

Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Trust



Aiming High for Disabled Children

## Aiming High Programme – 2009/10 – 2010/11

### Project Evaluation Report

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## **1 Background to Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme**

In 2007, the Government introduced the Aiming High for Disabled Children's Programme<sup>1</sup>, a wide programme of change for disabled children's services. The development of short breaks (previously known as respite) was a major component of this programme and in July 2008, the Short Breaks Implementation Guidance was issued by DCSF/DOH.

The programme was led by the DCFS, who contracted with the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisation Together for Disabled Children (TDC) to support local authorities in implementing their local programme.

Short breaks form part of a continuum of services, which support disabled children and their families. Short breaks are provided to give:

- Disabled children and young people enjoyable experiences away from their primary carers, thereby contributing to their personal and social development and reducing social isolation;
- Parents and families a necessary and valuable break from caring responsibilities.

### **Definition of a Short Break**

Short breaks come in a variety of formats and each one can last from just a few hours to a few days, and occasionally longer, depending on the type of provision and the needs of the child and their family. These include day, evening, overnight and weekend activities and can take place in the child's own home, the home of an approved carer, a residential or community setting.

In Buckinghamshire a working definition was agreed that a short break would usually be a minimum of 2 hours when family members do not have to be present to provide care or support for the disabled young person.

### **Funding that was Available**

Under the Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) programme, the Council received additional ring fenced revenue and capital funding to transform and grow short breaks by March 2011.

Over the 3 years of the programme, the Council received ring-fenced grant funding to support short break development.

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<sup>1</sup> Aiming High for Disabled Children; Better support for families (DCSF/HMT May 2007)  
Project evaluation Report May 2011

## **What the Funding had to Provide**

Funding had to be used to meet a 'Full Service Offer' which sets out what a short breaks service should be:

- Be based on a needs assessment of the local disabled child population, taking into account the voice of disabled children, young people and their families (Participation and feedback);
- Offer a significantly greater volume of short break provision set against a 2007-08 baseline, reflecting the additional funding levels available from Government;
- Use fair, understandable and transparent eligibility criteria that enable short breaks to be used as a preventative service and which do not restrict provision to those threatened by family breakdown or other points of crisis (Assessment);
- Offer a wide range of reliable local short break provision, tailored to families needs (and it sets these out)
- Expenditure must support severely disabled children's access to provision and should not substitute for funding aimed at providing inclusive services.

It also set out specific groups of disabled children and young people who should not be disadvantaged in accessing short breaks:

A: Children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (who have severe learning disabilities or behaviour which is challenging) OR those children and young people whose challenging behaviour is associated with other impairments such as severe learning disabilities.

B: Children and Young People with complex health needs including this with disability and life limiting condition, and/or those who require palliative care and/or those with associated impairments such as cognitive or sensory impairments and/or have moving/handling needs and/or require special equipment/adaptations.

## **The Core Offer**

The AHDC programme was supported by the Core Offer, which was published in 2008 featured 5 standards for improving and developing services for disabled children:

- Information
- Transparency
- Assessment
- Participation
- Feedback

Over the 3 years of the programme, the Council received the following ring-fenced grant funding to support short break development:

	08/09	09/10	10/11
Revenue	£60,000 start up	£534,800 <sup>2</sup>	£1,693,000
Capital	£0	£0	£584,400

N.B. £250,500 for capital was allocated for 09/10 but was clawed back under the new Coalition Government that had been elected.

## Commissioning Approach

Buckinghamshire developed a governance structure to manage the overall Aiming High Programme, of which the transformation of short breaks was the major component, up to the Children's Trust Board.

The commissioning approach for Short Breaks developed was underpinned by the principles set out in the Buckinghamshire Short Break Commissioning Framework, part of the comprehensive commissioning framework for Children and Young People's Services.

The Commissioning Plan gave the overall picture relating to the demographics locally, the current short breaks provision across the county, needs analysis and draft plans to develop increased capacity in short break services to meet identified needs and gaps in provision.

In Buckinghamshire with a child population of approximately 120,000 it was estimated a short break user group of 1200 children would be expected.

Work done to identify base levels (07/08) of short break provision was used as a baseline to judge both locally and through TDC the increase in provision that was expected by the funding investment and to evidence that the 'Full Service Offer' was reached.

Locally the baseline data suggested that transformation of short break services would need to reach an additional 800 - 850 disabled children and young people. The commissioning plan agreed the funding and what proportion of funding to grow short breaks across three different levels:

- Level 3 - Specialist Services
- Level 2 - Targeted services and/or services with additionality
- Level 1: Access to universal services

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<sup>2</sup> Grant was £524,800 but Buckinghamshire made a successful bid for £10K in Q4, 2009/2010  
Project evaluation Report May 2011

## 2 Delivery of the AHDC Programme

### Funding Allocated Across Short Break Levels

A Cabinet Member Report was published in respect of these financial plans:

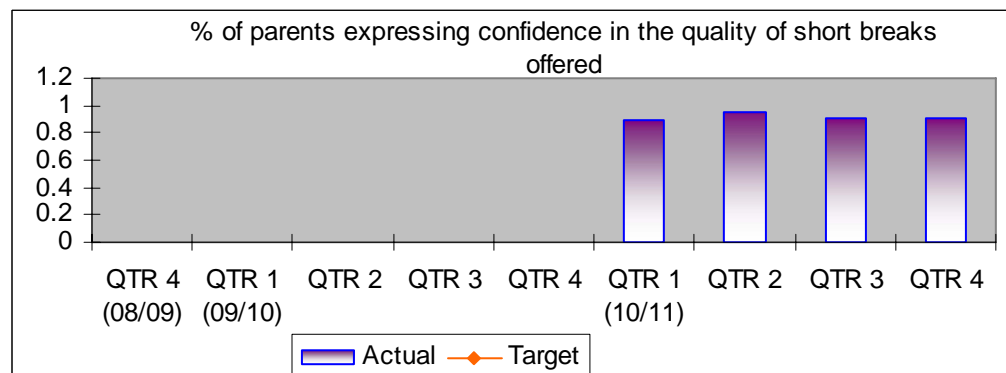
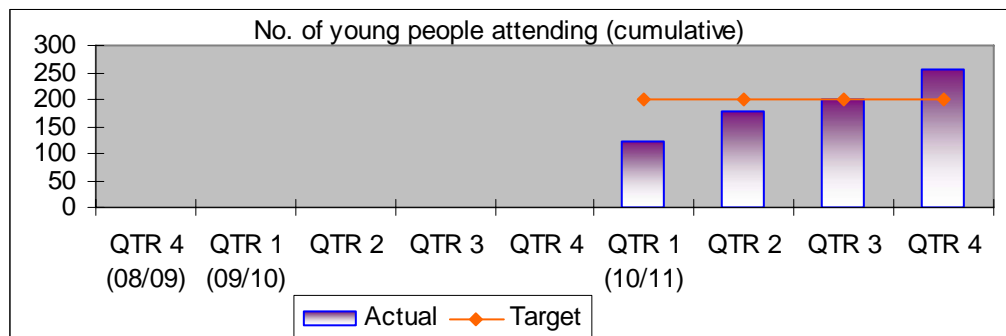
2009/10 – Please see appendix 1 for breakdown of how budget was allocated

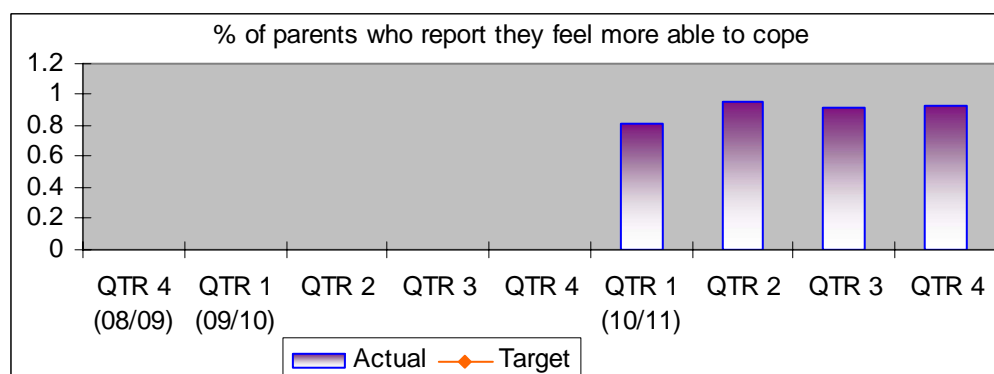
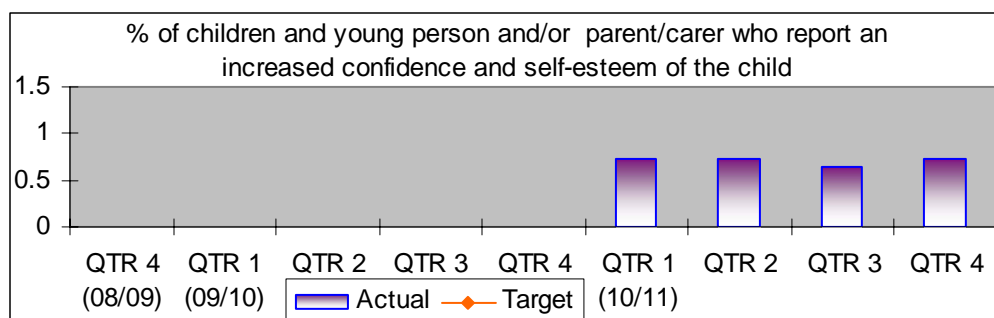
2010/11 – Please see appendix 2 for breakdown of how budget was allocated

### 2010/11 Service Delivery

#### Commissioned Services through Contract -

- Action for Children Bucks Activity Project: holiday provision – Contract for provision of holiday activities. This service has expanded under the new increased contract to provide a range of community based targeted group activities across all school holidays to an increased number of disabled CYP aged 5 – 19yrs. It has also provided family trips with additional support for the disabled CYP. The contract has been varied to allow for Action for Children to support universal services to become more inclusive of disabled CYP.





- Action for Children Bucks Activity Project: 1:1 targeted outreach – this service is provided by Abbots Care under a sub-contract. The service matches up domiciliary care workers with disabled CYP aged 5 – 19 yrs and supports them to access a universal service of their choice e.g. swimming club, football match, bowling etc. By the end of 10/11 this service had provided approximately 850 hours of such support.
- Action for Children Bucks Activity Project: targeted weekend services – Contract for the provision of targeted weekend activities across the age range 5 – 19 yrs with provision for more specialist targeted group activities and 1:1 support to young people with ASD. By the end of 10/11 activity clubs were developed across the county, each providing a 3hr short break activity with a total of 3,000 hrs of service delivered. Quote form parent – *“We access the Buckingham Saturday club and holiday activities. We have been really happy with what is offered and how they are supported. My daughter doesn't always have the same support assistant each Saturday she attends but actually this is a good thing as she is now familiar with the setting that she doesn't feel uncomfortable with someone new.”*
- Barnardo’s Little Breaks – A pilot weekend short breaks service was developed for disabled children from the early year’s age group (under 5’s). Six services were registered with Ofsted that met the Early Years Foundation stage requirements that offered a 3 hour short break across children’s centres in Buckinghamshire. This has become quite a specialised service to approximately 50 children with complex disabilities with the majority of children requiring 1:1 support.

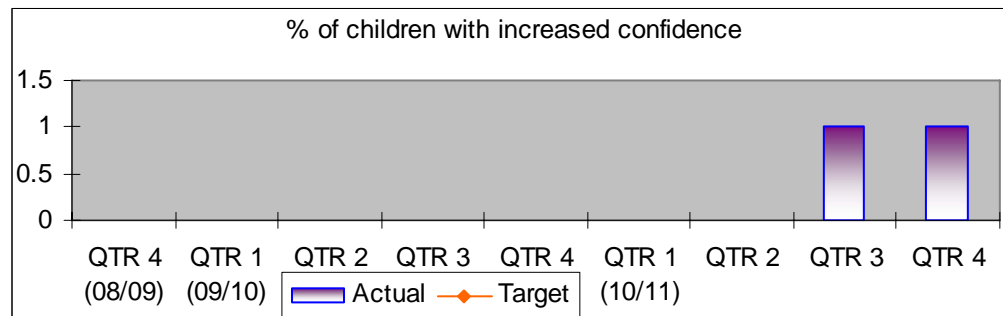
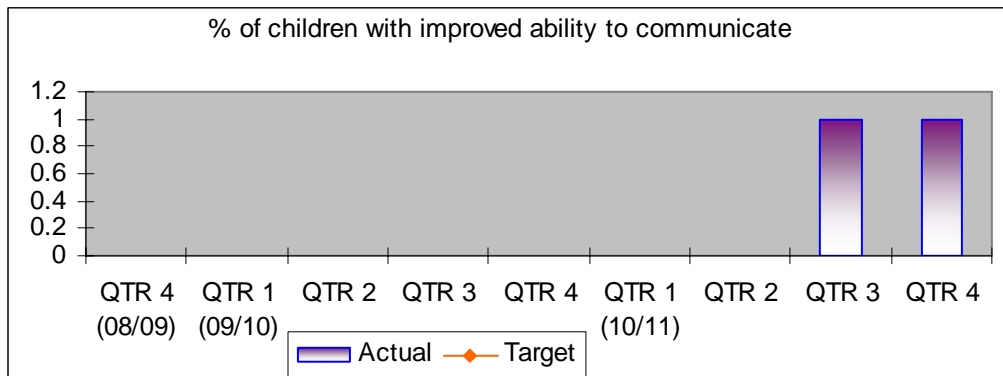
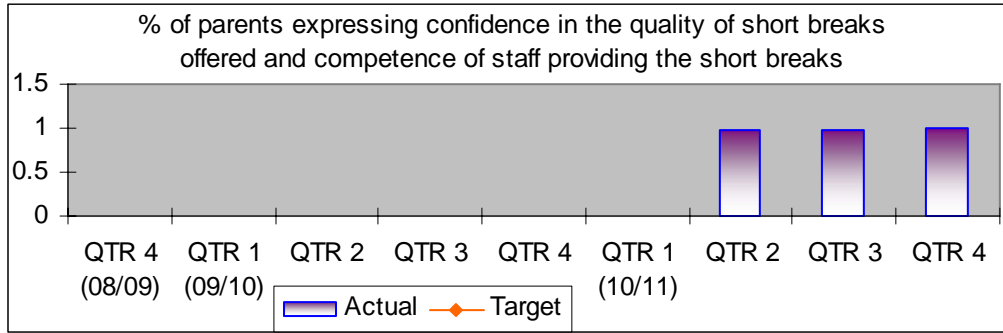
Quotes from parents – “The different activities on tables are of a good height to encourage him to walk - at home easier to get down on the floor with him. Come on with his walking.”

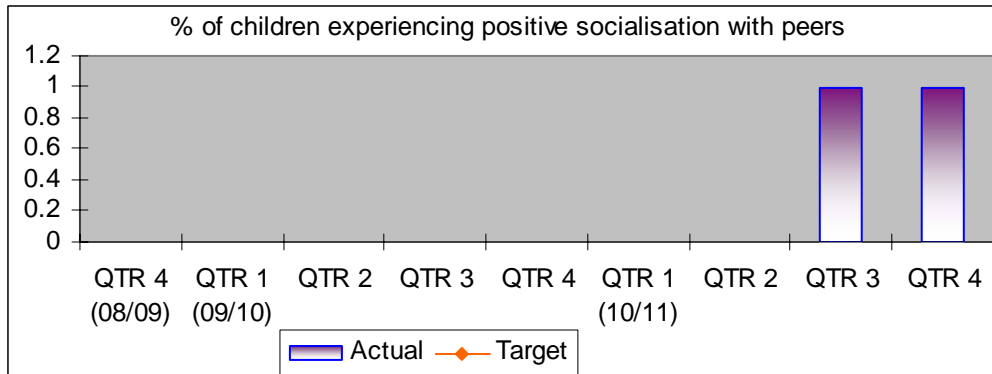
“He's speaking a lot more now”

“A lot more confident - used to cry when left, now perfectly happy.”

“Generally a little bit more confident and has helped prepare him for nursery.”

“1-1 system has helped with speech and language. Has calmed down a lot - behaviour has really improved.”





- Crossroads Saturday Clubs – two Saturday clubs for disabled CYP aged 12 – 19yrs were set up, one at Booker Park School in Aylesbury and one at Maplewood School High Wycombe. By the end of 11/12 over 2,000 hours of activity had been delivered.
- Activenture – 15 children were nominated by the CWD teams to receive funded week long residential activity holidays. All holidays will have taken place by summer 2011.  
 Quotes from parents – *“Thank you for providing a great opportunity for my son to socialize, partake in sports and most importantly gain some independence (which he found very hard for the first few days), as he was very clingy towards me immediately before he went along, especially as he is not at school at present.”*  
  
*“Our daughter is a very lively active child and is a thrill seeker; Activenture was spot on in terms of her type of holiday, activities included:*
  - *Canoeing including capsizing – she loves water*
  - *Whizzing down a zip wire several times, they told me she really loved it.**We benefited by:*
  - *Being more relaxed not having to plan what to do with her, it was OK to go out and be back late, she makes all arrangements complex and needs her sleep, so being out past 7pm is impossible. Having no end time on activities making everything much more relaxed.*
  - *I was able to work uninterrupted, almost impossible in school holidays, last summer I took unpaid leave so I could manage.”*
- Action for Children Outreach Service (Residential Short Breaks Service) – This service only really commenced in the last quarter of 10/11 so do not have any real feedback as yet. It will allow the residential service to offer day and overnight short breaks in the child’s home to an extended range of children e.g. not only children with learning disability.
- Clearly Speaking – A contract to develop debate clubs across the county with disabled young people. This builds on work done by this provider to support disabled young people in the Bucks Debate.
- Thames Valley Adventure Playground – AHDC funding was used to support this existing contract when area based grant was cut in year

10/11. It provides activity based short breaks. It provided over 1500hrs of activity in 10/11.

- Thomley - AHDC funding was used to support this existing contract when area based grant was cut in year 10/11. It provides activity based short breaks. It provided over 3000hrs of activity in 10/11.
- Desborough Play Den - AHDC funding was used to support this existing contract when area based grant was cut in year 10/11. It provides activity based short breaks. It provided over 4000hrs of activity in 10/11.
- NAS Rainbow Club - AHDC funding was used to support this existing contract when area based grant was cut in year 10/11. It provides an after school club setup by National Autistic Society, aimed at primary school children who have a diagnosis of ASD. It provided nearly 1000hrs of activity in 10/11.

Comments from parents – *“Has continued to develop social skills.”*

*“It is an ideal place for some sensory and communication challenged children where perhaps a normal school club or afterschool activity would not be suitable.”*

*“Here child is happy and free in his skin with no-one judging his quiriness. It provides a huge relaxation for me as his mum.”*

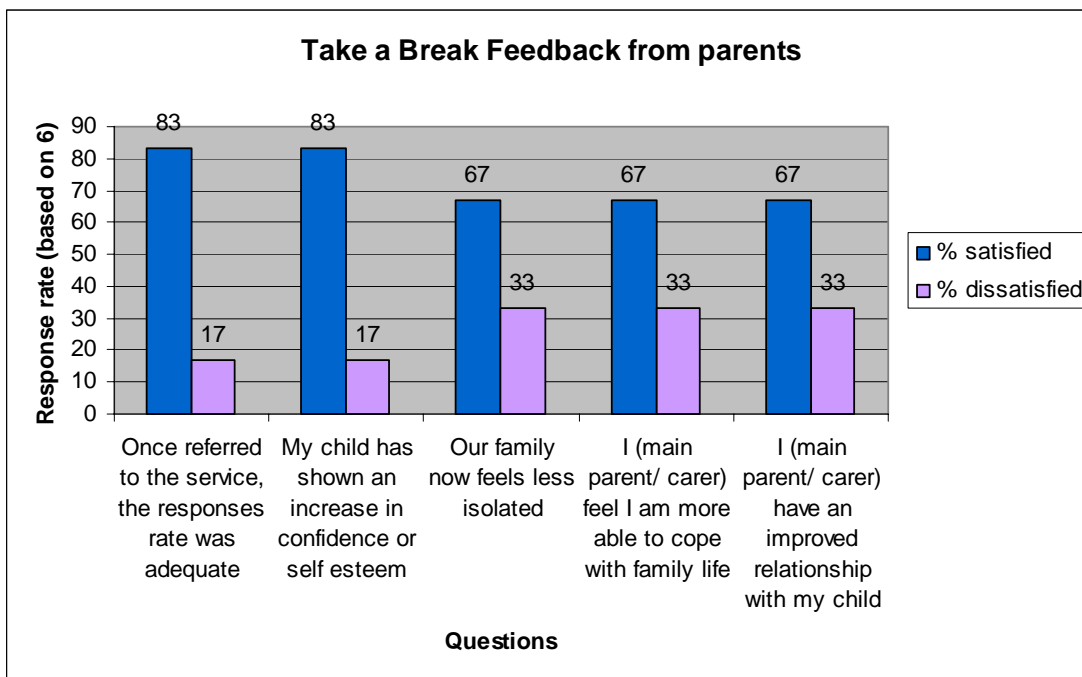
*“He is able to participate in a relaxed and supportive environment and it gives him an opportunity to improve his social communication skills. This has helped his self esteem.”*

*“This group is having a positive effect on my child and is great for our whole family.”*

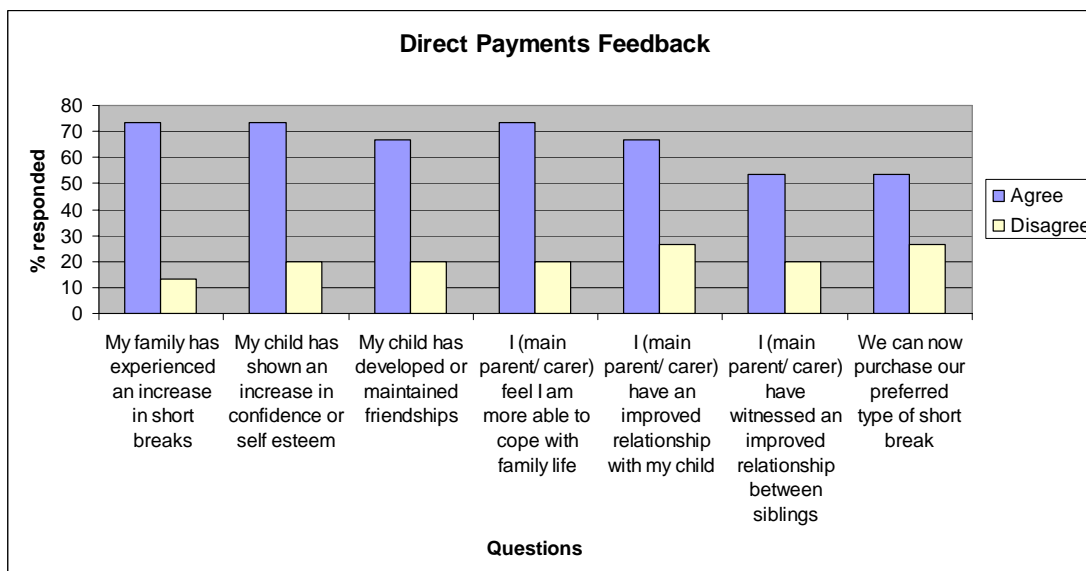
### **Commissioned Services through SLA –**

- Contract Carers – This project was piloted in 09/10 and established in 11/11 where it met its targets for delivery of family based overnight care. This service has been able to respond to meeting the needs of CYP in emergency situations preventing moves to more costly out of county placements. It provided nearly 200 overnights in 10/11 as well as day care hours.

