70% is such a big percentage.
74. The playscheme is the only respite some of our families get. Without it many home placements would breakdown and the cost to social care would be higher.
75. Being a parent of a Sen child is hard enough, I was unaware of this service and when I go away I have to take family members for support which costs more money therefore we don't go away, we are moved in to a house to meet medical needs and end up paying more rent, council tax, then the government put min wage up which then takes our NHS exception card will adds new bills. That short break could mean more to families of Sen Children then you realise.
76. I feel that services are very important
77. I consider holidays as something that does not represent short break classification (they are long breaks), and is something that is a luxury, the others provide immediate support for parents and young people
78. Couldn't cope if we lost playscheme
79. My teenagers need a break out of the house!
80. As above
81. Personally would t make a cut to the lack of service already provided to disabled children
82. I am not choosing any as they are all vital services. I see that you have designed this survey so that number 6 is a required field, therefore giving an incorrect result
83. As some parents cannot afford it
84. How can you possibly rank? It's like ranking which child is of less importance. My only thought is that the inclusive playscheme the children could be supported in mainstream ones.

Verbatim 3 - How much would you consider is acceptable for a parental contribution?

1. Difficult to answer as all the activities are different
2. Sliding scale depending on means
3. thirty pounds for the year
4. £20
5. Difficult to say without knowing how much each session costs to run.
6. Not sure
7. £3
8. An affordable amount so that a family on benefit could still utilise services.
9. 10 pounds per session
10. 10 pounds a time
11. £100
12. Equal costs to childcare that non-disabled children access.
13. Charging parents (who are already facing financial difficulties) to have access to less services is unacceptable.
14. Not sure as parents contribute anyway. As far as holiday provision goes, I had understood there was a drive to ensure parents of special needs children did not pay more than those without disabilities,
15. Concessionary price would be fair with carer going Free
16. Depends on service

17. £1 per child
18. 50%
19. We already pay something but would pay £6/7.
20. I already pay 3 per week to the charity
21. £5 per activity
22. Well the group's we go.to (gym, flip out etc.) already pay about £5ish.....So in the future the short breaks I would be willing to pay £25-£30 a weekend.
23. Depends on the severity of need and parent(s) ability to pay.
24. £5/month
25. ?
26. Depends what it's for.... £5 a day for play schemes perhaps??
27. £3 each group each time
28. Based on the activities undertaken, £5 per activity
29. Annual membership to an organisation.
30. We already pay £3 per week for audient so would not be able to attend. I do not know about other schemes.
31. We already contribute each session but a small increase would be manageable.
32. Parents already contribute to the cost of PASN activities
33. £3 per session
34. I have no idea but would I think be variable dependent on the ability to pay and the level of benefit.
35. Unsure but around average charges for same time in child care services
36. £100/year/child
37. 90%
38. Don't know. Don't know the figures in enough detail.
39. We already pay £17 for playscheme days. Many parents cannot afford this.
40. A few pounds a week
41. £10-£15 per month. We do pay for any external activities e.g. theatre trips, meals out etc. which our children enjoy.
42. I think it should be means tested.
43. It is completely dependent on what the trip is and should be based on income. Equally if parents don't work because they do not want to, that should be taken into account and not negatively impact on those who do work and contribute to the city in which we live.
44. I think it would depend on the service.
45. I'm not sure what would be reasonable and affordable for everyone
46. For us, we could pay standard childcare rates. However that is only because my husband has a well-paid job. This would not be the case for many families though as having disabled child makes holding down a job incredibly difficult.
47. It depends on the service you are using. Obviously the Inclusive playscheme is more labour intensive than the teenage club for example.
48. We pay £5.00 for Teenage Project on a Friday night fortnightly, would be prepared to pay £8.00
49. I think it depends on a case by case basis as some families are living in very poor conditions and paying more would prevent their son/daughter from accessing the services. I think this should be financially assessed.
50. 50%? Difficult to say without knowing the costs
51. We already pay for teenage project and paid for play scheme. A small increase would be acceptable but anything too high would stop us attending