The chart below shows the satisfaction rate of this service during 10/11:



- Expansion of Direct Payments for Short Breaks – One of the aims if the AHDC programme was to expand the amount of Direct Payments in respect of short breaks. Funding was used to increase the no of CYP receiving DPs and to increase the size of the DP package for some CYP. In 10/11 funding was also used to support pre school children to attend a range of targeted opportunity play groups etc. The chart below shows the satisfaction rate of this service during 10/11:



- Expansion of Community Childminding Network – Funding was used to support the expansion of the Bucks Community Childminding Network (BCCN). This has allowed additional co-ordinator time to be recruited to support increased childminders to be recruited onto the network.

The service was able to offer 181 overnights and over 8,000 day hours to a range of disabled CYP.

Examples of outcomes: ‘A child with down’s syndrome with very challenging behaviour began desensitised therapeutic care. The first few sessions were of 15 minutes only then gradually the session were extended to 2 hours. Parents were taught strategies and followed them at home.’

*‘Working mum was using after school club for her very autistic child. They couldn’t cope in that environment so came to childminder instead. Mum has learned coping strategies from childminder and feels supported - even going through divorce - was still able to cope with childminders support.’*

- Outdoor Education All Ability Programme – The 10/11 programme built on the success of the 09/10 programme and offered a varied range of outdoor activity based short breaks form ‘all ability days’ thorough to weekend residential stays and for some week long residential breaks in either Derbyshire or Finland. The programme delivered 406 overnight stays in residential settings and nearly 5000 day hours of activity. Some examples of project outcomes are described below through evaluation charts and parent quotes:

#### Impact and Evaluation of Finland Project

Key Impacts on Participants						
Impact Description	No impact	Little impact	Some Impact	Significant impact	Sig impact	Positive impact
	Actual responses				%	
Development of personal confidence and self esteem	0	0	8	12	60.00	100.00
Development of your self awareness and social skills	1	1	11	7	35.00	90.00
Your initiative, self reliance and ability to take responsibility for yourself and others	0	1	13	6	30.00	95.00
Your ability to work with others in a team	1	0	5	13	68.42	94.74
The development of your independence	1	2	9	9	42.86	85.71
Your appetite or motivation for learning or trying new things	0	2	2	16	80.00	90.00
Has the programme broadened your horizons or outlook on life	0	3	4	13	65.00	85.00

*“I am sure that she feels the benefits of the week and will be braver to tackle new challenges with her self confidence. I felt truly privileged to see the young people participating and growing in confidence in their abilities.”*

*“He enjoyed it a lot and I think it helped his confidence, his interaction with others his gross and fine motor skill development especially.”*

## Small Grant Funded Projects –

A varied range of projects were funded towards the end of 2010/11 through small amounts of grant funding from the AHDC grant. This was possible because one of the larger external contracts was slower to commence than had been planned, which released funding back to the programme. The following table outlines some of the range of small projects that was supported through the programme:

Item	Impact
Funding to support the equipment needed for phase 1 of the Grove residential overnight service building extension e.g. multi sensory provision.	Has supported access of CYP with complex health needs to the unit.
Funding to support expansion of the Barnardo's Little Breaks project to develop a specialist toy library & outreach work	<i>"My daughter has complex needs, and requires 24/7 care. This can be very tiresome however the 3 hours per week which has been allocated to her are of great benefit to not only her but also my eldest daughter as it enables me to spend some quality time with her, to make her feel just as special as her sister."</i>
Funding to support short breaks provided at Thames Valley Adventure Playground and additional play equipment.	Additional short breaks were offered to families
Funding to purchase a range of specialist toys and equipment to support the following short services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desborough Play Den</li> <li>• Marlow Opportunity Play Group</li> <li>• Bucks Community Childminding Network</li> <li>• Boomerang Toy Library</li> </ul>	<i>"We were able to purchase some more sensory equipment, including a pop up tent, cause &amp; effect toys, musical instruments, a large water/sand tray that allows for wheelchair access, large spinning top, role play resources and a new skittle game were amongst the many items. They have certainly made a difference to the children, motivating them to try something new and supporting their turn taking/ social/interactive skills."</i>
Funding to support pilot projects developed by Clearly Speaking, which included a 'Glee Club' and a Pre Duke of Edinburgh course for young people with ASD	<i>"At a time when the pressure is really on for children and young people to be able to speak up and communicate clearly with others, what better way to build confidence and encourage that voice than through song and music making. The club has already been enjoyed by children as young as three and young people with a wide range of skills and abilities. Some enjoy singing out their favourite songs, some beat out the rhythm on the bongo drums and others play an instrument such as saxophone, guitar or piano."</i>
Funding to support a range of providers to	A range of outings and trips were delivered

<p>deliver a programme of school holiday trips and activities:          South Bucks National Autistic Society (NAS)          Aylesbury Vale NAS          Spectrum Club          Young Deaf Activities (YDA)          South Bucks Down Syndrome Group          Bucks Vision</p>	<p>from pantomime trip, bowling, swimming, go-carting, London museums, theatre trips, Thomley trips etc.</p>
<p>Funding to support the universal Community Counts Club - Shed at the Park</p>	<p><i>"My 17 year old daughter has profound and multiple learning disabilities. As a wheelchair user with no speech there are not many clubs or activities open to her out of school. I had been a long time supporter of the work of Chicken Shed and when I discovered that a local group had set up I could not put my daughter's name down fast enough. Without fail she comes home smiling and making happy noises after her weekly session. The very words "It's Shed tonight" bring a beam to her face. For one night of the week she is "part of the gang", an able participant accepted for who she is and what she can do".</i></p>
<p>Funding to purchase equipment at Swan Pool &amp; Aqua Vale swimming pools.</p>	<p>to increase access to disabled CYP</p>
<p>Funding to support additional after school activities at Booker Park School e.g. family swim sessions and youth clubs</p>	<p>Funding provided approx. 850 hrs of activity</p> <p><i>"Thank your for arranging the family swim sessions we have all thoroughly enjoyed each one. It has been one of the highlights for the girls they have been so excited before each session."</i></p>
<p>Funded vouchers to support family 'free' access to short break services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longridge</li> <li>• Thomley</li> </ul>	<p>Family days for over 100 families</p>
<p>Funding to support 'Horsewyse' (hippotherapy) projects at Booker Park School and Oak Green Schools</p>	<p>Some of the group who had previously not been able to respond and behave in a socially acceptable way had shown real progress. Improvement in communication skills in particular were noted as the children learnt the importance of talking to a horse in an appropriate tone of voice. Learning to care for the horse has improved the groups confidence</p>
<p>Funding to support a range of after school disability sport clubs across the county:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swan Pool - Tuesday Club</li> <li>• Booker Park - Thursday Club</li> <li>• Burnham Upper School - disability sports</li> <li>• Beaconsfield Centre - disability sports</li> <li>• Stony Dean School - disability sports</li> <li>• Horizon sports club – disability sports</li> </ul>	<p><i>"All of this sporting activity has helped him enormously with his co-ordination and social skills. He has seen that others have far greater difficulties than he has and he has developed a great sense of fair play."</i></p> <p><i>"It has created a blossoming network of social opportunity as well as sporting"</i></p>
<p>Funding to support the training for staff to develop a new older teenage provision at</p>	

Thomley Hall	
Funding to support Talkback to deliver a school holiday arts based short break week	<p><i>“She described the week as ‘absolutely brilliant’ and I appreciated the opportunity of coming to the presentation on Friday – it was uplifting. It is always difficult to find appropriate activities for her during the holidays where she will be understood, motivated, encouraged and kept safe. Your Talkback week ticked all those boxes.”</i></p> <p><i>And having seen the end result, to get her to speak in front of a camera (she usually gets exceptionally camera-shy when put on the spot!) is to be congratulated in itself!”</i></p>
Funding to support the Bucks County council library services to install and develop the ‘Boardmaker’ communications system in some libraries for families to access.	<p>Parents (of CYP with ASD) requested that they would like to be able to access ‘Boardmaker’ software so that they could support the same communication methods schools were able to use with their CYP. Worked in partnership with BCC libraries services and parents to get this project off the ground.</p>
Funding to support carers short breaks through Carers Bucks for adult and sibling carers	<p>Adult carers benefited from a range of relaxation therapies to give them ‘time out’ from caring.</p> <p>Sibling carers benefited from a range of activities/trips to give them ‘time out’ from caring.</p>

### **3 Outcomes and Successes from the Programme**

#### **Reaching Full Service Offer**

It was agreed Buckinghamshire had reached Full Service Offer as a result of the evidence submitted through the Laimp, Tracker and TDC quarterly progress questions/reviews. This was achieved 4 months ahead of the deadline.

#### **Increase in Number of Disabled CYP Accessing Short Breaks and Volume of Short Breaks Delivered**

- The numbers of children receiving a short break increased from 350 to 992 by the end of the programme. Therefore the number of children receiving short breaks overall increased by 183% since 2008 and by 76% since 2009/10.
- The largest increase shown was in group based provision and family and individual provision. There was a strategic decision to grow these areas given that “overnights” was the major element of the original respite provision.
- For increase in hours of short breaks, group based provision was the area of largest increase due to the new commissioned holiday scheme, weekend activities and under 5’s pilot scheme. Again overnights showing only slight increase as this was not main priority for funding.
  - The number of overnights overall increased by 8% since 2008 and by 0.9% since 2009/10.
  - The number of family based day hours increased by 26% since 2008 and by 10% since 2009/10.
  - The number of group based specialist day hours increased by 105% since 2008 and by 62% since 2009/10.
  - The number of group based universal day hours increased by 86% since 2008 and by 49% since 2009/10.

Please see Appendices 3 and 4 for detailed data reports on 09/10 and 10/11 short breaks growth.

#### **Numbers of Disabled CYP Becoming Looked After (LAC)**

Numbers of disabled CYP becoming LAC remained quite static during the programme against a general trend of increasing numbers of children generally becoming LAC following the ‘Baby P’ case.

#### **AHDC Programme Questionnaire**

A questionnaire was completed by parents of disabled CYP at the end of the AHDC programme. The returned response was from a limited number but still provides some useful direction for the short breaks programme going forward

and will form part of the evidence to support Buckinghamshire's Short Breaks Services Statement:

- **Short break providing sufficient break to continue caring for child**

Also very positively, just over  $\frac{3}{4}$  (76%) of those responding to this part of the question agreed or strongly agreed that the short breaks provided sufficient break to allow them to continue to care for their children or children in their care.

- **Short break allows parent / carer to carry out education, training, leisure**

The split between these responses is nearly half and half. The reasoning behind this result again could be many, and without further questions identifying assumptions can only be made. One reason may be related to the response further down related to undertaking household duties, as the time may be used in this area rather than in education or training, or even leisure activities. However, half respondents are carrying these out, which is a positive outcome.

- **Short break allows parent / carer to meet needs of other children in family**

There is a high response relating to parents / carers being able to meet the needs of other children in the family as a result of the short breaks. Though just over 20% disagree or strongly disagree that this is possible.

- **Short break allows parent / carer to carry out household tasks**

As identified earlier the short breaks are allowing for household tasks to be undertaken, which helps with the overall wellbeing of the family. Nearly 85% agree or strongly agree with this part of the question.

N.B. For full AHDC Programme Questionnaire report see appendix 5

## 4 Capital Programme 2010/11

### Capital Strategy

A capital strategy was developed and signed off by the Council in 2010, which identified the three key areas for priority for the capital development programme within Buckinghamshire:

1. Capital to support universal service providers of short breaks
2. Capital to support commissioning plans for revenue spend
3. Capital to support specialist service providers of short breaks

Disabled children and young people in Buckinghamshire had told us they wanted:

- To take part in activities with their siblings and non disabled peers that build their confidence
- Access to a big range of exciting opportunities including challenging and adventurous ones
- To be safe but not prevented from doing certain activities
- To access local facilities with their siblings, peers and non disabled peers
- To take part in more fun activities
- Access to services including equipment, transport facilities and local venues

Disabled young people were supported to take part in the funding allocation panels where decisions were taken to fund projects from bids submitted by universal service providers. AHDC Programme Board parent representatives were also part of this decision making panel.

The programme was agreed before the end of 2009/10 but no funding was spent in this financial year. Following the change in Government only 2010/11 capital funding was awarded.

The impact of this was that two capital projects that had not started were cancelled. These were:

- Green Park residential provision – plans were to make one of the residential units more accessible for disabled CYP
- Everham Centre – plans were to make changing rooms and reception area more accessible to disabled CYP

## The Funded Capital Programme

Capital Plan 10/11	Costs	Progress of works
£584,400		
Aylesbury Vale Community Trust Swan and Aqua Vale pools	£48,820.00	New accessible portable pool steps are in place in both Aqua Vale & Swan pools. 3 sets of automated double doors to be put in at Swan pool over Xmas hols. New portable pool hoist system being put in at Aqua Vale over Xmas hols. 2 'changing places' (male & female) cubicles will be put in over next year (not AHDC funded). Works completed
Buckingham Town Council – Chandos Park	£23,609.00	Work completed. Funding covered a new path, an inclusive roundabout and an extra wide slide.
Booker Park Special School - sensory improvements to hydrotherapy pool	£11,753.00	Works completed. Lighting, music (and other sensory) programmes which staff will be trained shortly. Already in use and being enjoyed by CYP.
Green Park Outdoor Centre - adventure equipment: tank garden, tub garden, pipe garden, wood xylophone garden	£10,000.00	Items purchased and in place.
Green Park Outdoor Centre - adventure equipment: zip wire, swing, climbing slope	£13,000.00	Items ordered and now installed and in use
Chiltern District Council - Chesham Leisure Centre	£23,200.00	Sensory play equipment is in place and other works planned. Pool hoist and lift, hoist and access equipment for climbing wall in place.
Chiltern District Council - Chiltern Pools & Leisure Centre	£41,450.00	Work planned for 'changing places' facility and hoisting equipment for pool. Work completed by end of March
Chiltern District Council - Chalfont Leisure Centre	£6,000.00	Work planned to improve reception access. Work completed by end of March
Jardines Bowling Club - adapted balls, ramp and ball ramps	£4,113.00	Access ramp into main bowling facility, specialist adapted bowling balls and bowling ramps.
subtotal	£181,945.00	
Thomley Hall - Activity Centre	£73,672.50	Improvements to access including toileting and changing facilities. Works completed
Longridge - outdoor activity centre	£25,000.00	Works to complete the training centre are completed and AHDC funding was used for 'changing places' works and improvement works to paths on site.
Barnardo's Little Breaks Project	£17,300.00	Specialist toys and equipment purchased
Action for Children - targeted weekend activities service	£9,000.00	All items purchased and being used./ M & H equipment & specialist toys
Bucks County Council - Take-a- Break Contract Carer Scheme	£9,000.00	specialist equipment for TAB carers
Equipment for family based short break carers	£4,606.00	specialist equipment for family based short break carers
subtotal	£138,578.50	

Merryfields Residential Short Break Service - adaptation work to improve access to CYP with complex health needs & specialist equipment	£107,328	completed
Specialist Equipment for 201 Buckingham Rd - Residential Short Break Services	£957.00	completed
The Grove Residential Short Break Service - extension to increase access capacity to CYP with complex needs and house outreach service and specialist equipment	£140,341.62	Phase 1 capital works completed
subtotal	£248,626.62	
Professional Fees Incurred to date re Green Park & Everham Centre	£320.00	Paid
Slippage against phase 1 Grove capital project	£14, 929.88	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£584,400.00</b>	

### What Difference Is It Making?

One example from the above capital programme is the work done at Chesham Leisure Centre:

#### Launch of New Sensory Equipment at Chesham Leisure Centre

“Chesham Leisure Centre, managed by Nexus Community (a division of GLL) on behalf of Chiltern District Council celebrated the official launch of their new sensory equipment on Tuesday 22 March.



Sensory equipment allows children and adults with special needs to explore and develop their senses and skills. The new sensory equipment was funded by Buckinghamshire Aiming High for Disabled Children Capital Grant and includes a sensory area with bubble tube, fibre optic obit tails and music which allows children to explore light, sound and movement.

Heritage House, a community special school for children (ages 2 to 19 years) with a range of learning difficulties, came along to the centre and had a fantastic time,

playing in the pool pit, jumping on the trampoline and swinging on the rings. The children who have a varied range of disabilities managed to get full use and enjoyment out of all the equipment.



Paul Nanji, Principal Leisure and Community Officer at Chiltern District Council says "The new sensory play equipment offers a wonderful experience for children with additional needs to enjoy a fun and interactive environment and it was fantastic to see children from Heritage House School enjoy their visit to Chesham leisure centre. The new equipment is one of a number of new facilities made available at Chiltern's three leisure centres including new pool hoists, adapted climbing equipment and improved disabled changing rooms. All of the improvements have been funded through the Buckinghamshire Aiming High Capital Programme (ring fenced funding that was awarded to the County Council in 10/11 to support improved access of disabled children and young people to short break activities). Chiltern's programme of works was co-ordinated by Chiltern District Council, Nexus Community and Bucks County Council."



Wendy Zakrzewsk, Courses Co-ordinator at Chesham Leisure Centre says "I am very pleased at how much enjoyment Chess and Humble classes got from their visit to the gym pit today. The new sensory equipment was a big hit with all the students; they especially liked the ball pit and lights. We are hoping to set up regular session for local schools with special needs to visit this area and benefit from all the new equipment we offer."

## 5 Information

### Core Offer

An AHDC Communications Strategy was developed to support the Programme and the requirement to meet a 'Core Offer', which sets out five standards for services for disabled children:

- information
- transparency
- assessment
- participation
- feedback

Some of the key messages from that strategy:

- Well promoted information regarding the short break provision available in the area.
- For all parties to communicate in an open, honest and transparent way (Buckinghamshire County Council, children, young people and their families, and other key stakeholders)
- Disabled children and young people and their families can expect information and communication to be accessible
- Disabled children and young people and their families can expect information and communication to be available
- Disabled children and young people and their families can expect information and communication to be relevant and accurate
- Disabled children and young people and their families can expect information and communication to be joined up
- Disabled children and young people and their families can expect information and communication to be user focussed
- Disabled children and young people and their families can expect information that covers:

- ❖ Access to services
- ❖ All providers
- ❖ All services
- ❖ Key transition points

This led to various methods of information and communication being developed to support core offer.

### AHDC WEBSITE

The AHDC website was developed and is currently hosted on the Children and Young People's Trust website. It can be accessed at:

[www.buckinghamshirepartnership.gov.uk/aiminghigh](http://www.buckinghamshirepartnership.gov.uk/aiminghigh)

The website provides a way of sharing information internally at the Council and externally to providers and parents etc.

### **Buckinghamshire Family Information Service**

The AHDC team has worked closely with BFIS to ensure that information from the programme has been available through BFIS as well as the AHDC website. It has been the BFIS that has been the single point of open access information regarding short breaks, activities and childcare for disabled CYP.

Work continues with plans to develop the disability pages of BFIS and to host the AHDC website in the future.

### **Newsletter**

An AHDC newsletter – ‘In the Picture’ was agreed and 5 editions were published during the programme. This was primarily an e- newsletter, though hard copies were printed in response to requests from some parents. These can still be accessed on the AHDC website.

The newsletter provided articles on short breaks and other elements of the programme, with many articles written by parents and some by disabled young people.

### **Starting Point Directory**

A comprehensive parents’ directory was developed for the end of the programme, which contains information on benefits, education, social care, health, childcare, transitions, short breaks etc. This was developed as a response to many parents referring to how useful their old ‘green/ blue books called "Starting Point" were and that it would be good to have an up to date version.

Parents choose the name ‘Starting Point’ again for the new directory and contributed to what sections should be included, some of the information contained and supplied all the pictures of disabled CYP that were used in the directory.

It has now been circulated widely to parents, schools, GP surgeries, other health settings, child care and short break providers etc. and received very positive feedback about its content and usefulness.

The directory continues to be distributed through BFIS as requested. It is also held as PDF version on the BFIS website, which can be updated as needed.

### **AHDC Celebration Event**

An event to celebrate the success and end of the programme was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011. The event provided information to parents, provided a range of fun activities for disabled CYP and their siblings and was used to launch the ‘Starting Point Directory, which had just been published.