52. N/A
53. The equivalent of what it would normally cost for a child to take part in a similar activity/scheme
54. For playscheme, £20/day
55. 10% to match the required saving
56. Parents already do make a contribution to some of these projects. For the Inclusive Playscheme they have to pay the same fee as all other parents for their children to attend (ranging from £20 to £27.50 per day) and it would be unrealistic to request more; there may be capacity for an increase in fees to the other projects.
57. Increase current contribution by 30%
58. £60 per year
59. ?
60. £5 £10
61. depends on the parent
62. 100
63. Means tested
64. Unsure as there is already payment required for PASN activities but I think it's subsidized.
65. Depending on what my parents or I can afford.
66. 50%. Parents without children with disabilities have to fund their own breaks, therefore, it's only fair that some contribution is made.
67. Depends on service offer. Already pay £18 for play scheme
68. 10%
69. This depends entirely on how much or how long the short break involves. As I'm familiar with the Enableability Inclusive Playscheme and how much is charged for that I would consider an increase of £1-£2 per session satisfactory.
70. It should be means tested. Some parents can afford to pay more than others or need the service more than others.
71. £2
72. £5 for 2 hours, plus membership to a scheme - similar to cubs/brownies/swimming clubs
73. Not really sure to be honest
74. £5-10
75. Depends on type of activity and length of activity i.e. you would expect to pay more for a 4/5 hour club than a 2 hour one.
76. A third of the total cost.
77. A donation
78. DEPENDS ON THE PARENT AND THEIR FINANCIAL SITUATION!!!!!!
79. 150.00 to 200.00 per family per year

Verbatim 4 - How might the proposed change impact on you and your child?

1. I really like going out to different places with my friends and being independent and I would miss it if I couldn't
2. My child would miss the opportunity to go out without me and do the things young people like to do and I would miss the break I get at those times knowing she is safe and having a good time.
3. not at all
4. if the service is reduced this will affect my family

5. not so much choice for the children
6. Will not affect as my child is now too old to access these activities but they have been a god send in the past
7. Taking away the playscheme we use would make life hell
8. This could impact on family's being able to support their children in their home effectively and have a break from their children's challenging needs. It will increase the risk of family breakdowns and put further stress on parents/siblings and family units.
9. If inclusive playscheme funding was removed, it's possible our family may not be able to afford to utilise.
10. Lose a facility that helps with keeping routines, helps with socialisation. Gives families a break to recharge and be better carers allows families time to spend with siblings who often miss out on one to one or often any time with their mum or dad care giver.
11. I don't use the service but I have friends who do and would massively impact on their ability to function well as a family without this support.
12. N/A personally although I feel if there is less services like these in the city and limited availability it will increase the number of families in crisis resulting in more money inevitably being spent to support these children and families.
13. We receive no help at all as my child doesn't seem to meet the criteria for anything. Autinet is our lifeline and part of our weekly routine. You will isolate parents and children leading to a less inclusive community. Short breaks are supposed to help parents in their bring duties, why would you chose to take something cost affective that will lead to more crisis cases and more expensive in the long term.
14. It is impossible for my children to attend universal community-based settings and therefore without some of these provisions they would spend no time with their friends/increasing independence skills etc. As parents of disabled children we need a break more than most!
15. Without accessing the schemes that we use our child and family would suffer immensely as it would mean that our child would miss out on activities that he should be able access to have fun and stay healthy and have quality family time together
16. Won't be able to attend gym, one of the only clubs he goes to
17. It's the only activities I attend
18. My child would lose out being able to do normal activities for a child her age. This group if a lifeline for us
19. No impact
20. This is the only social activity my son will attend and it will limit his exposure to social communication and learning. I benefit from the support of other parents who have a full understanding of the barriers my son and I face as a result I am not aware of this support existing outside this provision
21. My child will not be able to attend any social groups as Pasn groups are the only ones he can attend
22. Half terms are already very difficult. My son is 4. I was hoping there would be something available for when he turns 5. Days are so.hard already, everything is a challenge and never easy. I will put respite to another struggle that we will fight to access
23. Unless you have a child with SEN you'll never appreciate the need for respite. The need for support is always necessary to maintain balance.
24. My son enjoys the PASN gym sessions which we already subsidise
25. My little boy has ASD and sensory processing difficulties. I struggle to take him anywhere without causing distress there actives are great for all of us