Feedback received from the event was very positive and some of the quotes received:

*“The drumming sounded fantastic but we didn’t manage to have a go as T was engrossed in her smoothie making! Thank you for inviting us and for putting it all together, we as a family are going to benefit so much from all the advice. Didn’t know there was so much out there.”*

*“My family had a brilliant morning, all the staff where lovely - including the ladies in the children’s centre lorry who kept my twin boys amused with lots to do, whilst my older children were doing activities inside the school.”*

*“Our son has ASD, and limited communication, but was able to enjoy an archery session with full support and guidance. We all had great fun playing drums together too! The day was very informative and everyone involved was very helpful.”*

*“How impressed I was with the Transition & Shortbreaks fair held at Booker Park last Saturday. I'm wading my way through the masses of valuable information that I will be passing on to the families in my clinic. The care put into making the day informative, fun and accessible for the families was evident. The feedback I've had from the parents and children I know, and those I work with is wonderful. My time there was most enjoyable; the only sadness was not being eligible to have my face painted.”*



## **6 Pinpoint Database**

The Children Act 1989 requires all Social Services departments to keep a database of children with disabilities to help with planning and monitoring services. The Council's previous Planning Database for Children with Disabilities was out of date so AHDC re-launched it as the AHDC Pinpoint Database. Registration is voluntary on the AHDC Pinpoint Database and as well as wanting information to help plan services the database was used and continues to be used to distribute information of interest to families with disabled CYP; this is done in conjunction with BFIS.

Flyers and registration forms were printed and circulated widely and to date there are over 400 CYP registered on the database. The database was used to circulate a short breaks satisfaction survey in June 2010. It had a limited return but results at that time showed 79% of parents who receive short breaks feel that they do exactly what they aim to, make their family lives feel easier and 69% of parents agree that the short breaks their child receives has had a positive impact on their lives.

## 7 Workforce Development

The Buckinghamshire Aiming High & DCATCH Workforce Development plan successfully implemented a comprehensive range of solutions across all workforces and raised the profile of carers of disabled children across Children's Services.

It facilitated increased access to a variety of training modules aimed at short break carers and designed to support them to complete their Short Break Carer Standards. The training was recognised by Bucks New University as a suitable pathway to Higher Education options and also by TDC as an example of good practice to enable carers to access the Short Break Standards. Feedback from participants has also been positive

- "I enjoyed the whole day, the course is very valuable to my role"
- "Very useful in focusing on importance of putting young person as central"
- "I really enjoyed the training. It was well spaced with lots of activities. There was a very relaxed atmosphere, which made me comfortable and confident to ask questions. Everything was very well explained with lots of examples and scenarios. Thank you so much."

The modular training programme offered 6 core modules:

1. Discrimination, inclusion & the experience of disabled children, young people & their families
2. Understanding the development of disabled children & young people
3. Communicating effectively with disabled children, young people & their families
4. Working in partnership to support positive transitions for disabled children, young people & their families
5. Understanding & positively managing the behaviour of disabled children & young people
6. Working in partnership to safeguard disabled children & young people & provide a safe & healthy environment

There has been an assessment of the impact of the training received once back in the workplace. Quotes form this: *"It has made me aware that the parents are the teachers, they have all of the knowledge about their child. So communication is the key for a good outcome."*

*"I feel more confident in dealing with negative behaviour."*

It also offered training to supervisors/managers to enable assessment of work based evidence to support the completion of the CWDC Short Break Carers workbook, as well as information for providers to access specialist training and additional courses. To date 20 BCCN childminders will have completed their Children's Workforce and Development Council (CWDC) Short breaks Carer Worker Standards by end of June 2011, with 8 more working towards completion in this year. All TAB and Contract Carers have commenced the standards with the focus on the 4 contract carers and approximately 12 overnight TAB carers completing the standards first.

To complement this training the programme also trained Parents to deliver inclusion training called "Open Minds, Open Doors" to universal services and childcare settings. This has been extremely well received and has provided part-time flexible employment to 13 parent carers. Feedback from providers has shown that training provided by parents has a greater impact.

The evaluation of this training has been completed and the average rating across all areas of this training as below was 1.4 where 1 is rated as outstanding and 2 as good.

Achievement of stated objectives	1.4
Value of training in relation to job	1.4
<b>Course Delivery</b>	
Knowledge of subject matter	1.2
Appropriateness of materials	1.4
Appropriateness of methods	1.3
Responsiveness to participants	1.2
<b>Course Effectiveness</b>	
Stimulation of new ideas	1.5
Improvement in skills / knowledge	1.5

**Quotes from attendees at this training:**

*“Helped me to understand a little bit more that children need a positive response around them and can be very aware of the negativity of others who are fearful.”*

*“It was good to have parents providing information as they have more knowledge about how children and parents are treated and how this can be changed or improved.”*

*“Very informative, given me ideas on how I could make my setting available to children with disabilities and special educational needs.”*

*“Encouraged review of our activities and approach. Will think about ways to improve our practice over next few weeks.”*

The Disabled Children's Workforce has continued to be recognised as a distinct group and due to the success of the project last year; training has been developed for this year and is now being embedded in business as usual.

All of this has been backed up by the provision of "Child Specific" Training provided by Buckingham Healthcare NHS Trust (BHT) to short break settings can access the appropriate training to support the access of children and young people with complex health needs and/or complex moving and handling needs.

This service which is now being extended to cover child care settings has already enabled 115 disabled CYP with the most complex health and/or physical needs to access short break services and activities they might not otherwise have been able to do safely.

The service has been accessed by settings across the 3 levels of short breaks with examples below:

Level 1 – Universal: Wycombe Sports Centre, Thomley, Swan Pool

Level 2 – Targeted: Bucks Activity Project, Little Breaks, Rainbow pre-school

Level 3 – Specialist: Residential overnight short breaks service, TAB, care being arranged under Continuing Health Care funded packages.

The range of training provided by the nurse under this contract has included areas such as: Gastrostomy feeding, administration of rectal Diazepam, administration of Buccal Midazolam, administration of medication via Gastrostomy, nasal gastric feed and meds, colostomy care etc.

Often referrals require several training tasks to be completed per child with one child requiring 6 different procedures to be carried out whilst having their short break.

Professionals/providers requesting the training have rated the quality of the training provided at 100% (good, very good and excellent), with nearly 50% rating it as excellent.

The Occupational Therapist (OT) under this contract has also supported a range of universal settings in advising re access and moving and handling as part of their capital bid process to access funding.

## **8 Disabled Children and Young People's Participation**

### **Core Offer**

The purpose of the core offer was to improve access to services by ensuring that disabled children, young people and their families:

- Were aware of services available to them in their area
- Understood how those services can be accessed
- Underwent only the minimum possible assessment to qualify for services
- Were actively involved in the planning and delivery of services in their local area
- Were aware of ways in which they can give feedback on their experiences of services

The Participation element of the Core Offer called for the engagement of disabled children and their families involvement in shaping and developing services, and stated 'disabled children & young people and their families are routinely involved and supported in making informed decisions about their treatment, care and support and in shaping services'.

The disability participation worker was appointed in September 2009 to take forward the Participation element of the core offer with children and young people. Since then the worker has worked in partnership with other members of the Children Trust Participation Team, the Youth Service Participation Team and, collaboratively with a range of agencies and services to engage, support and promote disabled children and young people's involvement and ongoing engagement in a range of initiatives underpinned by key objectives outlined in a SLA.

### **Summary of The Work Undertaken And Key Successes**

#### **Young Peoples Involvement in Decision- Making Processes**

##### **RSB Consultation Phase 1**

- Disabled young people using a number of short break services were consulted regarding the residential short break service they currently receive. The consultation paid particular attention to their likes & dislikes and areas they felt could be improved. This resulted in the RSB report which voiced the disabled young people's opinions & highlighted recommendations for the new service provider. Phase 2 of the RSB consultation will be carried out in the autumn and will seek to determine whether there have been improvements in services as a result of the recommendations from phase 1.

##### **February 2010 Residential-Avon Tyrell**

- Disabled young people were encouraged and supported to participate in the annual participation residential. The annual residential brings together young people who are involved in youth cabinets and youth forums, it

gives them the opportunity to review their activities, to network as groups of young people and to jointly plan for future activities. The disabled participation worker was involved in the planning of the residential, especially in identifying how and supporting disabled young people involvement and also delivered sessions on the residential. Disabled young people's involvement in residential activities was further consolidated when a new group attended and fully participated in the August residential held at Green Park Centre. This work has not only enabled disabled children and young people to engage in the work of the youth cabinets it also provided them with the opportunity to mix with diverse group of young people, as well as raise awareness about the needs of disabled young among those working with and supporting cabinets, as well as the young people.

### **Harding House**

- The participation worker has developed links with a number of special needs schools in order to raise awareness of the participation work with disabled children and young people and to promote and encourage take up of the opportunities available. In particular the worker has worked closely with Harding House in delivering sessions on the role of the youth cabinets in order to recruit young people from the school. As a result of this work young people who have shown an interest in engaging further will be receiving training from British Youth Council training.

### **Summer Promotion of Youth Cabinet's**

- Since June the worker has visited various other youth provisions for disabled young people to promote the existing youth cabinets that are operating across Buckinghamshire. The intention is to recruit young people onto cabinets. Therefore making them more inclusive and accessible to disabled young people, instead of establishing separate forums for disabled young people, that, in the long run could further alienate and marginalise disabled young people from mainstream provision. Around 75 new disabled young people have been engaged with over the summer and have showed an interest in the youth cabinets. Over the autumn the worker will be following up on the new contacts to invite young people to take part in the youth cabinets.

## **Training and Development Opportunities**

### **Delivery of Participation & Hear by Right training**

- The disability participation worker has been involved in a number of training events aimed at raising awareness of the needs of disabled children and young people in relation to the participation agenda and access to universal services. Specifically she has planned and delivered Participation & Hear By Right training to members of the voluntary & community sector, to help promote the use of the Bucks version of the Hear By Right planning & mapping tool & to highlight the work of the Participation Team. She has also contributed to Right Respecting Schools Award sessions, which saw involvement from disabled young people

## Access to Universal Provision

- **Relationship forming** – The DPW has formed good relationships within the CYPT team & within other service teams & partners for example; Outdoor Education, Disability Team / external contacts. This has enabled the disability participation worker to engage with new disabled children and young people who were previously unaware of the opportunities offered by the Participation Team. One example of this was promotion of the Youth Cabinets, which resulted in disabled young people who took part in the Outdoor Education Finland residential being supported to participate in the Youth Cabinet annual residential.
- **11 Million Takeover Day 2009** – The worker was involved in the delivery & joint planning of this event. Takeover Day 2010 – To facilitate disabled young people's involvement in this year's event the worker has liaised with the Children with Disabilities Team & will be working on a joint project. Unfortunately due to a variety of reasons this event did not take place.
- **Family Fun Days X 2** – In 2009 the worker contributed to the planning & delivery of the FIS Consultation, and was also involved in the FFD held in early 2010. The fun days gave the worker the opportunity to engage with DCYP & their families. The days sought to engage with new families each time to make them aware of the services available.
- **Creativity For Health** – A week long event aimed at LAC young people gave them the opportunity to participate in a diverse range of arts and other activities. In her capacity as member of the Trust Participation Team the disability participation worker contributed to the planning and delivery of this event.

## 9 Parent Participation

Parent Participation has been developed through the AHDC programme from a very low starting point compared with CYP participation, which was already generally well developed in Bucks.

Pockets of participation have happened successfully across specific projects within the AHDC programme e.g. a parent's advisory group for the re-commissioned residential overnight short breaks service has resulted in changes. Some good work has been done to engage with parents from the BME communities through one of the parent forums that have been established. 60% (28) of parents attending a participation day on 18/09/10 from BME groups, which was a real opportunity for them to learn more about local short break services as well as having the opportunity to discuss their needs. There have been two parent reps on the AHDC programme board.

Generally getting parent participation really embedded could be improved so that it takes place in a more structured and cohesive way.

The following sets out the work of the Parent Participation Service during 2010/11:

- Successfully run 8 regional parent meetings in the summer term, 8 in Autumn Term and 5 in Spring Term.  
The locations, days and times of these meetings were agreed by parents in that local region. Meetings were attended by visiting speakers from professions/work areas requested by the parents e.g. SEN department and Social Care teams.
- Engaged on-site childminders, interpreters and a BSL signer in order to make the meetings accessible to hard-to-reach groups.  
Parents requested on-site childcare to enable them to attend these meetings, rather than being reimbursed for childcare away from the venue. Specific parents also requested interpreting support in order to participate fully in the meeting.
- Facilitated a pre-FACT Bucks meeting and a FACT Bucks meeting in the summer term, Autumn Term and Spring Term. Parents had agreed throughout the programme to continue with this model of termly meetings with professionals in a multi-agency setting attending by representatives from parent groups who set the agenda based on their respective groups' concerns and issues. Parents agree and set the agenda, which influences which professionals attend each meeting.
- Involved in the tender process for respite care by arranging parent reps on the panel, arranging parent meetings, and facilitating the parents' panel on the day. Organised the debrief session for the respite care panel.  
Participation is being recognised by Professionals in Buckinghamshire, and this is an excellent example of professionals requesting parental participation in a decision-making process.

- Successfully launched the Parent Advisory Group for Respite Care and have regularly facilitated meetings including booking rooms, inviting attendees, arranging refreshments and taking and distributing minutes. Parents wanted to continue their involvement in the implementation and ongoing running of the new respite care service, and felt regular meetings with the Council and the new provider were essential.
- Facilitated the Parent SEN Transport Focus Group including arranging meetings, inviting attendees, and chairing, writing and distributing minutes. Parents were concerned there was not a regular method of communicating concerns and issues relating to transport to the relevant professionals directly. Following a recommendation from the Scrutiny and Overview report it was agreed regular meetings with parents should be facilitated in order to improve flow of communication, to resolve issues, and to enable parents to participate in any changes to the service provision.
- Facilitated the Parent Transition Focus Group including arranging meetings, inviting attendees and chairing the meetings. Parents expressed concerns regarding the confusion relating to the transition period for their older children, exacerbated by the removal of the transition social work team. Parents requested two regional meetings in the north and south of the county, and desire these to continue.
- Held planning meetings with parents to agree all details for the participation days at Thames Valley Adventure Playground, and Thomley Activity Centre. Facilitated two family participation days which included information stands for parents, activities planned and designed by parents, and opportunities to engage in consultation throughout the day. Parents have wanted regular events as part of the participation programme in Bucks. The activity day at Thames Valley Adventure Playground was agreed by parents, who also decided on the day and activities which were offered. Professionals wanted to consult with parents and inform about services, and were offered the activity days as an opportunity to do this.
- Supported parents on Council boards. Professionals within Aiming High requested parental participation at their regular meetings, and parents requested being a part of the Aiming High decision-making process, as well as helping to ensure communication flows between parents and professionals.
- Supported FACT Bucks to set up their own bank account, and managed their own finances independently based on parental priorities. Parents requested that participation work should be independent from the Council, and that finances should be controlled by themselves. A separate bank account has enabled this flexibility and freedom.

- Supported parents to rename the group – FACT Bucks and agree on a group logo.  
Parents felt that in order to show they had moved on from consultation and were truly a participatory group they needed to change the name. They also decided on a group logo in order to give the group more status and presence, and to help with promotion throughout Buckinghamshire.
- Have created their own website and are working on the content.  
Parents requested an independent website to help communicate more effectively with a wider audience of families. It was felt very strongly this should be completely separate from the Council and Parent Partnership. Parents wanted content to be written by parents and that parents should have control over the content and management of the site.
- Have written a newsletter and contributed regularly to the Aiming High newsletter.  
Have sent out regular information to parents on services and provision in the county, and details of consultations and surveys taking place, both regionally and nationally, and supported parents' involvement in those.  
Parents expressed a need and importance for printed material to be available for parents, as many families do not have access to email or the internet.
- Worked with an independent consultant to gain parental contributions on childcare provision to inform and influence the Childcare Strategy in Bucks.  
The Council employed an external consultant to collate information and opinions on childcare, including families of disabled children, so they were invited to attend the regional meetings. Parents appreciated being involved in this consultation, and the regional meetings helped more parents to be involved in this research, making it more reflective and representative of needs in Bucks.
- Attended outreach events including the multi-cultural day in Aylesbury and the Activity days in Green Park.  
Parents have continually asked us to reach more parents so we can be as representative as possible. To do this it is important we go out and meet people around the county, as well as continue our liaison and networking with professionals within Bucks CC, Bucks PCT and third sector organisations.
- Visited special schools in Bucks to meet parents and inform about FACT Bucks and how parents can participate.  
Also it was hoped this linking with special schools could possible result in more parent reps coming forward to represent the school community, in order to help FACT Bucks be more representative, in line with current FACT Bucks reps requests.
- Attended various meetings including the parenting reference group, children's partnership board and aiming high task groups.

Again, as above – it is a vital part of the work to ensure FACT Bucks is promoted to professionals so they can support and use the group for participatory activities.

- Planned, promoted and delivered four training courses in Aylesbury, Buckingham, High Wycombe and Wooburn Green.  
Parents agreed when setting the budget for the government grant that a proportion should be spent on training parents in order to build their own skills and confidence. The course used has been written in consultation with parents in other areas, was received very positively in Bucks and is being repeated due to the parental feedback from those who have undertaken the training. Parents wanted the training to be regionalised in order to help more parents attend. Parents also wanted parents to be part of the training team, and so each course has been run with one participation worker and one parent. In the future this could easily be two parents.
- Ongoing involvement in the speech and language therapy service tender process including organising parental involvement and facilitating the presentation day.  
Professionals requested parental participation in the decision-making process for Speech and Language Therapy Services. Parent's views were sought, and parents who wanted to be involved were invited to meetings and presentations.
- Ongoing involvement in the Boardmaker software proposal from Buckinghamshire library service including collating parental support and arranging parent volunteer sessions in Buckingham library.  
Parents requested this addition to the library resources in Buckinghamshire, based on another local authority's decision to offer this free resource for parents of children with communication needs. Parents were integral to this application for funding, and its success. Parents have also been involved in the planning and development of the installation, training and application for the software, including taking the initiative in devising "open day" sessions for parents to come and learn to use the software with the parent volunteer trainer.
- Supported parents in developing FACT Bucks as an independent organisation including facilitating a training day and an Outcomes session, with support from professionals including Community Impact Bucks. Parents wanted FACT Bucks to become independent from the Council in order to sustain longevity and impartiality from providers. Parents requested more information about what it means to be a charity and how the process works, so a training day was arranged which included outside professional support. This was followed by a facilitated Outcomes session to agree aims and objectives.
- Supported Aiming High funded projects for activity sessions at Thomley Hall and Longridge Centre including administering the vouchers and family details.

Aiming High Commissioners allocated funding for free activity sessions and requested we administered the bookings and queries. This enabled more parents to be aware of the sessions, and take advantage of the offers.

- Encouraged parents to respond to all local and national consultations that affect them, and where possible we've tried to ensure that county council surveys are as parent-friendly as possible.  
Parents want to have a say about services, so we enable them to do so whenever possible. Many FACT Bucks members responded to the BCC Outcomes Survey in 2010, either on forms we distributed at regional meetings or via the Council website.
- Collated parents' views and facilitated FACT Bucks responses to national consultations such as Call for Views (SEN) and DLA Reform.  
In both cases the responses were based entirely on comments sent in by parents, using their own words whenever possible.

## **10 Access to Universal Services**

A task group was set up to take forward the work of improving access to universal services. Membership was made up of a range of universal service providers, workforce development, EYCC, extended services, children's Centres, parent participation and representatives from the 4 district councils.

The group raised the profile of disabled CYP across universal services and was instrumental in supporting various capital bids across the district council's leisure services.

The group also supported the development of inclusion training/disability awareness training across its breadth of services.

Small grant funded projects were developed through this work such as the disability sports clubs.

As part of the work to improve access the tender for a county wide activity service specified the requirement for an inclusion service to support disabled CYP 1:1 to attend universal services of their choice, either as a bridging support or as a more long term short break option. In addition to this the provider was asked to work in partnership across a range of universal services to improve access to disabled CYP, through support, training and where necessary as appropriate to the requirements of the DDA constructive challenge.

## **11 Disabled Children's Access to Childcare (DCATCH)**

### **Pilot Project 2010 – 2011**

“Disabled children and their families should have access to the full range of childcare options that are open to other families”.

Buckinghamshire was awarded £119,149 to develop DCATCH: To embed sustainable systems and procedures to increase disabled children's access to childcare, thereby enabling parents to work or attend training to work.

The scope of the grant was to cover a wide range of activities including affordability analysis, childcare brokerage, training for practitioners, promotion and information to families and practitioners, sufficiency of places, consultation/participation, incentive grants or funding for providers, procurement and development of specialist or universal childcare places/support services, equipment to support placement, transport.

### **How Funding was Used**

- To support the work of the overall Child Care Sufficiency Assessment (demand survey and gap analysis)
- To support workforce training in the child care sector to support greater inclusion of disabled CYP
- To support the development of the 'Starting Point' Directory
- Publication of promotional literature/flyers for DCATCH
- To develop and embed child care brokerage to support DCATCH
- Incentivisation payments to child care settings to maximise inclusion of disabled CYP

### **Impact of Project**

The available budget was fully utilised by the end of 10/11. DCATCH Implementation Planning Tool (DIPT) was submitted as required to support the national programme.

- All key project objectives met and activities mainstreamed – active Childcare Brokerage service (64% of children supported are disabled);
- Information leaflets available in different formats;
- FIS website development ongoing;
- Out of school provision inclusion audited and incentivised;
- Young people and parents consulted (Sufficiency Survey);
- Parent led training delivery ongoing and included in 11/12 EYCS training programme.

## Going Forward

The Council has allocated £43,000 from Early Intervention Grant (EIG) for 2011/12 to support continued progress in this project.

Funding will cover:

- Childcare Broker's salary costs;
- Contingency made for incidentals such as interpreters fees

Childcare Broker currently at capacity supporting 41 cases (29 confirmed disabled child or parent), mainly related to access to early education.

Examples of Brokerage:

- Successfully supported a setting for a disabled child to access childcare, after initial worries about how the setting would cope.
- Supported a family with a disabled child during a setting closure.
- Found emergency childcare whilst a parent attended an interview, using a BCCN childminder.
- Support a family moving to Bucks from overseas with information on statementing, admissions and childcare in the UK.
- Provided information and support for a disabled child accessing Flexible Funding Entitlement.

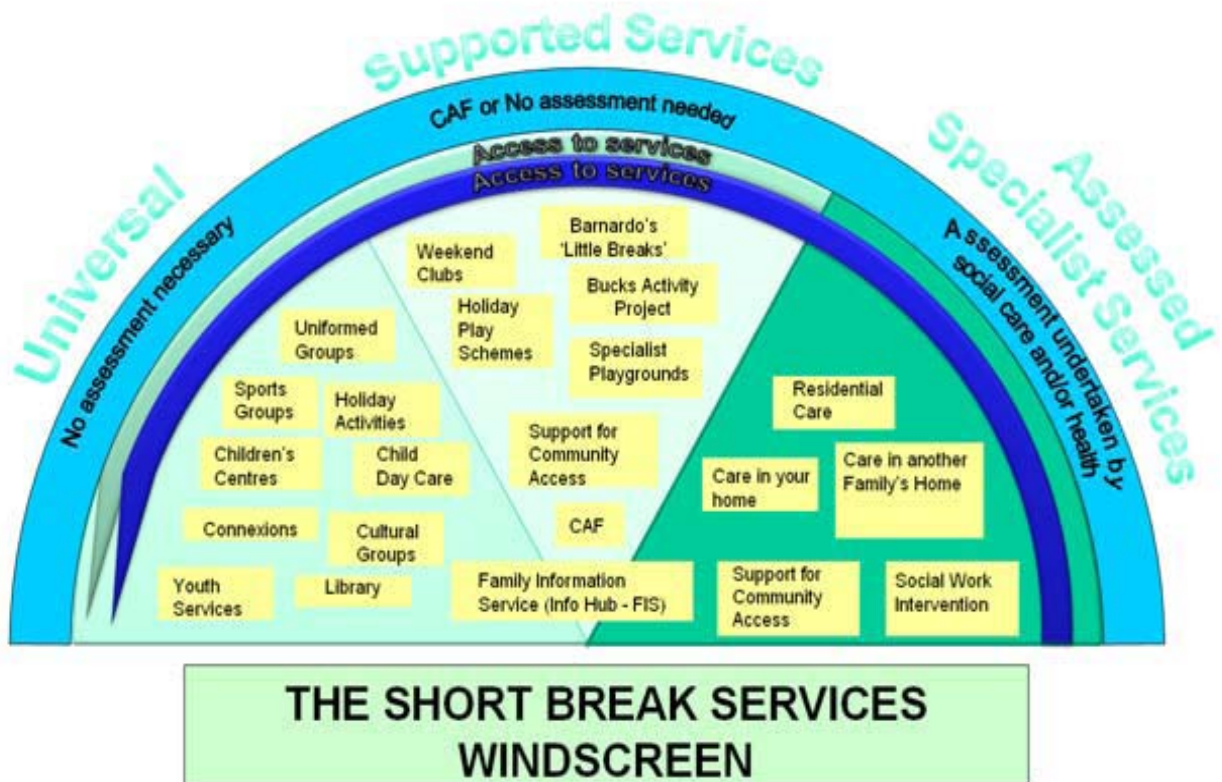
## 12 Eligibility and Access to Short Breaks

### Eligibility & Access to Short Breaks 2009 – 2010

A task group was set up as part of the overall AHDC programme structure to take forward this work. The group included representation from parents of disabled CYP.

A draft document: Buckinghamshire Short Breaks Eligibility Criteria 2010/11 was drafted in consultation with parents and published on the AHDC website. As a result of the consultation with parents the Parent Participation service drafted a document: Time Out: Short Breaks Explained for Families in Buckinghamshire 2010/2011, which was also published on the AHDC website.

These documents set out how families could access short breaks in Buckinghamshire:



CAF – Prevention and Early Intervention through Common Assessment framework (CAF)

Selecting a 'post-it':

Within each 'post-it' there will be either a direct link to an information page (see appendix 1)

For a menu of supported/specialist services (See appendix 2 and 3)

## **Moving Forward - Short Breaks Duty**

From April 2011, local authorities will be under a duty to provide a short breaks service to carers of disabled children.

The regulations build on the rapid expansion of short breaks services which all local authorities have achieved through the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme.

The regulations require local authorities to

- Offer breaks as a preventive early intervention
- Offer a range of services for parents
- Publish a statement of those services to parents.

There is now advice for local authorities which accompany these regulations, which has been drawn up with the help of a small group of local authorities, the Council for Disabled Children and Together for Disabled Children.

The Eligibility and Access to Short Breaks Task Group is overseeing the drafting of the Buckinghamshire Statement ready for consultation, before the required publication date of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011.

The recently evaluated AHDC Programme Survey will be used as part of the consultation evidence to support the Short Breaks Services Statement.

Appendix 1

**AHDC Revenue - Budget Report for Year End 2009/2010**

<b>Budget £534, 800</b>	<b>Actual</b>
SLA Child specific training (complex health and lifting & handling needs)	£30,000
Community Childminding Network specialist childminders	£38,000
Activity Project re-tender, including supporters in universal services	£133,327
Contract foster carer scheme	£29,000
Increase DP budget for parent-managed short breaks	£50,000
To Local Delivery Panel for small bids from local orgs to provide short breaks	£42,000
Information and facilitation costs	£5,750
Parents Participation Worker & Parent Participation administration, 0.5 WTE	£45,666
Children's Participation Worker - and associated participation costs for children	£44,057
Parent Participation costs	£1,000
Management & infrastructure costs, including planning event	£106,000
Specific issue training	£10,000
	<b>£534,800</b>

Appendix 2

**AHDC Revenue - Budget Report for Year End 2010/11**

<b>Budget - 1,693,000</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Commissioned Services</b>	
SLA child specific training	£ 20,000
Specialist childminding	£ 50,000
AfC - Bucks Activity Project/ outreach service/ inclusion service	£ 289,405
Contract foster carers - TAB	£ 56,000
Direct Payments	£ 100,000
Funding to support opportunity play groups and childminders including transport	£ 15,000
Crossroads South - Wycombe weekend SB service	£ 11,000
Little Breaks' - weekend short breaks for under 5s using children's centres	£ 108,842
Targeted weekend short breaks schemes 5 - 12 yrs	£ 108,000
Targeted weekend short breaks schemes 12 - 19 yrs	£ 113,000
ASD Targeted weekend short breaks schemes/ outreach service 12 - 19 yrs	£ 65,903
Inclusion Toolkit	£ 250
Outreach service as part of new residential service	£ 95,256
Transport	£ -
All Ability Outdoor Activity Programme	£ 60,998
Activenture	£ 12,100
Thomley Hall (from ABG reduction)	£ 16,384
TVAP (from ABG reduction)	£ 17,000
Desborough Play Den (from ABG reduction)	£ 15,000
Crossroads - Aylesbury weekend SB Service (from ABG reduction)	£ 14,000
NAS - Rainbow Club (from ABG reduction)	£ 10,616
The Grove - equipment & feasibility study - phase 1 work	£ 4,509
Barnardo's Little Breaks - toy library & 1:1 transition work, extra staffing costs	£ 25,104
TVAP - Equipment	£ 14,500
Desborough Play Den - Equipment	£ 1,000
Clearly Speaking - Glee Club ( Feb half term x 2 & fortnightly Q4) + Equipment	£ 8,195
Clearly Speaking - Pre Duke of Edinburgh course for YP with ASD	£ 1,235
South Bucks NAS - Family Trips	£ 982
Aylesbury Vale NAS - Family trips	£ 930
Young Deaf Carers - outings	£ 3,977
Bucks Vision - pantomime	£ 875
Longridge - Family days x 2 for 48 families	£ 912
Shed at the Park - Community Counts Club	£ 4,555
Safeguarding - reward vouchers for be-frienders 2010/11	£ 290
South Bucks Down Syndrome Group - parties/parent support	£ 520
Marlow Opportunity Play Group - equipment	£ 1,777
Young Carers - Sibs activities programme	£ 2,980
Booker Park School - family fun sessions - ASD	£ 510
Booker Park School - youth clubs x 4 to year end	£ 6,222
Booker Park School - Horsewyse Project	£ 4,000
AVDC - Swan Pool - Tuesday Club	£ 460

AVDC - Booker Park - Thursday Club	£ 1,000
SBDC - Burnham Upper School - disability sports club	£ 438
SBDC - Beaconsfield Centre - disability sports club	£ 438
CDC - Stony Dean School - disability sports club	£ 1,820
Bucks Carers - Carers Breaks	£ 3,000
Thomley Hall	£ 13,000
Spectrum	£ 800
Talkback - Feb Half term short break	£ 5,800
Libraries - Boardmaker	£ 2,344
Puzzle Centre - Publications	£ 500
Grove - phase 2 feasibility	£ 6,152
Grove - additional equipment	£ 19,592
Legal advice in respect of slippage projects contracting	£ 618
Barnardo's Little Breaks - pilot project evaluation	£ 1,000
Horizon sports club	£ 1,440
Little Breaks - Storage for service equipment & toy library staffing 10/11	£ 8,000
Boomerang Toy Library - toys to increase access to disabled CYP	£ 2,314
Oak Green School - Horsewyse Project	£ 2,700
AVCT - Swan Pool & aqua Vale equipment to increase access to disabled CYP	£ 3,055
BCCN Childminding specialist toys	£ 2,499
	<b>£ 1,338,797</b>
<b>Parent Participation Service</b>	
WTE Parents participation workers & 0.5 WTE business support	£ 57,558
Parent Participation Costs - Tenders, Task Groups	£ 933
Parent Participation Costs - Flyers	£ 578
	<b>£ 59,069</b>
<b>CYP Participation Service</b>	
WTE disabled CYP participation worker	£ 35,200
Budget for CYP participation - only £10k required by CYP participation team	£ 3,550
Talkback - YP participation in AHDC Capital Panel	£ 1,400
Clearly Speaking Debate Clubs for Disabled CYP	£ 5,000
<i>(combined budget for CYP and PP - £115,615)</i>	<b>£ 45,150</b>
<b>Information and Facilitation Costs</b>	
CYP Communication Team Costs	£ 5,350
Newsletter printing	£ 676
Directory design and 1st print run of 5,500	£ 31,379
Income from DCATCH	-£ 12,500
Directory Distribution	£ 325
Additional directories x 2,500	£ 14,875
Directory postage	£ 1,341
Pinpoint Database Vouchers (to encourage signup)	£ 406
AHDC Programme survey	£ 368
	<b>£ 42,220</b>
<b>Management/Infrastructure costs</b>	
WTE Commissioner for AH /0.5 WTE Business support	£ 72,070

Commissioning support - Data Analyst 0.5 WTE	£ 14,620
Workforce development support consultant	£ 27,594
0.2 WTE Capital Commissioning Support	£ 1,464
Events	£ 5,000
	<b>£ 120,748</b>
<b>Tenders - Residential Short Breaks Tender</b>	
Property services fees	£ 2,085
Hants. Consultancy advice	£ 2,285
Legal fees	£ 10,797
CYP Participation	£ -
Parent Participation	£ 102
Transitional costs	£ -
TUPE implementation work	£ 8,500
Civic Centre Room Hire for Residential Tender	£ 331
	<b>£ 24,100</b>
<b>Specific Issue Training</b>	
Specific issue training - modular training course developed and running	£ 62,589
Disabled Children - A legal Handbook x 8	£ 327
	<b>£ 62,916</b>
<b>2010/11 Total</b>	
	<b>£ 1,693,000</b>
<b>AHDC Grant Unspent</b>	
	<b>£ 0</b>



## Aiming High for Disabled Children

### Short Breaks Data Report

#### 1 Short Breaks Service Provision 2009/10

The Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) programme collects data on a quarterly basis from all short breaks services provided in Buckinghamshire. This report is based on data collected between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 and the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.

Data shows that Buckinghamshire currently supports 578 disabled children and young people of whom approximately 403 (70%) are identified as children and young people with 'complex needs', a priority area for the AHDC short breaks programme. In 2008/09 the numbers of disabled children and young people being identified as being supported by short break services in Buckinghamshire was 350.

Children with 'complex needs' are divided into two groups:

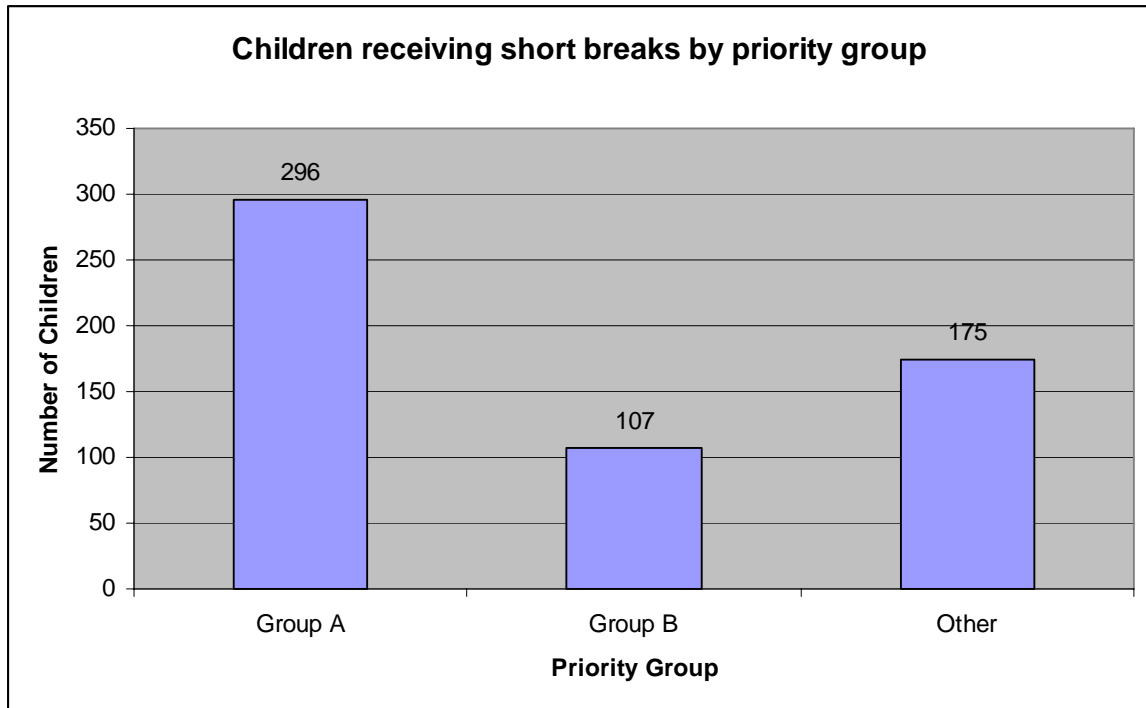
Group A: Children and young people with **Autistic Spectrum Disorder** (who have severe learning disabilities or behaviour which is challenging) OR those children and young people whose **challenging behaviour** is associated with other impairments such as severe learning disabilities.

Group B: Children and young people with complex health needs including those with a disability and life threatening conditions, and/or those who require palliative care and/or those with associated impairments such as cognitive or sensory impairments and/or have moving/ handling needs and/ or require special equipment/ adaptations.

Children referred to as 'Other' in this report are disabled children who either do not fall in to any of the above two categories or are undefined.

# 1. Overall short breaks provision

The monitoring data shows that 51% of short breaks were provided to Group A with 19% provided to Group B.<sup>3</sup>



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Data in all graphs within this report are produced with information received in quarterly returns from short break providers. Note: Not all of these are funded through Aiming High for Disabled Children.

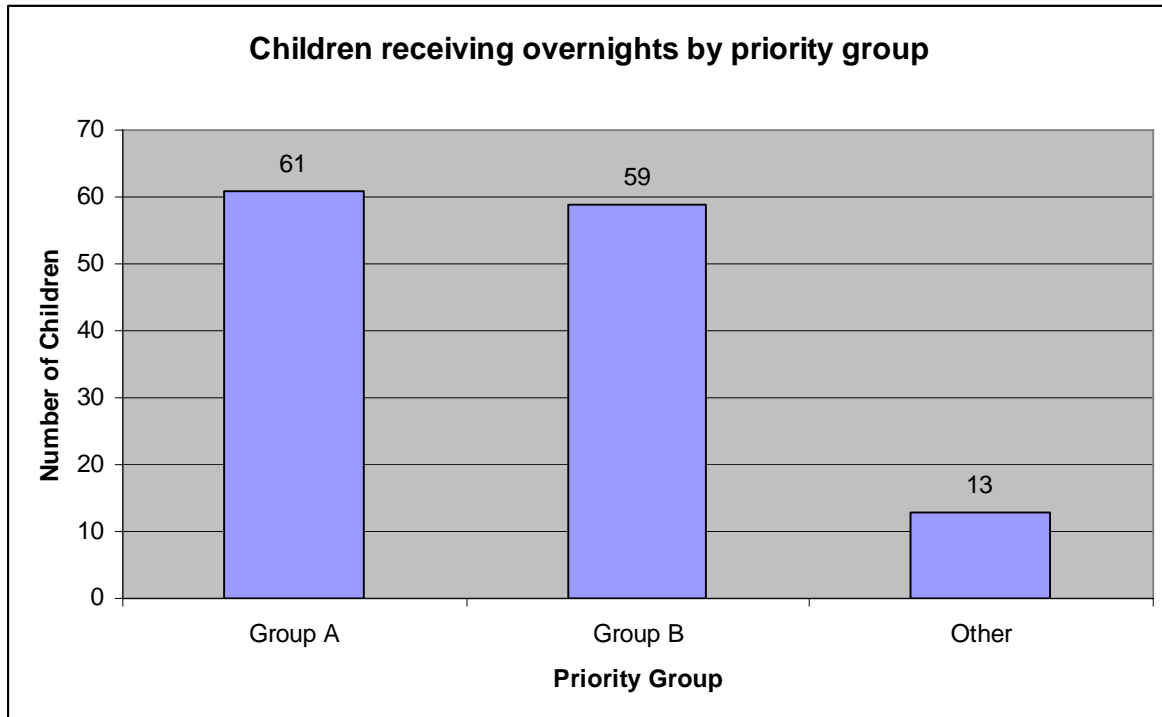
Project evaluation Report May 2011

## 2. Overnight Provision

### 2.1 Children receiving overnights per priority group

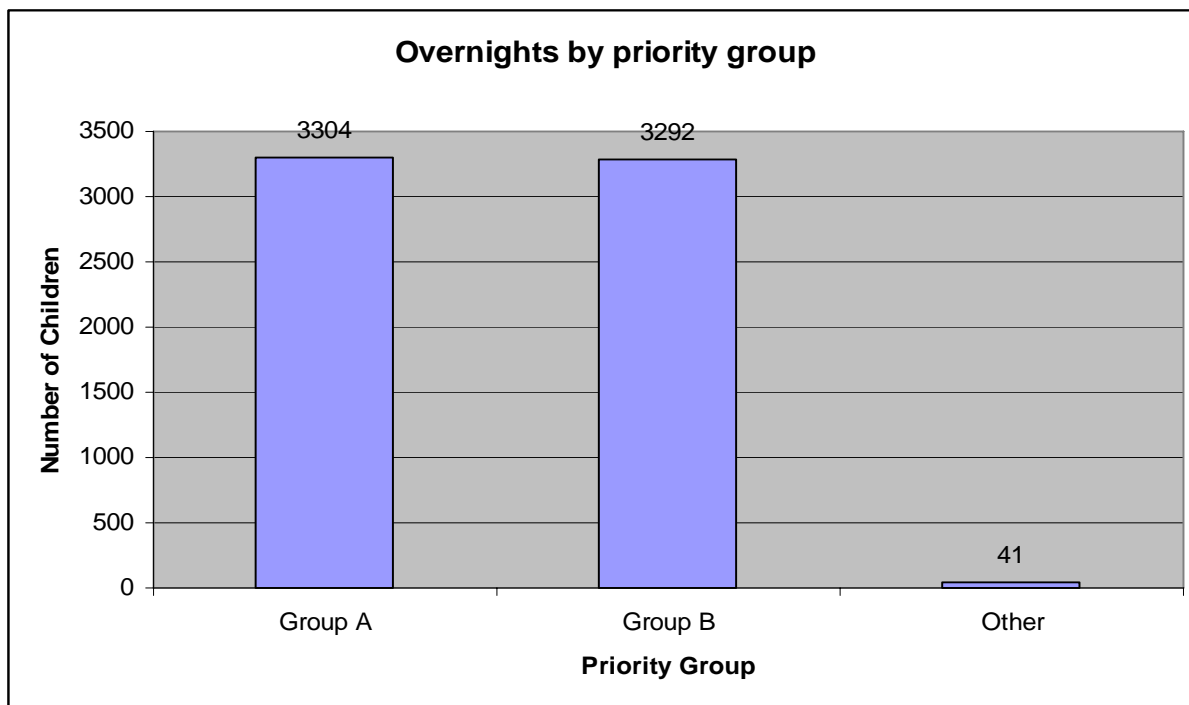
In 09/10, these services were primarily provided by the 4 County Council owned residential units, Buckinghamshire Community Childminding Network (BCCN), Take a Break (TAB), domiciliary care and activity holidays.

132 children received overnights between April 2009 and March 2010. The figures below show that a vast majority (90%) of overnights were provided to children in priority Groups A and B.