26. I feel it's very important that kids with learning and or physical problems can access a wide range of activities & have the opportunity to take part in events other kids would take for granted.
27. Less chance to socialise with like children, also for parents to socialise with those in a similar situation.
28. PASN might have to cancel Autinet
29. They would lose contact with friends that are like them and look forward to seeing.
30. Activities my child uses maybe cancelled or reduced.
31. My son would become completely isolated if autinet closed. He doesn't have any other social interaction
32. My teenage son has Autism and is unable to go out on his own. He has not got any friends except the ones he has made at teenage club. He has tried the other enabability teenage club but found it too busy and loud. It would be devastating for him to lose this club as it is the only time he feels he has friends.
33. The impact will be devastating. Pasn provides my son with the opportunity to participate in activities in a safe and non-judgemental environment
34. My child has friends who have ASD and they need support and safe spaces to enjoy
35. My child already struggles in everyday life and this service is one she can access without her worrying and myself also. It also help with social isolation and feeling dejected by society.
36. It won't affect me directly
37. N/a
38. Make them feel more equal to the recipients and families of continued disability benefits.
39. Not at all
40. See previous response.
41. Loss of short breaks will put additional stress on already-stressed families. The impact on siblings cannot be over-estimated. The lack elsewhere of appropriate provision mean the children with fewest opportunities will lose what little they have.
42. Not at all as never had access to them
43. My daughter has friends for the first time and she is 17. She is happier and confident. Behaviour has improved. She has something she looks forward too. She does something that isn't with family and she has learnt to make choices
44. We currently only access the Teenage Project but have accessed both the inclusive & special needs play schemes in the past when our son was younger. The closure of the Teenage Project would seriously impact our son. This is where he meets up with his friends. Here he develops his social contacts and experiences activities in a social setting with his peers. This is something which his contemporaries without learning difficulties are able to do for themselves but would be denied to him if it weren't for the Teenage Project. It would mean that he would become socially isolated. He already spends a considerable amount of time on his own or with us. It is the teenage project which gives him a social life.
45. We use these services during summer break and it is vital. Children with disorders such as ASD struggle when taken out of their school routine and these schemes help both the children and the parents to cope outside of the school routine!
46. I am a forces wife and have no supportive family locally. I have stopped working full time and suffered from a nervous breakdown and then severe depression with no break for me or my sons. The light of a holiday break at the end of the tunnel would keep me going and ensure that I have the balance I need to make me a better mum and give my children the best support possible.

47. My son is 7 and had been diagnosed with autism and had a rare genetic disorder. He is becoming more and more isolated with regards to his socialising and interaction and PASN are a lifeline for us. I don't know how he will cope without it.
48. My child uses the inclusive playscheme 2 days a week in the holidays if this were to be stopped she has nowhere else she can go she can't just go to any playscheme that's for children without special needs due to the nature of her disabilities she has to have someone with her at all times for safety. Cutting the playscheme would mean she couldn't interact with other children during the holidays like my other daughter can as she doesn't have any special needs. My daughter needs routine to feel safe and in control of her emotions. It would also mean myself partner and other children can't get the respite we so desperately need during the holidays when her routine is out of sync and her emotions come out as anger towards everyone. The playscheme makes her feel in control and means she has some sort of routine in the holidays that make it just that little bit easier for her to handle
49. The EA playscheme offers our son the opportunity to engage in activities that he cannot access elsewhere, as well as developing his communication skills and self-confidence. It offers our other children the chance to do activities that they cannot do with their brother and simply offers us as parents a bit of a rest. The provision is already very limited. Further cuts would be devastating and would significantly impact my plan to return to work (I teach so am fortunate enough to mainly work in term time although days in school during the holiday are also necessary at times) following my current period of maternity leave.
50. My son is now 18 and accesses the Teenage Club, but we have used all of the services you have mentioned in this questionnaire over the last 12 years.
51. Very much, it's the only independence my son has and he really enjoys going to the Teenage Project and holiday scheme.
52. My daughter is enjoying belonging to an inclusive club where she isn't treated like an outsider
53. My son uses Teen project and Autinet every week and without either of these he would lose his confidence, social skills and friends
54. There is already a serious lack of provision for teenagers with special need especially those who cannot access mainstream activities. My son is already socially isolated and would become more so. This would have a negative knock on effect on family life
55. N/A
56. If we were to lose a big proportion of the funding we receive from the short breaks budget it could mean we were not able to run the project at all
57. I would be very concerned for the young people's social life if services were reduced
58. Massive - there is very little in the city at the moment for these young people, without these projects being provided, families and young people would suffer.
59. Not Applicable.
60. Reduced respite & opportunities for young people to develop.
61. Activities provided by the Portsmouth Autistic Society will be affected
62. My child has benefited greatly from the projects they attend I would worry where they would go without it.
63. Don't get any breaks
64. All my sons' social activities are with PASN and pals. Flip out autinet and he does enableability pals activities and sometimes sports club. He doesn't attend any mainstream clubs so it would affect his friendships made at autinet and flip out if this was cut.
65. I may not have a social life which would mean that my parents would have to take out and they can't afford some of the bigger outings that I go on.