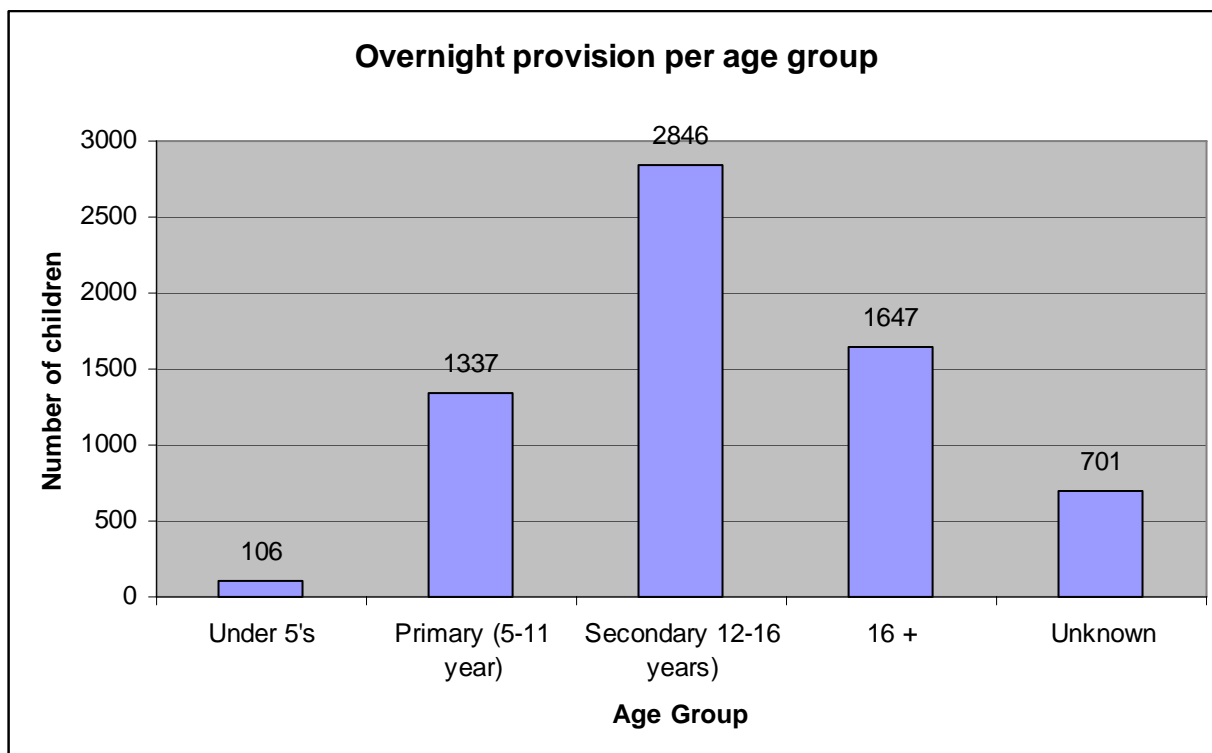
### 2.2 Overnight provision per priority group

A total of 6637 nights were provided between April 2009 and March 2010. Children from priority Group A received 3304 overnights followed closely by Group B receiving 3292. This shows that the 13 children in the 'Other' category received only 41 nights in 09/10 between them.



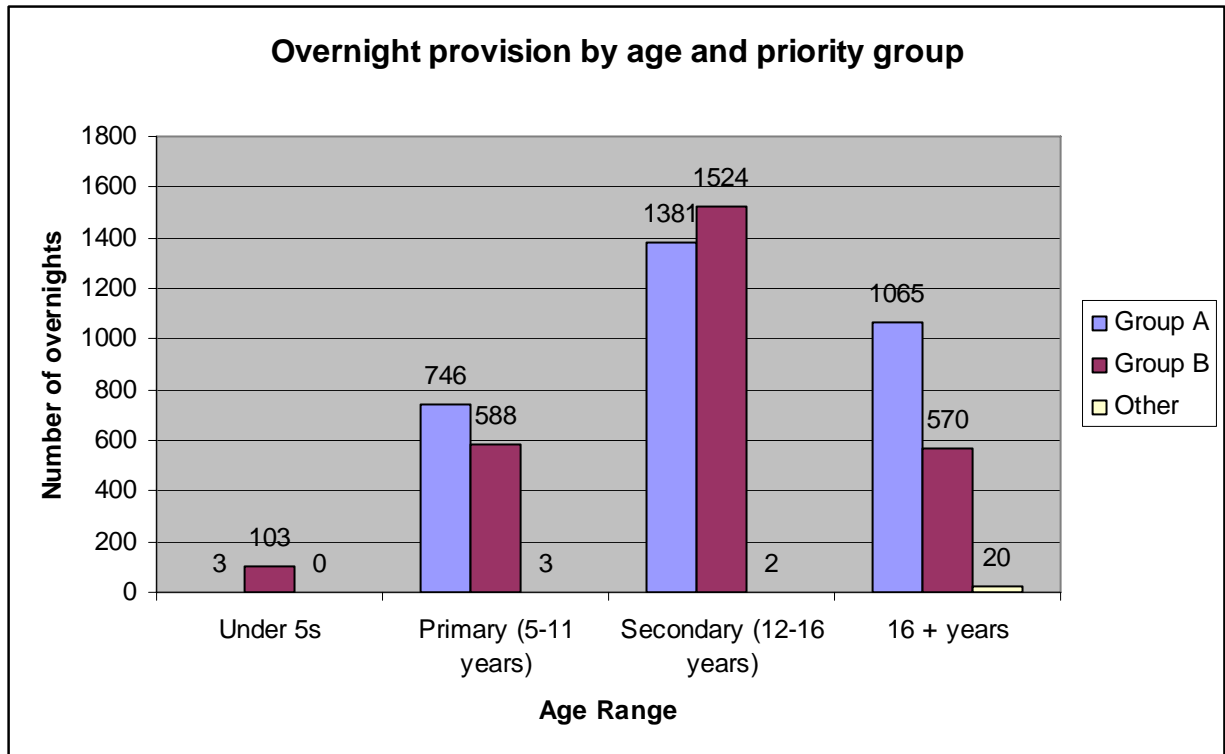
### 2.3 Overnight provision per age group

The age group receiving the most overnights are children between the ages of 12-16 years (43%), followed by children 16+ (25%) and 5-11 year olds (20%). Under 5's received the least amount of under nights (2%).



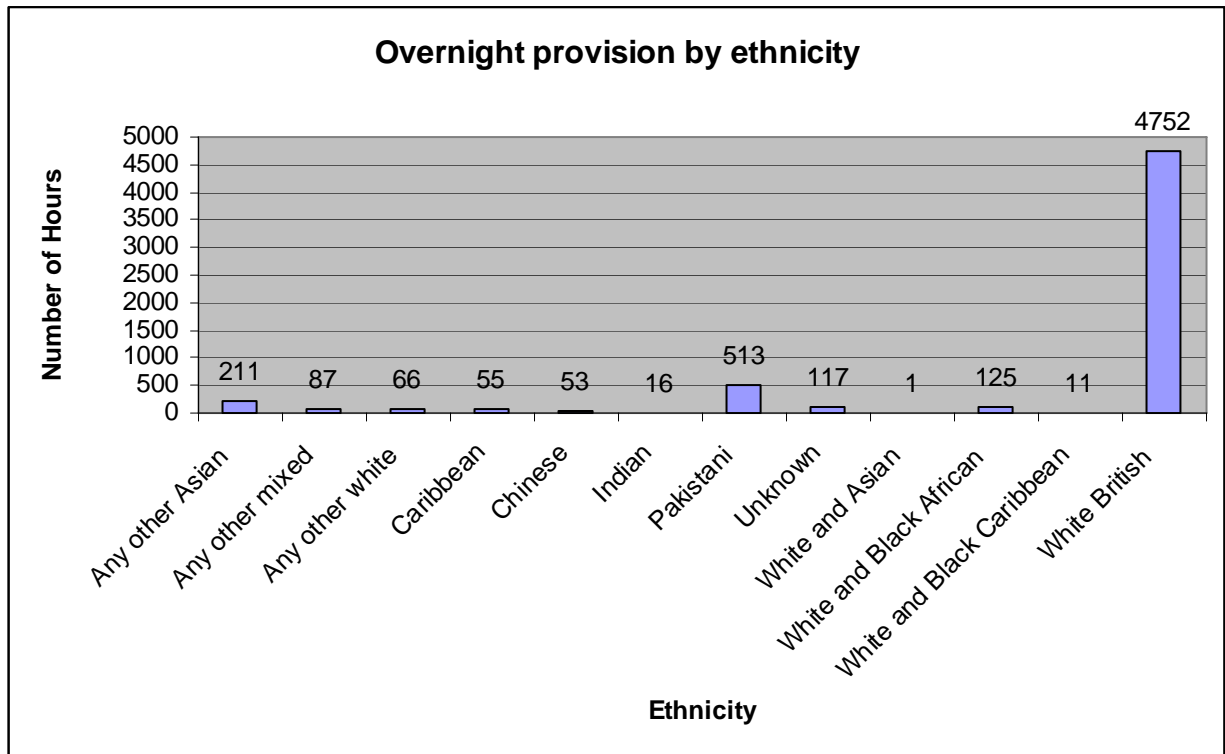
### 2.4 Overnight provision by age and priority group

The graph below shows the number of overnights provided by age and priority group.



## 2.5 Overnight provision by ethnicity

The graph shows the vast majority of overnights are provided to White British children (79%).

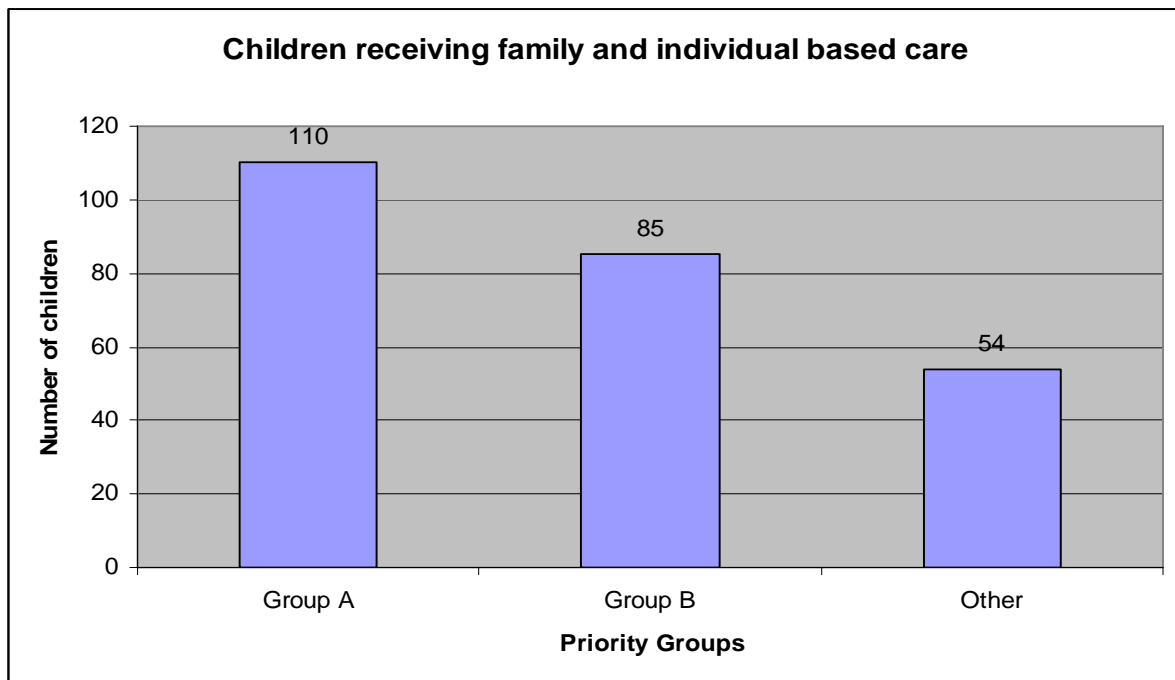


### 3. Family and individual based provision

#### 3.1 Children receiving family and individual based provision per priority group

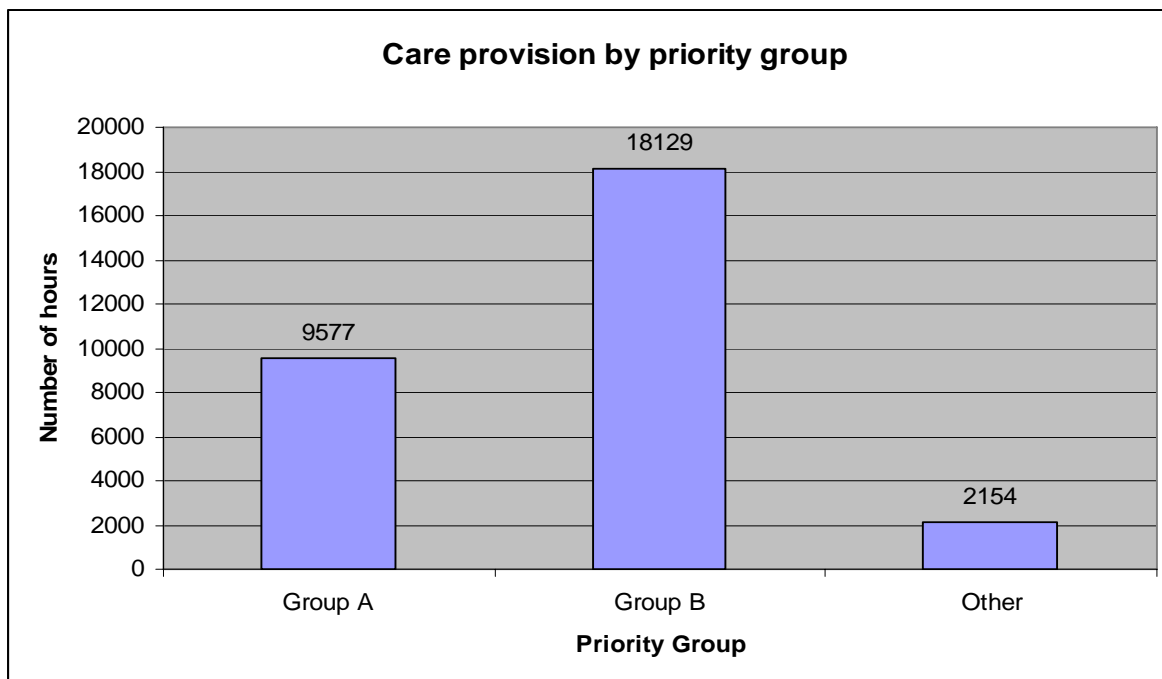
Family and individual based services includes care in the child's home and personal assistants or outreach workers. These services are primarily provided by Buckinghamshire Community Childminding Network (BCCN), Take a Break (TAB), domiciliary care and activity holidays.

249 children received family and individual based services between April 2009 and March 2010.



#### 3.2 Care Provision per priority group

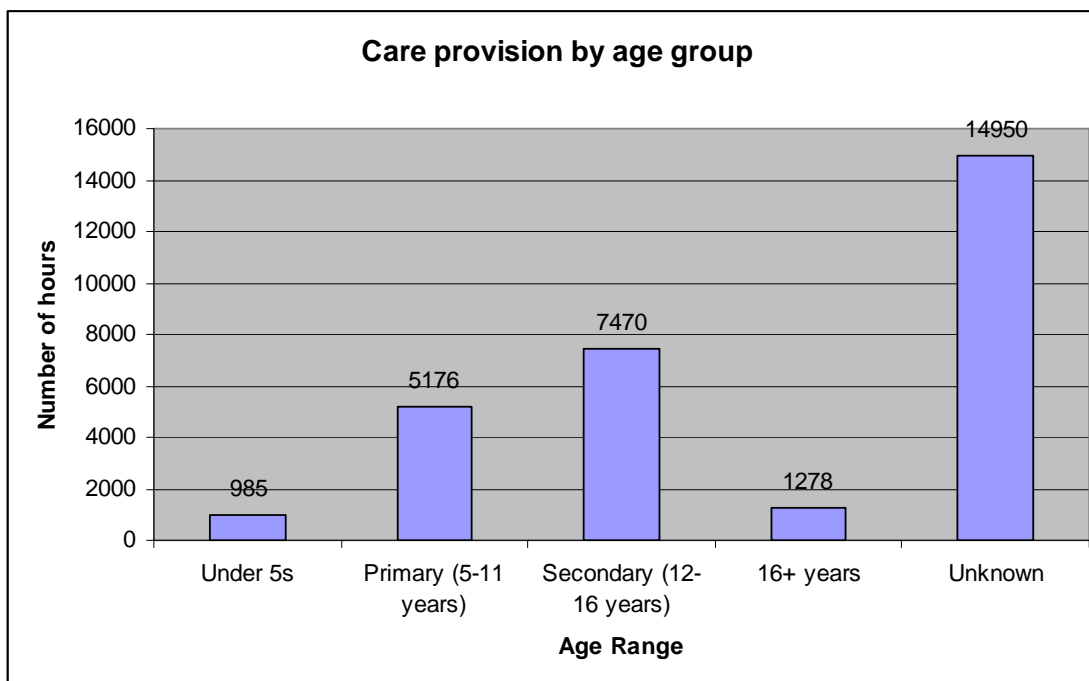
29860 care hours were provided between April 2009 and March 2010. The majority of care hours were provided to children in priority Group B (61%) and 32% of care was provided to Group A. This shows that even though there are fewer children in Group B they tend to be receiving much higher packages that Group A children.



### 3.3 Care provision by age group

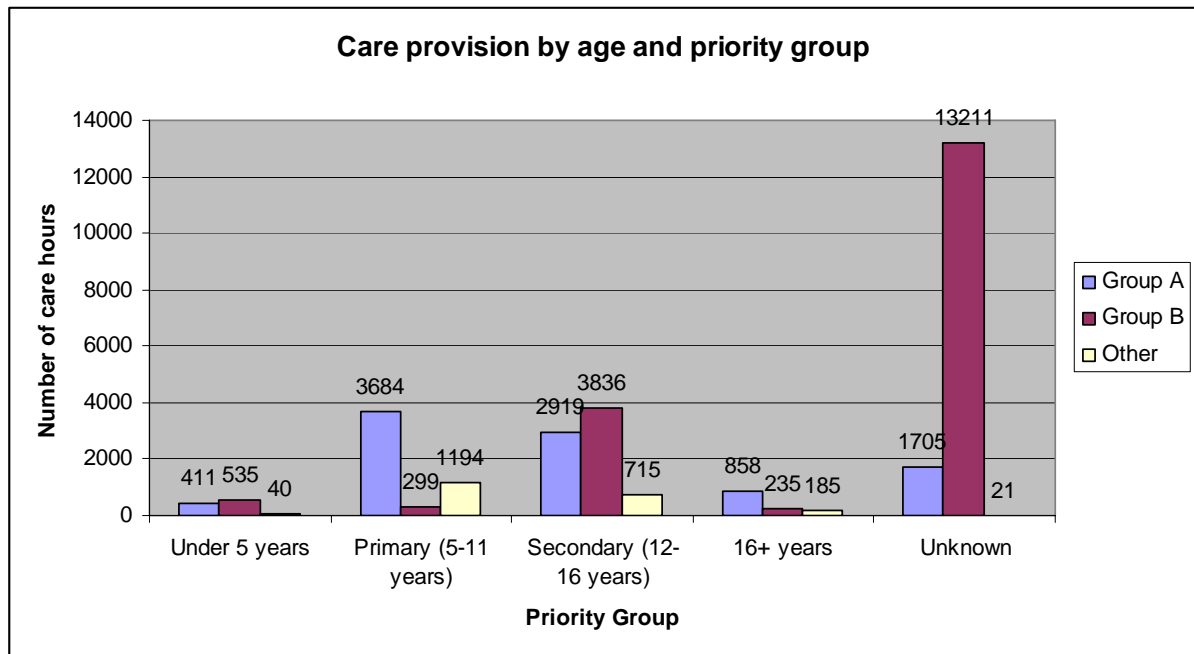
Domiciliary care providers do not currently provide us with the ages of their clients so this has made the 'unknown' group on this graph the largest as they provide a large number of hours to a small group of children.

If we disregard the 'unknown' group then children in secondary and primary groups receive the highest amount of care hours.



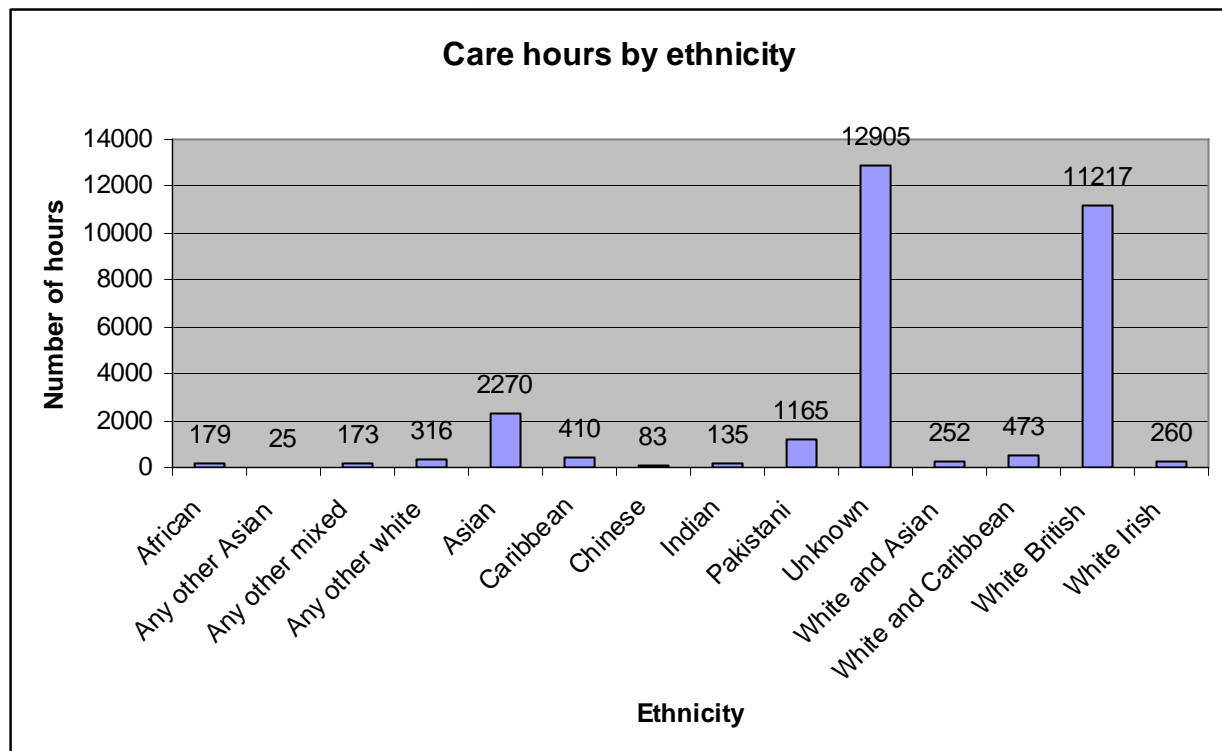
### 3.4 Care provision by age and priority group

As identified below, children in Group B were the largest recipients of care services. As above the lack of ages from domiciliary care providers has made it difficult to see what age the children are in each priority group.



### 3.5 Care hours by ethnicity

Children from White British families by far receive the most care hours. This is based on the ethnicity breakdown in Bucks. The 'unknown' group is high due to domiciliary providers not providing us with ethnicity information for their children.

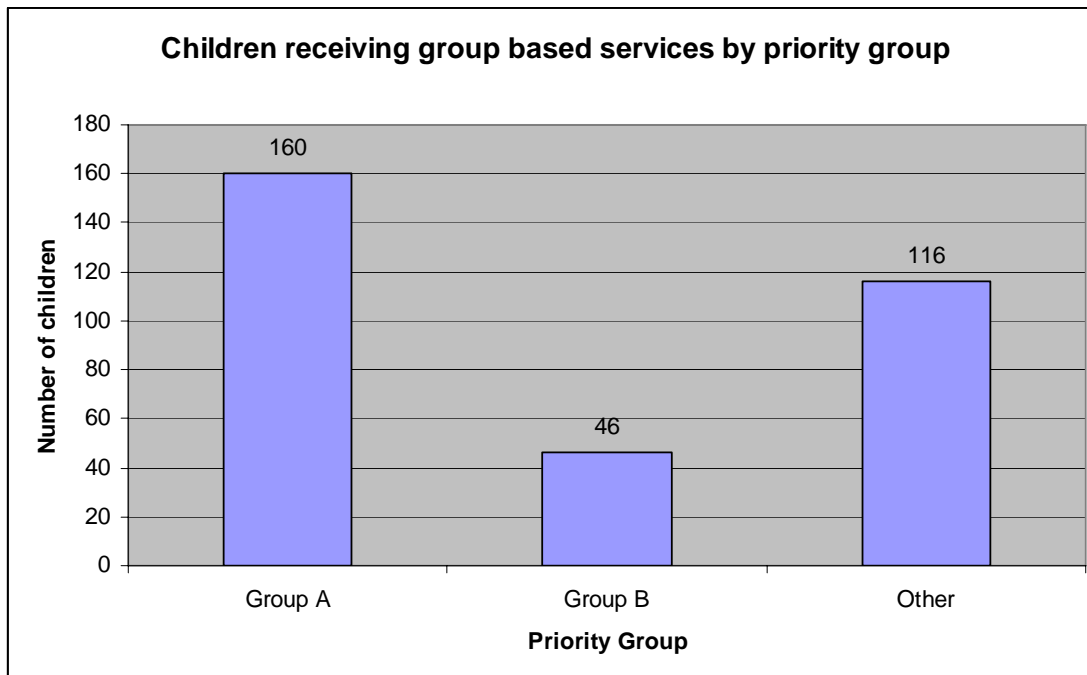


## 4. Group based provision

### 4.1 Children receiving group-based services by priority group

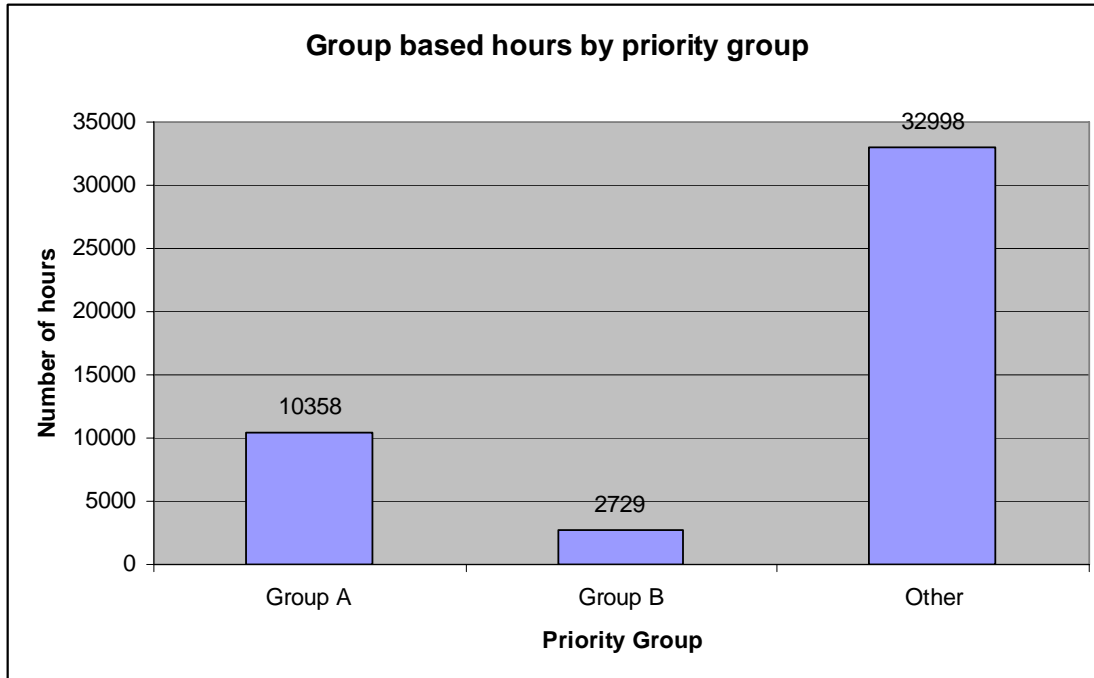
Monitoring data shows that 322 unique children and young people were supported through specialist group-based provision from April 2009 to March 2010. This includes after school provision, youth service provision, weekend clubs, holiday play schemes and children's centres.

Many of these providers do not provide us with full information on the children who attend their clubs which will distort the graphs below. For example, many providers do not place a child into a Group A or B category as shown below. However from speaking to providers we can assume that a large amount of the 'Other' group are actually Group A children.



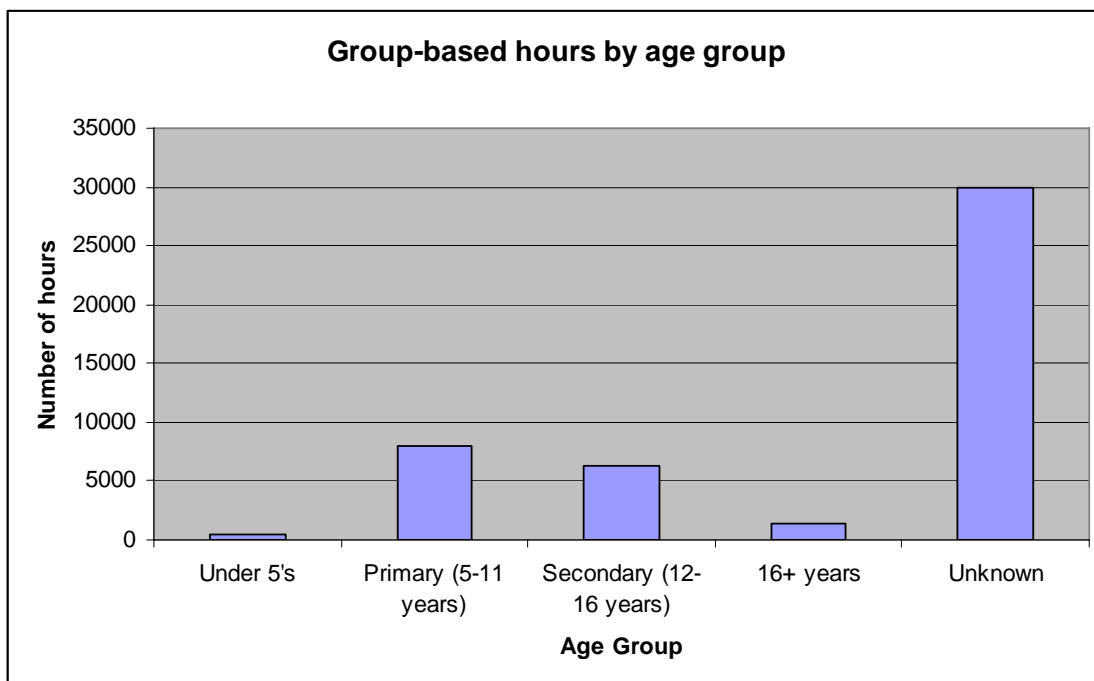
#### 4.2 Group based hours by priority group

Overall, 46,000 hours were provided through group based activities in 09/10.



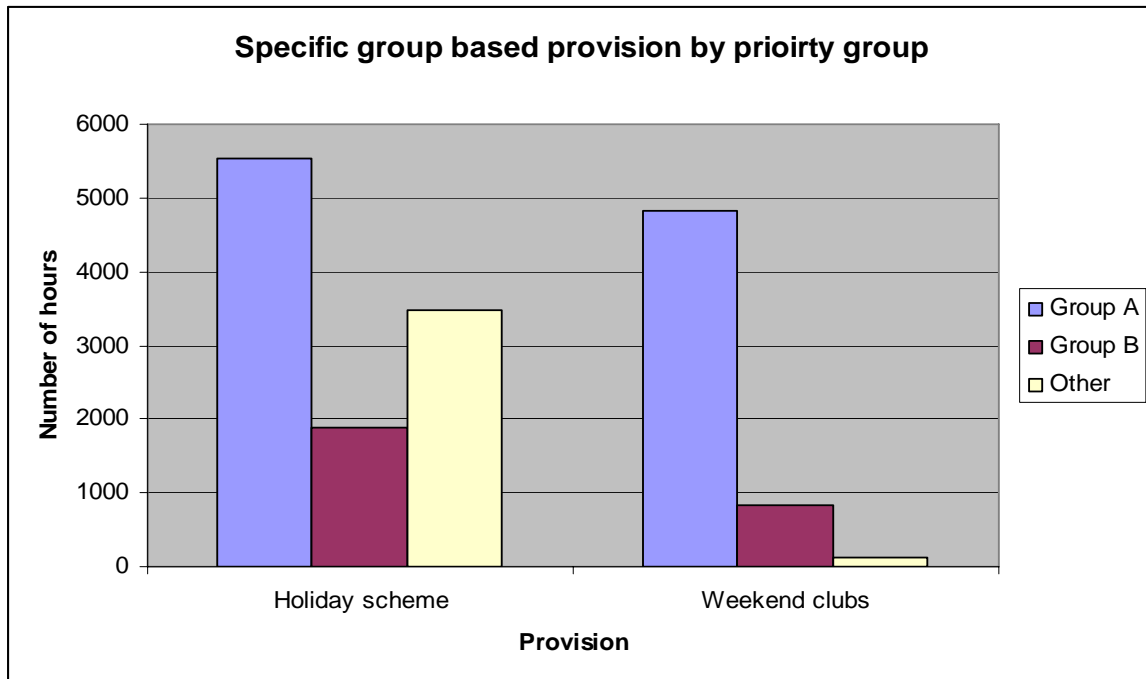
#### 4.3 Group based hours by age group

The providers who are unable to provide information on children's ages tend to be providers with age ranges of 12-18 so we can assume that the majority of hours are provided to the secondary group.

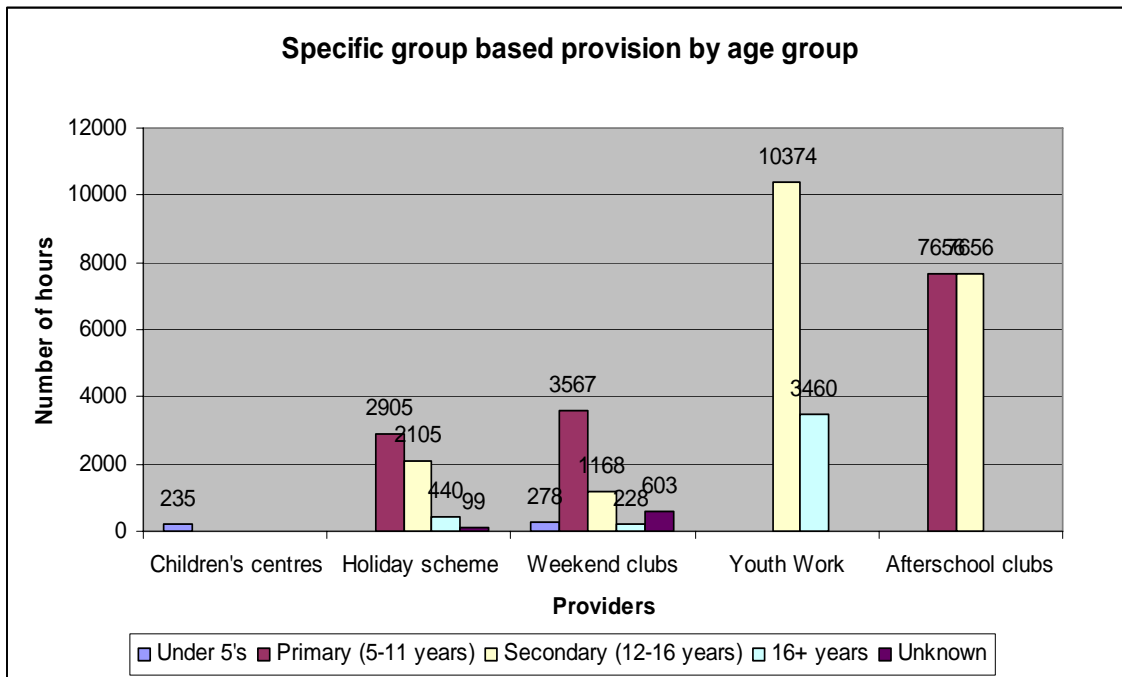


#### 4.4 Specific group based provision by priority and age group

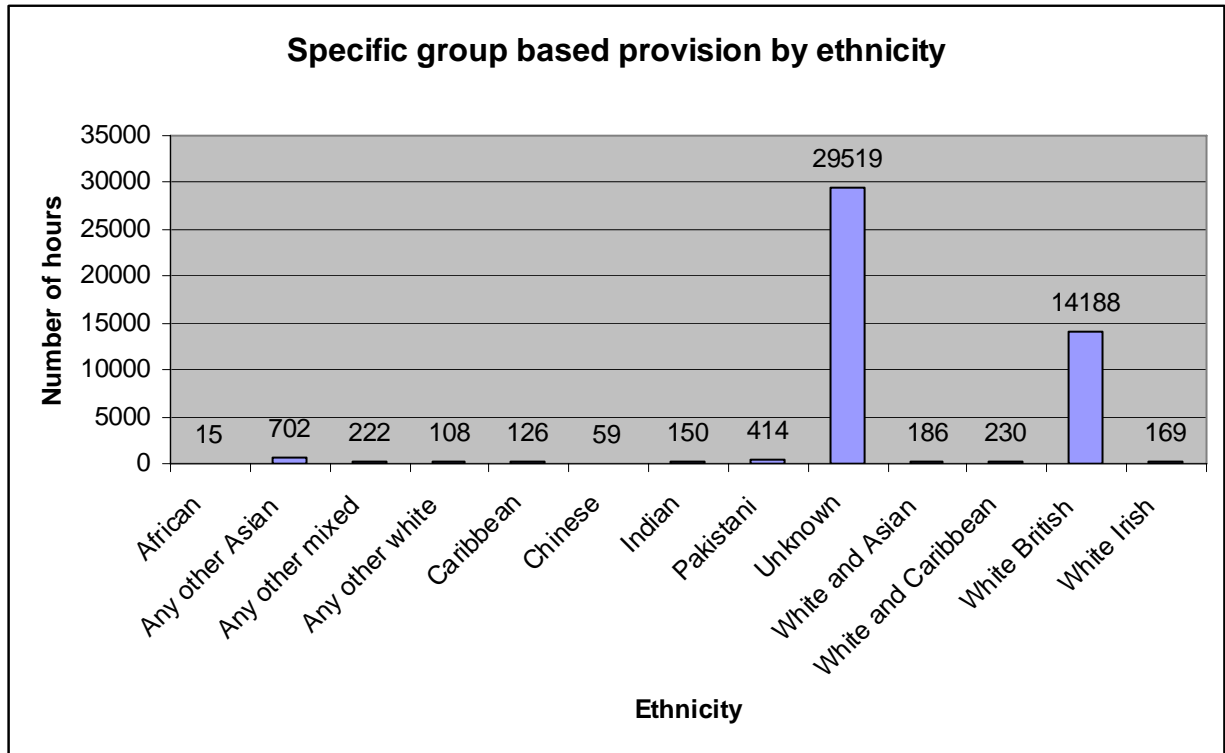
The graph below shows the providers who have specified whether the children attending their provision are in Group A or B. It is clear that a large majority of the hours are provided to Group A children.



An age breakdown of specific group based provision per age group is identified below.

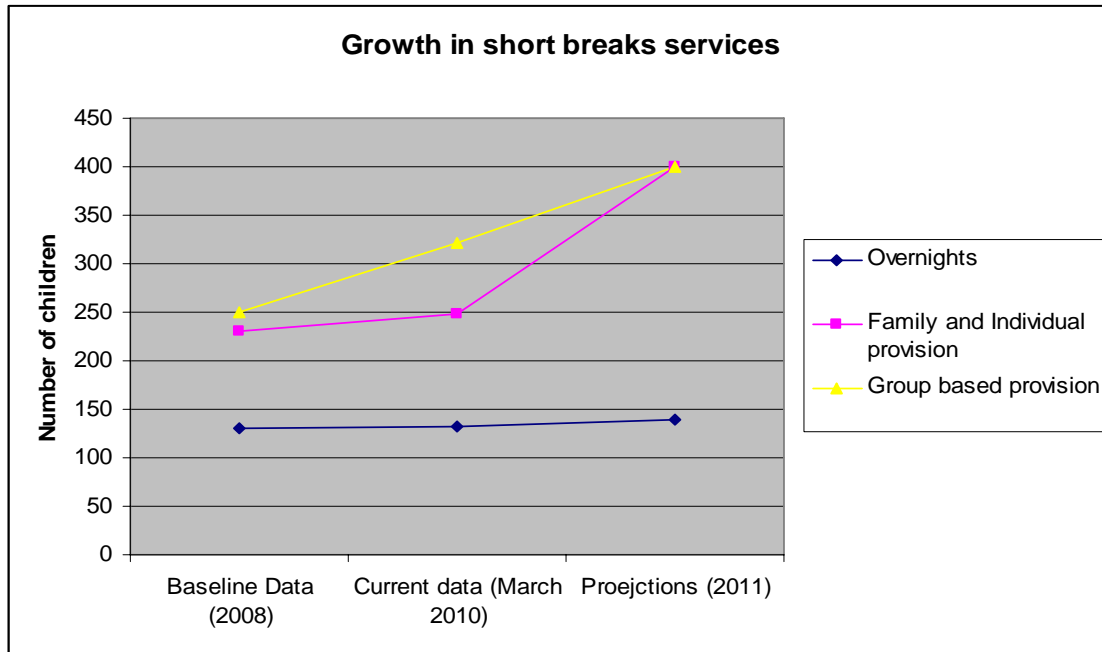


#### 4.5 Specific group based provision by ethnicity

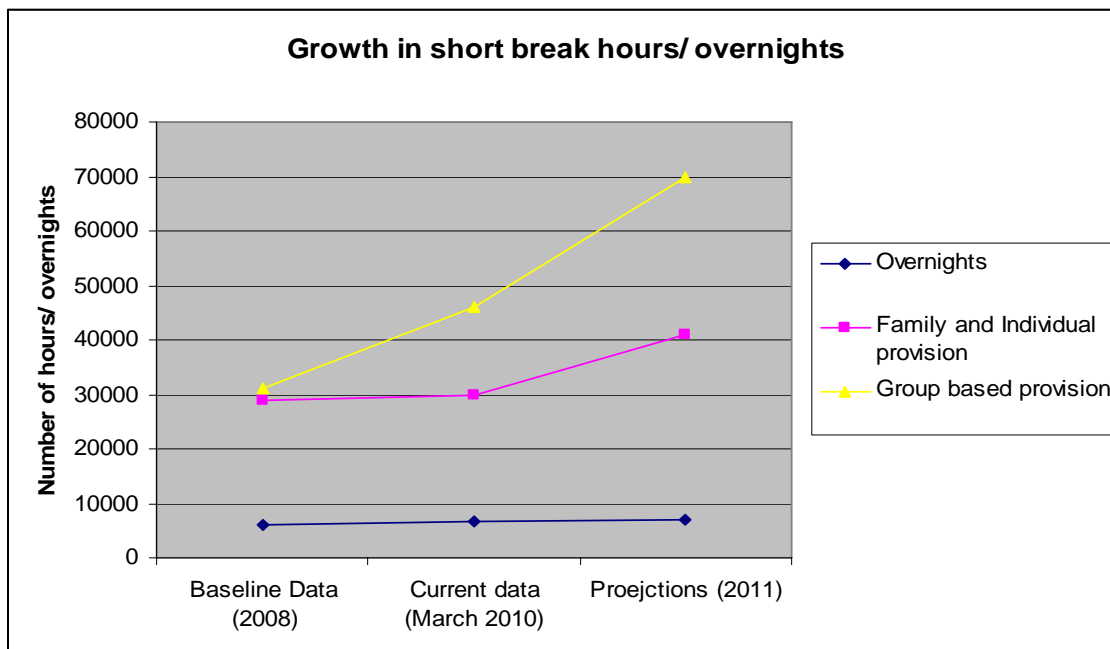


## 5. Growth in short breaks provision

The number of children receiving short breaks has increased since 2008 and is expected to increase further in 2010/11. The largest increase shown is in group based provision and family and individual provision. Overnights will mostly remain at the same level as Buckinghamshire is regarded by TDC as having a small number of children receiving large packages of care.



For increase in hours of short breaks, group based provision will be the area of largest increase due to the new commissioned holiday scheme, weekend activities and under 5's pilot scheme. Again overnights are showing only slight increase as Buckinghamshire County Council already provides above what other local areas offer.





## Aiming High for Disabled Children

### Short Breaks Data Report

#### 1 Short Breaks Service Provision 2010/11

The Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) programme collects data on a quarterly basis from all short breaks services provided in Buckinghamshire. This report is based on the data collected for 2010/11.

Data shows that Buckinghamshire supports 992 disabled children and young people, as of March 2011, of whom approximately 628 (63%) are identified as children and young people with 'complex needs', a priority area for the AHDC short breaks programme. In 2009/10 the numbers of disabled children and young people being identified as being supported by short break services in Buckinghamshire was 564.

The number of children receiving short breaks overall has increased since 2008 by 183% since 2008 and by 76% since 2009/10.