66. We would be stuck at home for six weeks with no break and nowhere to go isolating and alienating us
67. n/a.
68. Every child deserves the right to access social activities, some form of independence (i.e. Parents not present) as a parent it allows me to continue to work which is extremely important, as well as valuable time to do activities I. Ant do when my child is with me or just recharge when things are tough.,
69. My children would miss out on activities
70. We currently use our highest rate DLA on pads & extra sessions at Enable Ability that is used up on top of what the government pays for. These suggested cuts to families with a young disabled person will lead to parents no longer able to cope putting even more stress on the NHS.
71. Looking after a child with complex disabilities is a huge drain on emotional and physical well-being and the withdrawal of services could impact on myself as the main carer and the rest of my family. And the opportunity for my daughter to interact with her peers and other adults or will play, care and communicate with her plus challenge her is a great one to improve her overall development.
72. If less service is available this will increase the strain on families. This could result in families being unable to cope and breaking down.
73. Now we are aware of this service I would use it but would hate to get myself and family's hopes up.
74. Increased stress all round
75. As a trustee, the impact is on service users (parents and young people). We create a network of parents to provide support and information that may diminish if funds are reduced. For young people we have many stories of friendships made between youngsters with Autism/ASD that are tangible and a very positive outcome. We are also developing services within Autinet to provide training in coding and IT skills that are useful in the wider world of work
76. If they were reduced it would have a big impact on our family as we need the breaks so we can recharge so we can take on the ongoing care roll of 24/7
77. I would not have break and therefore could end up at near nervous breakdown as levels of stress are high in kids and me!!
78. Lost of skills and the need for parents to have a short break catch up on sleep if they didn't have this then a lot of parents would be poorly
79. N/a the hour a week is simply not worth the effort
80. Disabled children and young people will lose the only amount of support they get. This may not mean much to you, but for a family this could be the difference between coping, and not coping. It is likely costs relating to the more specialist services will increase as families go into meltdown/breakdown.
81. They wouldn't be able to go as I am on benefits and registered disabled myself
82. Less children/young people accessing the breaks. Impact on most vulnerable.
83. Would take away her whole social life!!!
84. I have never been aware that my child may be eligible for this
85. We Won't be able to have a family break

Verbatim 5 - Do you have any comments you would like to make about a grant based funding approach?

1. keep us all up to date with changes
2. all been mentioned
3. N/A
4. Short term contract will not give providers enough time to evidence the impact and outcomes for children and young people and their families.
5. Grant based funding causes uncertainty for everyone and probably a great deal of work for the organisations which run the provisions. Also extra expense of re-starting schemes/retraining/recruiting staff.
6. Well run scheme WILL save money. Do not do a half-hearted job
7. It depends on the quality of the volunteers making the application and the understanding of the people processing it.
8. No
9. I don't understand. It is not clear what it means for my child to be able to access any social activities
10. Providing long term security for charities by awarding long term contracts would allow them to enjoy economies of scale and spend with a multi-year plan in mind. This would result in a more efficient process and less resource would be spent chasing after funding from various sources.
11. I think it could be more successful as services are more accountable
12. A grant based system gives you more flexibility and would encourage more efficiency amongst those being awarded the grants
13. Avoid any one-size fits all approach, but look towards a range of small scale projects to ensure choice.
14. Keep the long term contracts if they are effective. You cannot make blanket decisions.
15. Applying for grants and setting up short term projects is an expensive and time consuming process that does not offer stability or continuity - which is especially important to children with special needs and their families. When your child can't tell you anything about their day, establishing complete trust between the care provider and the clients is essential, and cannot be done if all contracts are short term and subject to frequent change.
16. I don't know what it is.
17. No
18. Having long term contracts allows a service to plan long term and be ultimately more cost effective. It is not good for staff or service users to know they will be regularly fighting for grants and funding and the service might come to an end within a set period of time
19. N/A
20. We as projects could spend a lot of time each year applying for the grant and monitoring afterwards but it may be a fairer way to give out the money
21. I think that grant-based funding certainly has its merits - especially as tenders can be quite onerous for relatively small contracts. However, I think that it would be helpful to have grants for 2 or ideally 3 year terms to provide consistency for both providers and service users if these are to replace contracts.
22. Make all families aware of the grant so they can decide if they'd like to use the service.
23. Need more info on how it will work
24. I am concerned grant based funding would not give continuity and mean we wouldn't know from year to year what would be available

25. Any money accessible for children in need should be applied for.
26. At present, annual funding for PASN means that we struggle to develop some longer term programmes and clubs. By having 3 year terms we could really invest and plan for the future, developing services in the long term and allowing children the security of knowing that their club will be available more than a few months
27. Seems like a fairer system.