Children with 'complex needs' are divided into two groups:

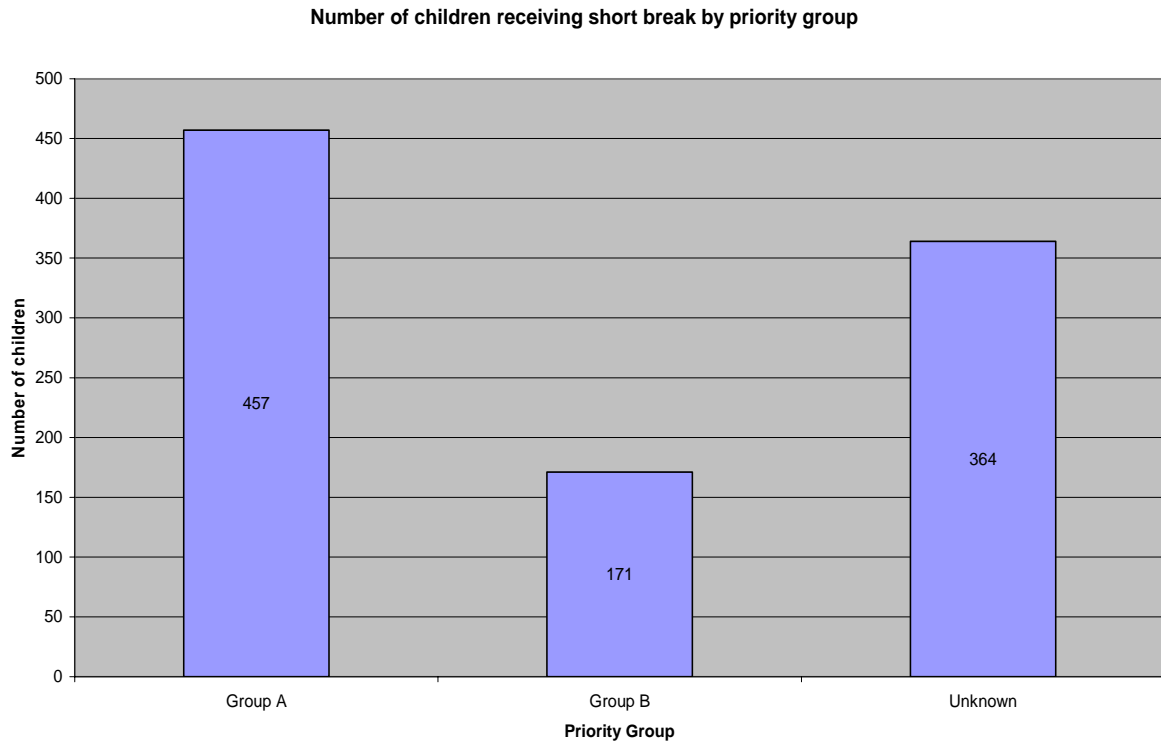
Group A: Children and young people with **Autistic Spectrum Disorder** (who have severe learning disabilities or behaviour which is challenging) OR those children and young people whose **challenging behaviour** is associated with other impairments such as severe learning disabilities.

Group B: Children and young people with complex health needs including those with a disability and life threatening conditions, and/or those who require palliative care and/or those with associated impairments such as cognitive or sensory impairments and/or have moving / handling needs and/or require special equipment / adaptations.

Children referred to as 'Unknown/Other' in this report are disabled children who either do not fall in to the above two categories or are undefined.

# 1. Overall short breaks provision

The monitoring data shows that of the 992 unique disabled children and young people receiving short breaks up to March 2011, 46% were defined as Group A and 17% defined as Group B.<sup>4</sup>

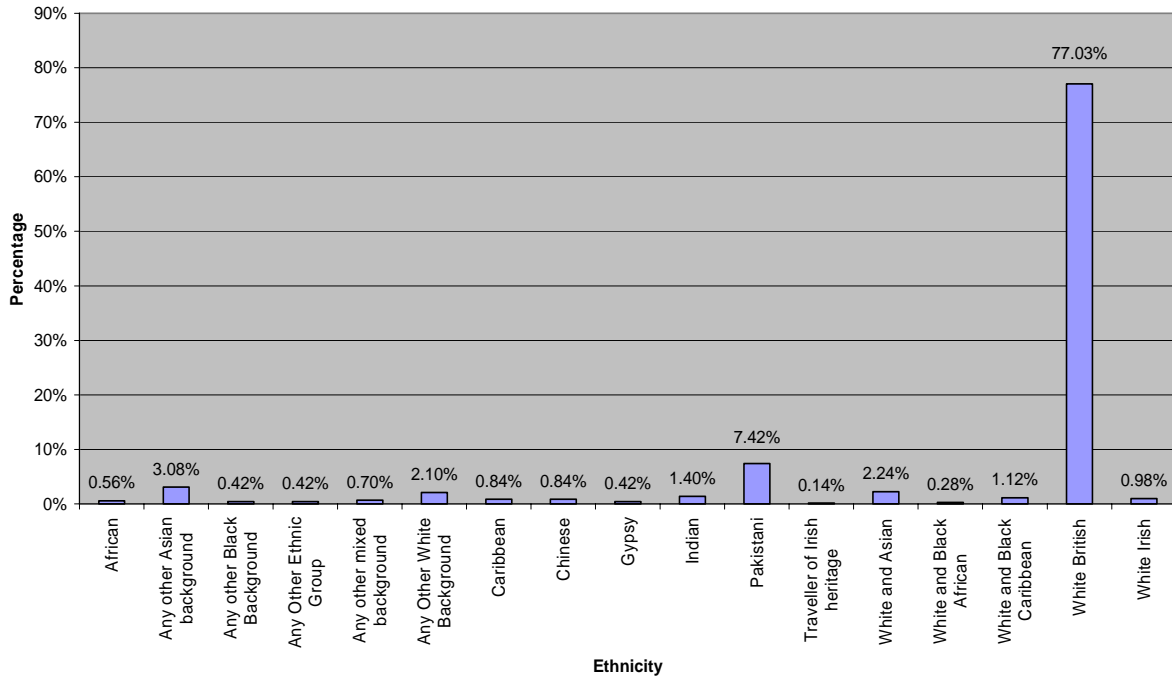


The graph above shows that as of March 2011, 37% of unique children were classified as unknown disability or they were not in Group A or B. For example a child with Down's syndrome may not be included in Group A or B.

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<sup>1</sup> Data in all graphs within this report are produced with information received in quarterly returns from short break providers. Note: Not all of these are funded through Aiming High for Disabled Children. It should also be noted that due to the nature of the data coming from different service providers there may be some duplication of children between priority groups unless it is stated that they are unique figures.

### Ethnicity of unique children



The graph above shows that as of March 2011, 80.25% of the 992 unique children were from a white ethnic group.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> From 2001 Census - Black or Minority Ethnic groups make up 12% of the population aged 0-19 in Buckinghamshire, though it is likely to under-represent the current BME population in Bucks. The higher number of disabled children and young people from BME groups accessing short breaks in Buckinghamshire is however reflective of national prevalence data re ethnicity and disability (taken from Disabled Children: Numbers, Characteristics and Local Service Provision (Institute of Education 2008).  
Project evaluation Report May 2011

## 2. Overnight Provision

### 2.1 Children receiving overnights by priority group

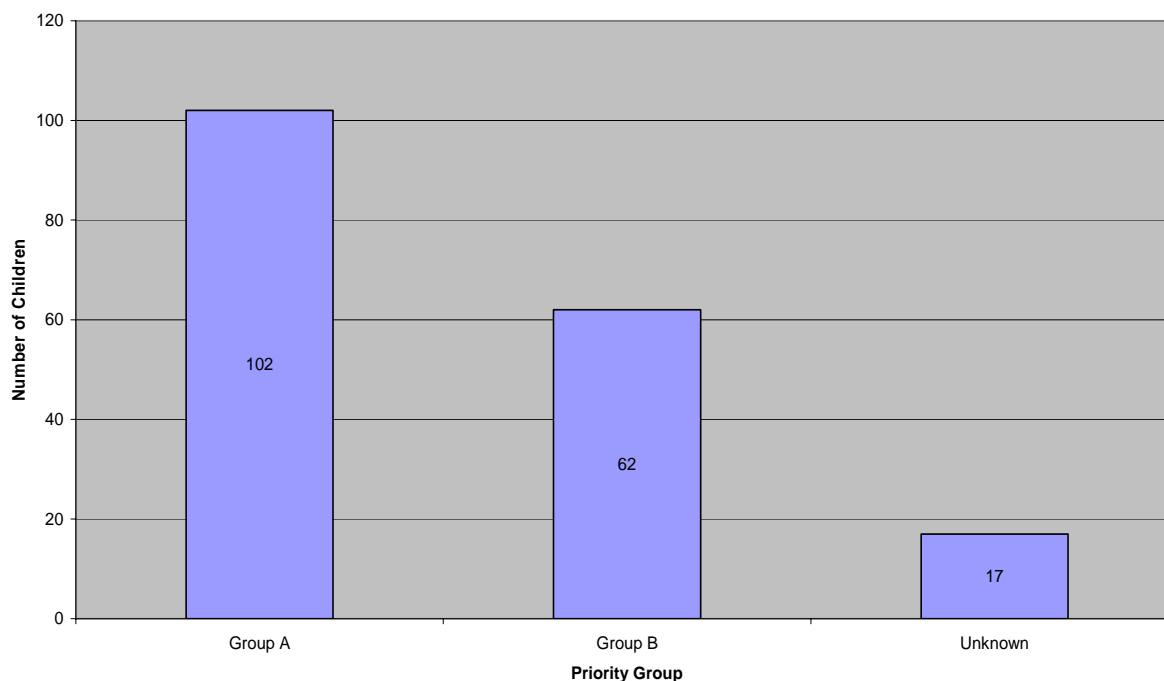
In 2010/11, these services were primarily provided by the 4 residential units (until October 2010), Buckinghamshire Community Childminding Network (BCCN), hospices, Take a Break (TAB), and activity holidays (Activenture and BCC Outdoor Education All Ability Programme).

The new contract for residential overnight short breaks commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 and by this time the Wing unit had closed with the majority of CYP packages in the process of being transferred to the Grove or Merryfields.

From December 2010 until the end of March 2011 the Grove unit was closed to allow for phase 1 capital works to be completed on the unit. 201 Buckingham Road, which was due to be closed, was kept open during this period and packages temporarily moved from the Grove to there. There were some temporary reductions in packages of care during this time as 201 Buckingham Road had one less bed than the Grove.

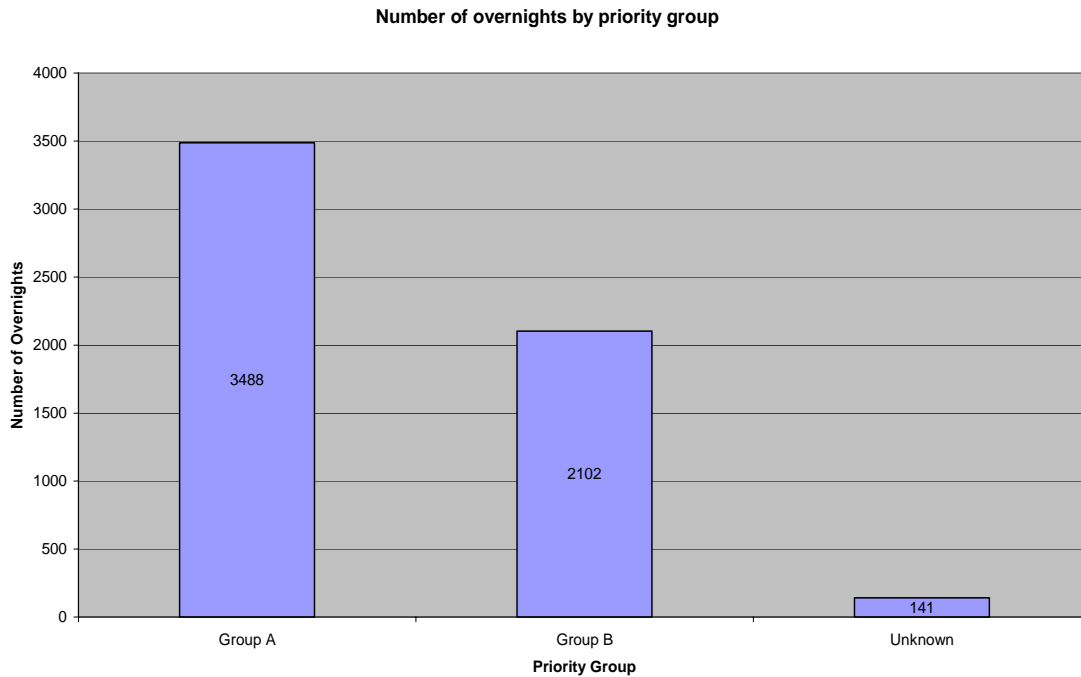
In 2010/11, 181 children had received overnights (this includes where children may have received overnights by different providers). The number of unique children receiving an overnight service was 153. The graph below shows that a vast majority (91%) of overnights were provided to children in priority Groups A and B. The number of children receiving overnight breaks has increased due to activity holidays being offered to children who would not previously have experienced a short break stay overnight away from their family.

Number of children receiving overnights by priority group



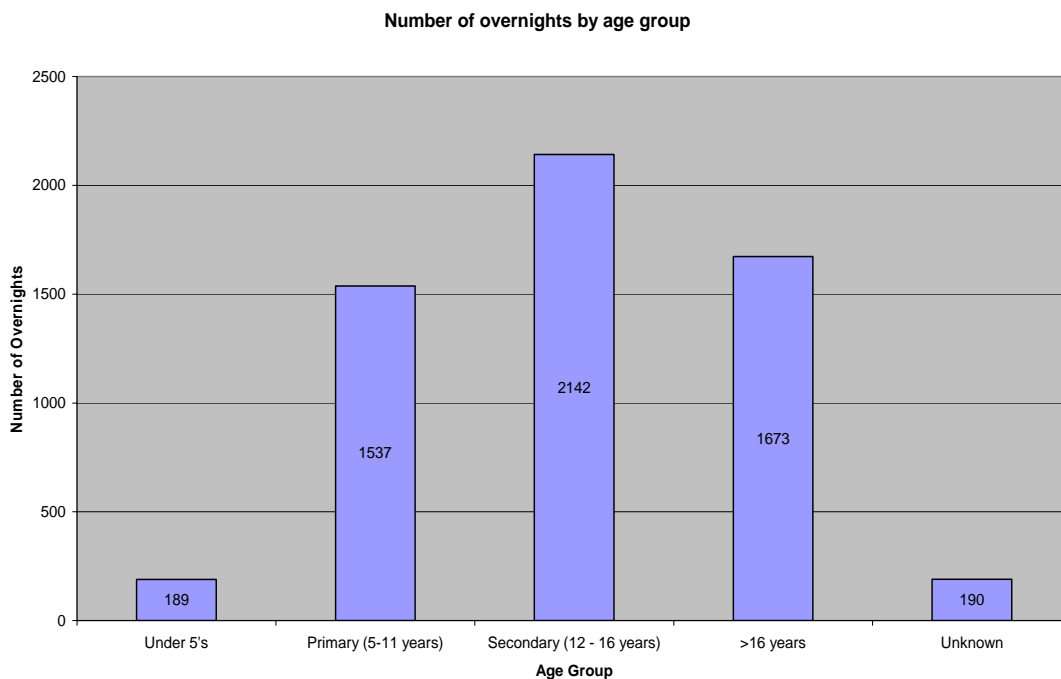
## 2.2 Overnights provision by priority group

In 2010/11, a total of 5,731 overnights were provided, of which over 60% of these were received by Group A children and 98% being received by Groups A and B combined (see following graph).



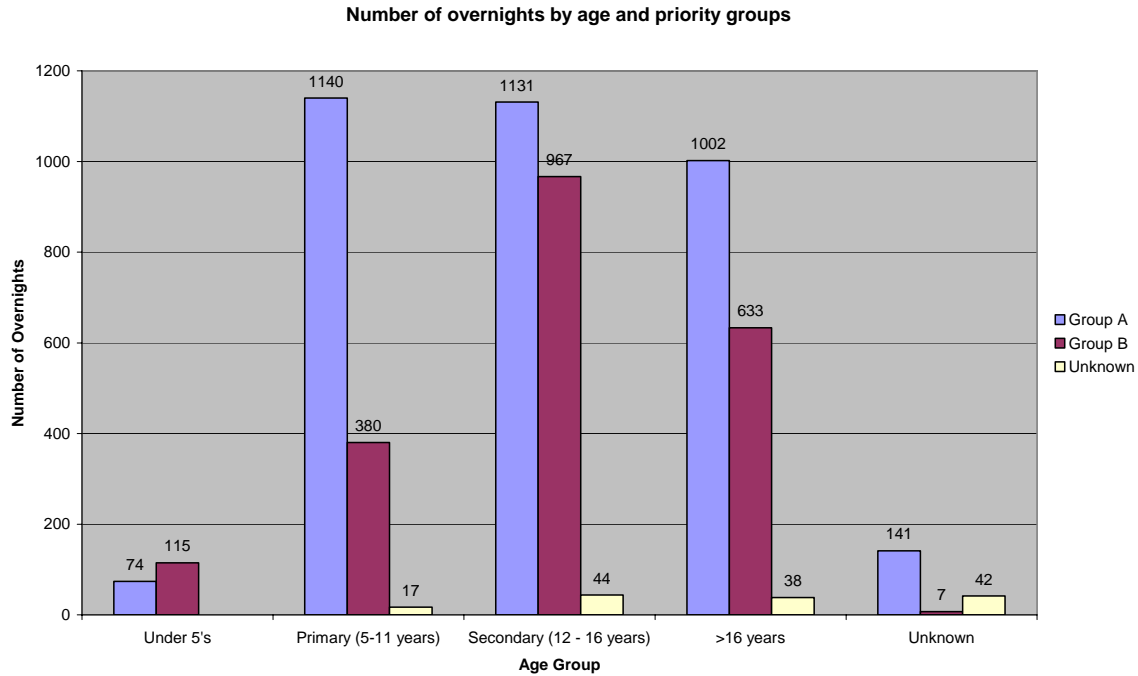
## 2.3 Overnights provision by age group

The age group, as in previous years' results, receiving the greatest number of overnights is the Secondary school age group (12-16 years) with 37%, followed by the over 16 years group at 29%.



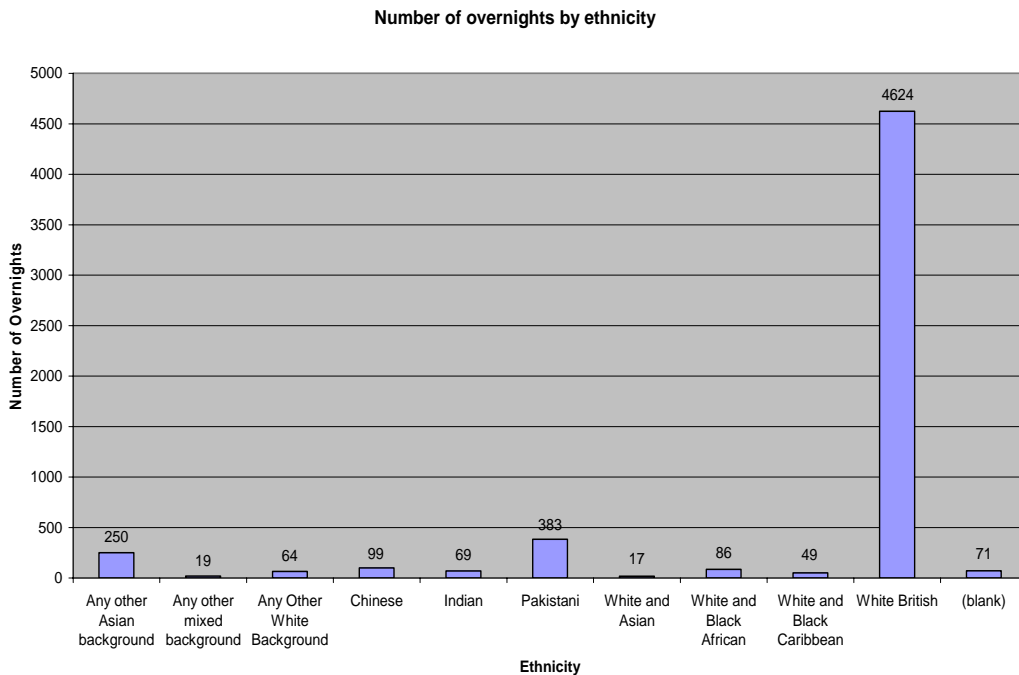
## 2.4 Overnight provision by age group and priority group

The following graph shows the breakdown of priority grouping between the age groups. The 12-16 year old group shows a similar breakdown between the A and B groups, but the 5-11 year olds show a much greater split. The Under 5's group is the only group that has a greater number of overnights received by Group B children.



## 2.5 Overnight provision by ethnicity

In 2010/11, the greatest number of overnights was received by White British children (over 80%), which reflects the ethnic breakdown of children accessing short breaks in Buckinghamshire.