Verbatim 6 - If you have any alternative suggestions about accessing short break activities or how they could be managed please comment.

1. savings for families
2. As most children accessing these activities receive some sort of disability payment then the only way forward that I can see is to introduce some sort of parent contribution to cost.
3. N/A
4. Reduce number of funded sessions available per child.
5. Some local authorities are much better at managing their short breaks offer. Hampshire and Brighton have a card allowing parents to access short breaks. I would like to see the evidence that the Local Authority has done such research.
6. Maybe in time apart from decreasing the Inclusive play schemes perhaps Portsmouth Teenage Project could be somehow amalgamated with PALS, although I believe there is a need for the different age groups.
7. Talk to the places and find a compromised in price??? These children need this service.
8. There's no clear definition but equal division of hours on a category of severity / need.
9. Limit the amount of times you can use the short breaks
10. No
11. Cut something else that doesn't involve depriving disabled children.
12. Make sure that families have an even spread and if you have to cut then cut ones where families use several funded groups. Overall I do not think you should cut any of the groups as they are incredibly important for the young people's wellbeing and self-esteem.
13. It is galling that the council is proposing cuts from charities providing essential services that it is the role of local and national government to provide. This is a critical period and Portsmouth City Council should be cut the budgets and salaries of senior staff and councillors, use more common sense in tender processes and streamline its operation far more than it has so far to find this money.
14. I don't know at this time
15. I do feel although rest bite is needed for these families. A holiday is a luxury and benefits should contribute towards this
16. N/a
17. Make them bid for them in a lottery.
18. Access to short breaks is vital to families of children with disabilities. Cuts to this budget are short-sighted and unethical.
19. Family link is a very effective way to provide much-needed relief.
20. Stop attacking disabled children!!
21. They should be advertised so that the breaks on offer are used and there should be continued feedback to ensure that the money spent is well spent.
22. Is it possible to have parent volunteers support more? I would be willing.
23. I would suggest that you first look at funding for all mainstream provision as well as lobbying the government to change its policy of austerity and cuts!

24. Maybe liaise with Hampshire to make better use of funding and resources.
25. Don't make it free for anybody but low fees and charges for all services for everybody
26. Teenage Project do fun activities
27. I think that the final decision needs to be carefully considered - not only based on parental feedback but value for money, outcomes, alternatives (or the lack of them) that may be available, etc. As the provider for 3 of the 4 projects Enable Ability would really appreciate the opportunity to discuss the outcome of the survey with a view to exploring the most equitable and realistic way forward before the final decision is taken if at all possible.
28. Combine services for reduced cost - Teenage Project & Youth Holiday Programme.
29. Parents/carers could take more advantage of local services in the city. There's the Limitless club, Enableability sports programme, PASN flip out and gym sessions, etc.
30. Unsure how they are managed but I would suggest a Council owned lodging that is booked out to families that meet the criteria, additional costs are funded by the parents, such as those £9.50 Sun holidays.
31. Schools are in a good position to work with social care to identify the children that would benefit most from short breaks. We would be happy to work together to ensure that those that should have priority are identified and supported.
32. actually tell Sen family's
33. Provide a voucher scheme for parents to use at certain services. This would encourage active participation as parents would have to spend the voucher at certain activities, and would provide a way of monitoring uptake and the levels of interest in different services.
34. Doesn't seem to be a set out guild to follow to get short breaks and are very inconsistent on how and when given and to who
35. Advertise them properly so parents can access them
36. High needs children get everything. Mainstream children loose out time and time again. Inclusive schools may work for the council but not for families

Verbatim 7 - Do you have any further comments regarding this consultation?

1. none
2. Please don't cut these much needed schemes, disabled people really shouldn't be affected
3. I understand that cuts need to be made, but don't take it from the already vulnerable and struggling groups.
4. I am disappointed that this consultation will end after PCC will agree the cuts at their council meeting. I am worried that this small saving will have a huge impact on our family and other parents I know. We feel targeted and it seems that we are the one being penalised for having a child with special needs.
5. It's a shame it was rushed through at the end. Opinions were indeed sought at ECAF although it felt very rushed and we had very little time to consider our responses. The final version was put out to the public without further pre-consultation and contained inexcusable mistakes.
6. The welfare of families that care for disabled children and young adults is fraught enough I worry that if you take these schemes that the family unit will break down and the long term consequences of that are immense both financially and socially
7. Stop paying over the odds to people providing these breaks
8. Shocking you are trying to make savings by reducing front line services.

9. Sure if you had a child with special needs you would know how hard life can be. From getting child ready to. School to a simple trip to the park. It is enormously hard for the parents as well as child. There are so many other ways to save money, druggies, alcoholics, turning off street lights, stopping bonuses for people who don't need them. This service is for Children who don't ask for their disabilities.
10. It is known PCC is sitting on £500k of money for charities. Use this or make savings (similar to other industries) through reducing benefits.
11. No
12. More information for parents in plain simple language would help
13. Please do not cut the funding for Portsmouth autism teenage club as we rely on it as a family.
14. It is disgraceful that funding to Disabled children's services again.
15. These cuts must not happen and the council is failing its residents if it does this in the face of council tax increases and other challenges.
16. As a parent of special needs children, I feel sad that the cutbacks are hitting the most vulnerable.
17. As stated previously this survey should have given the option to move past question 6.
18. The way this consultation is set up means any participant is forced to agree to tick boxes may not agree to, creating a false consensus. e.g. While I make use of the play scheme at the moment I would not want teenage provision to be cut as I will use this in the future.
19. I understand there is cuts but as said earlier. These groups have helped the children grow and gain skills that they would never experience. If they don't gain them there will be more problems and expense for the adult social care or learning disabilities funding
20. The cuts need to come from elsewhere!
21. I'm appalled that the EA play scheme is being considered for cuts. We receive no other support with our son who is vulnerable and has severe additional needs. I will be writing to my MP and council members to raise my strong opposition to such a proposal.
22. It would be a shame to see cuts to any of these services, I cannot let my son go out on his own he is vulnerable and these services are a way for him to be independent and feel confident when he is out with TP.
23. I think the work that many of the projects do is invaluable and feedback from children, young people, adults and the families should be listened to before making any decisions. Services which provide and achieve some of the best outcomes should not be least affected.
24. It really sad that as usual those who have the least ability to fight for themselves, i.e. disabled children and young people, are targeted to save money. There are plenty of wasted resources within local government but it's always the most vulnerable and their families who pay the price
25. N/A
26. Whilst I think that it is very important that a consultation fully takes place I think that it might have been helpful to have two slightly different questionnaires - one for those that currently receive a service (and hence either have a vested interest or can respond on the basis of their experience) and a slightly different one for the majority of families who currently do not access any of these services (i.e. asking them how they would prioritise the projects if they were to choose to send their child / young person to them). I'm also concerned that the percentages are not really accurate - a 70% cut to Inclusive Play scheme would amount to just over £40,000 whilst a 70% cut to all 4 projects must be somewhere between £85,000 & £90,000.
27. Please don't cut any projects there will be so many people lost without them,

28. On my daughter health education care plan she is supposed to have a buddy system still waiting she will not go to teenage project or any groups so I don't get a break
29. I think cuts should be made in other areas. It's always the special needs/disabled and there family's that suffer!
30. Short breaks were cut last year & there are already gaps in the service, which is having a negative effect on children & their families. Aiming high recognised the need to provide short breaks & the benefit to the child, family & cost of long term services. Now this has finished & cuts are needed these services are the first to cut. Children with disabilities should be provided with the support they need to access short breaks & give care givers a break from exceptional parenting to reduce long term cost implications of family breakdown & expensive level 3 services picking up the pieces when it goes wrong.
31. It's such a shame these cuts have to made at all for some families this is such a lifeline they have already been the impacted by so many other cuts to services and feel alone
32. I do question whether or not this is just an outward exercise to appear to take parents' views seriously.
33. Only that I would wish to reiterate how important these services are to families. In my opinion reducing them is a false economy as it could increase the number of families going into crisis and requiring higher levels of social care support.
34. no
35. Short breaks is a must for family's who have disabled/ special needs kids without the short breaks 99% of family's would not be able to continue the care roll and more children would end up in the care system due to family breakdowns and ill health of the carer, most parents are frightened to tell people that they are finding things hard and fighting the system adds to the already stressful day to day life
36. Why are they cutting funding for children with disabilities when these are so important to the children as well as families too!!
37. Sadly once again cuts made are at the detrimental effect of disabled people
38. No