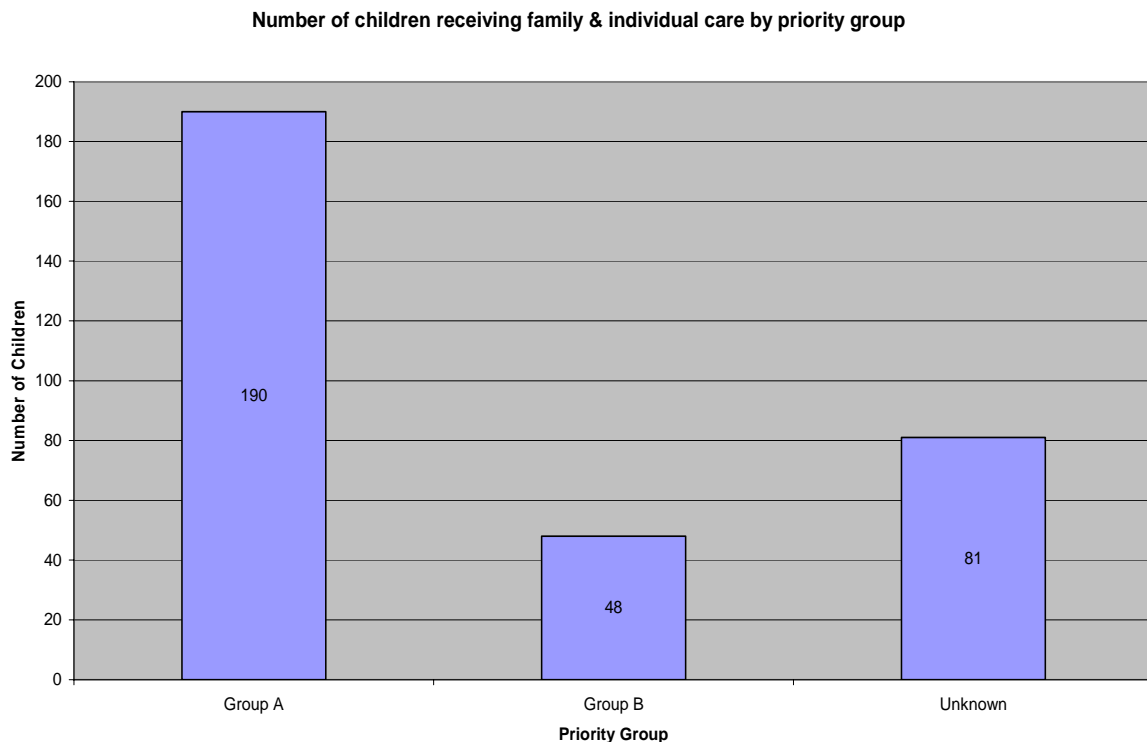


### 3. Family and individual based provision

#### 3.1 Children receiving family and individual based provision by priority group

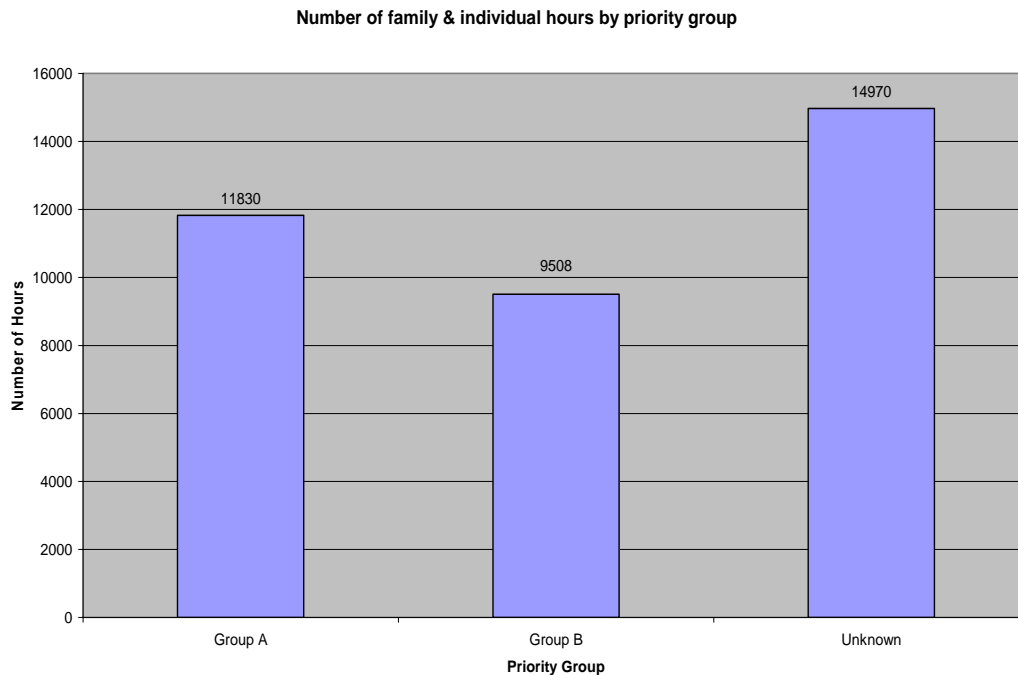
Family and individual based services includes care in the child's home and personal assistants or outreach workers. These services are primarily provided by Buckinghamshire Community Childminding Network (BCCN), Take a Break (TAB), domiciliary care and the two new Action for Children Outreach Schemes (providing overnight and day care in the child's family home as part of the residential services contract and supporting children and young people to access universal services as part of the Bucks Activity Project contract).

In 2010/11, 319 children had received a short break through individual or family based provision (again this includes where children may have received overnights by different providers). The number of unique children receiving these services was 264. Of the 319, 75% of the children were in the AHDC priority groups, with a higher percentage falling into the unknown category (see following graph).



### 3.2 Care Provision per priority group

36,307 care hours were provided between April 2010 and March 2011. Not including the unknown hours, the majority of care hours were provided to children in priority Group A (33%) and 26% of care was provided to Group B (see following graph). This corresponds with fewer children in Group B though in reality children in Group B will tend to be receiving much higher packages than Group A children.



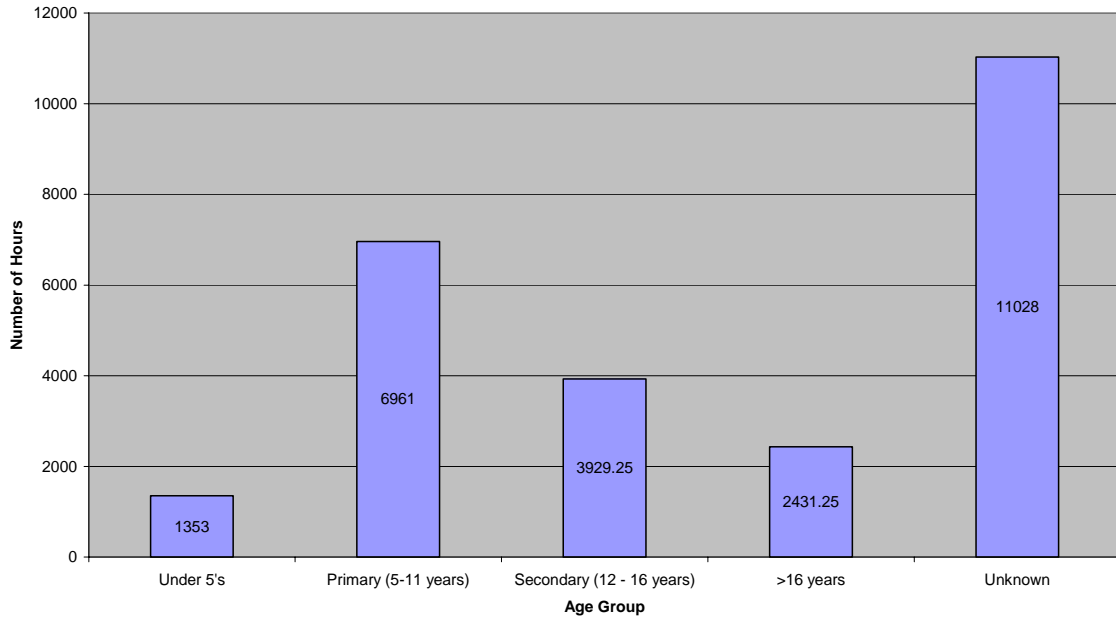
### 3.3 Care provision by age group

The following 3 graphs are based on the returns from providers where they have returned comprehensive data. This will not add up to the total number of hours, which includes hours from providers that have not returned comprehensive data and just provided the number of hours.

Domiciliary care providers do not currently provide us with the ages of their clients so this has made the 'unknown' group on this graph the largest as they provide a large number of hours to a small group of children.

If we disregard the 'unknown' group then children in primary and secondary groups receive the highest amount of care hours. The number of care hours has increased for Primary age and reduced for Secondary age groups from previous years.

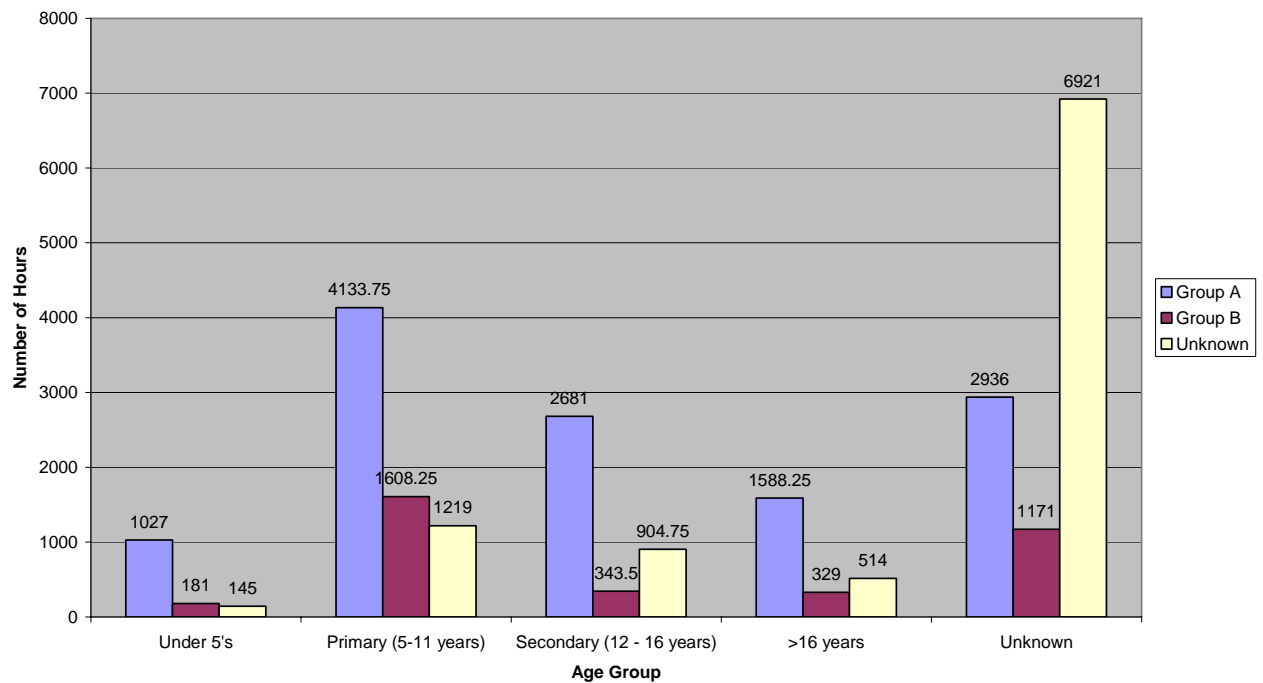
Number of family & individual hours by age group



### 3.4 Care provision by age and priority group

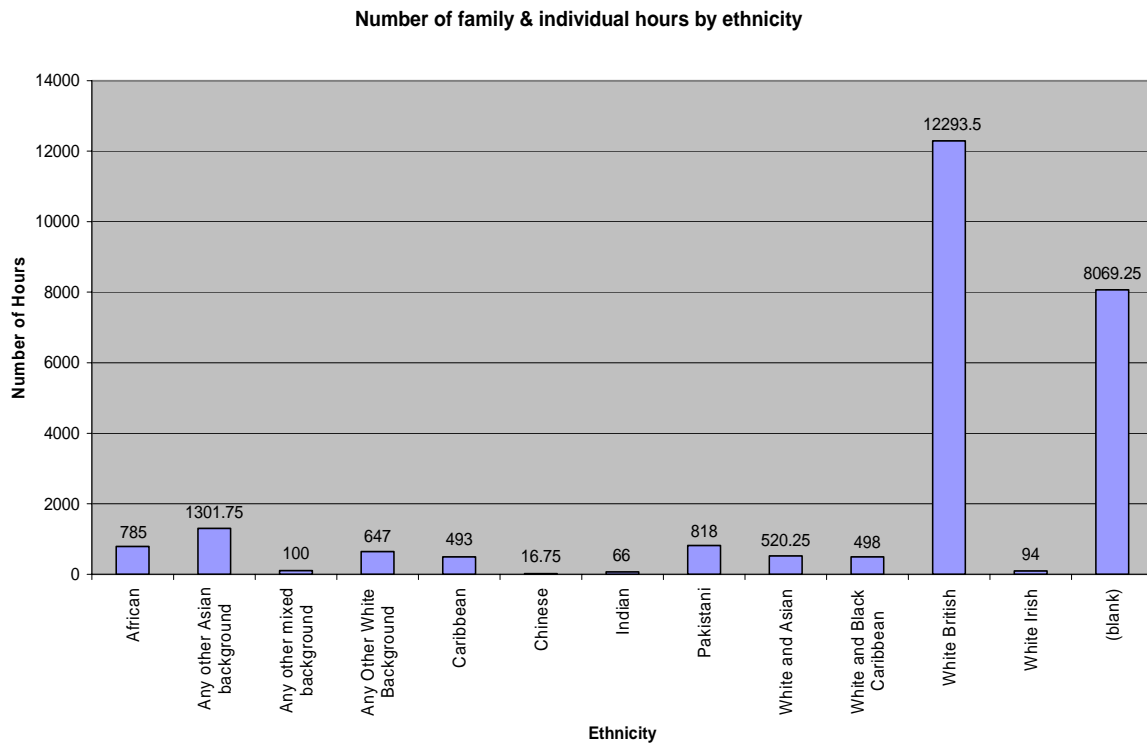
It is identified in the following graph and from the related data that children in Group A were the largest recipients of care services (48%). As above the lack of ages from domiciliary care providers has made it difficult to see what age the children are in each priority group, with a large percentage falling within the Unknown category (38%).

Number of family & individual hours by age and priority groups



### 3.5 Care hours by ethnicity

Children from White British families by far receive the most care hours. This is based on the ethnicity breakdown in Bucks. The 'unknown' '(blank)' group is high due to domiciliary providers not providing us with ethnicity information for their children. Although there are some changes to last years' results, this years' data follows similar trends.

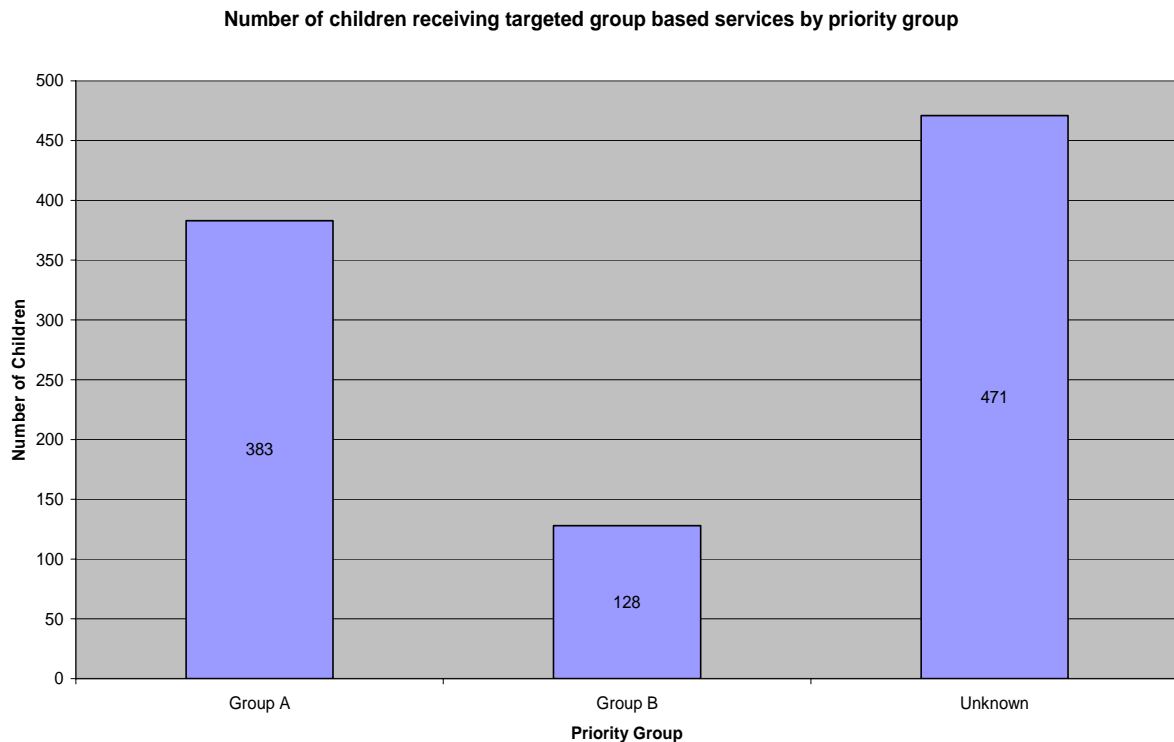


## 4. Group based provision

### 4.1 Children receiving targeted group-based services by priority group

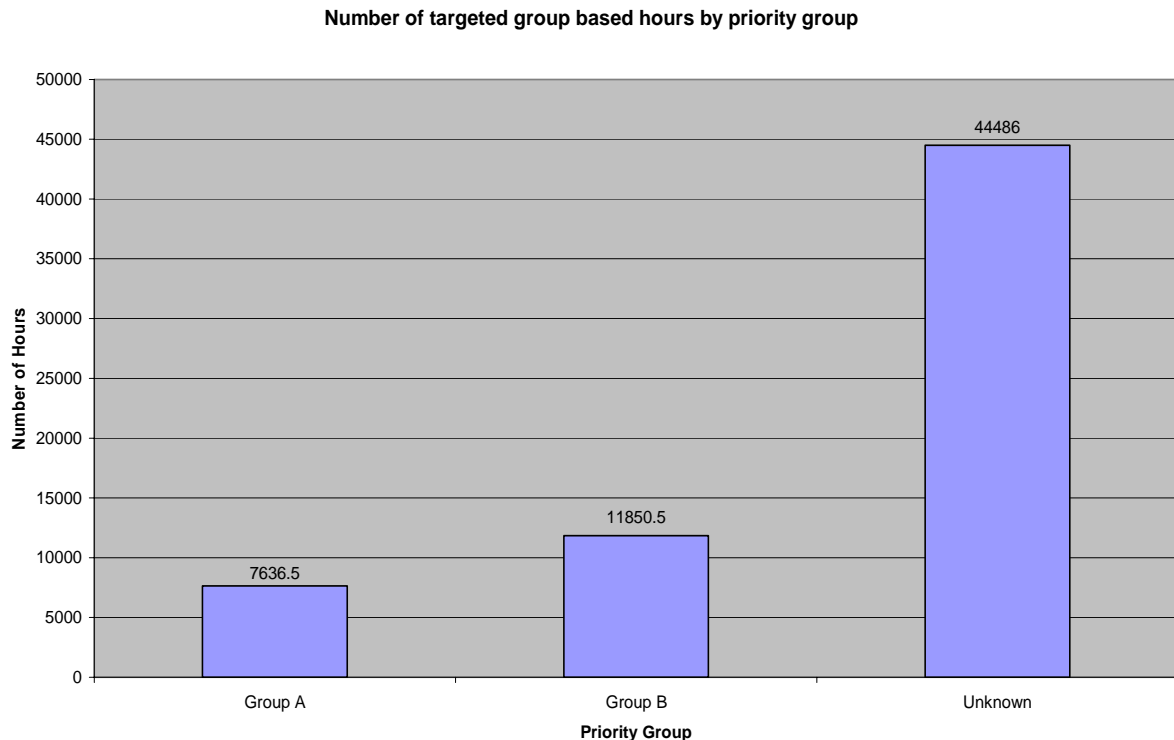
Monitoring data shows that 982 disabled children and young people were supported through specialist targeted group-based provision in 2010/11. As in cases above, this figure includes duplicate children that may receive services by more than one provider. Unique children receiving targeted services were 721. This includes targeted disability groups through after school provision, youth service provision, weekend clubs, holiday play schemes and children's centres.

Many of these providers do not provide us with full information on the children who attend their clubs which will distort the graphs below. For example, many providers do not place a child into a Group A or B category as shown below. However from speaking to providers we can assume that a large amount of the 'Other' group are actually Group A children.



## 4.2 Targeted group based hours by priority group

Overall, 63,974 hours were provided through targeted group based activities in 2010/11.

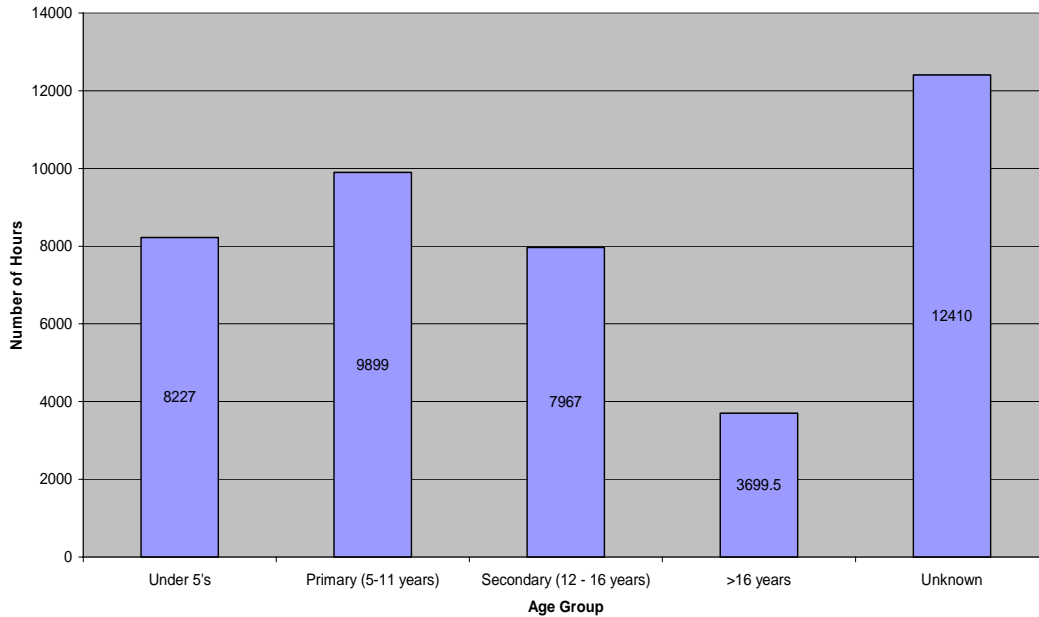


## 4.3 Targeted group based hours by age group

The following 3 graphs are based on the detailed provider returns using the correct data sheet, so will not add up to the overall total number of hours, which is based on all information received from providers where they just provide the number of hours rather than all the other information requested.

The providers who are unable to provide information on children's ages tend to be providers with age ranges of 12-18 so we can assume that the majority of hours are provided to the secondary group. As can be seen in the following graph, from those that do provide the data, the majority of targeted group based hours are received by the Primary, Under 5's and Secondary age groups.

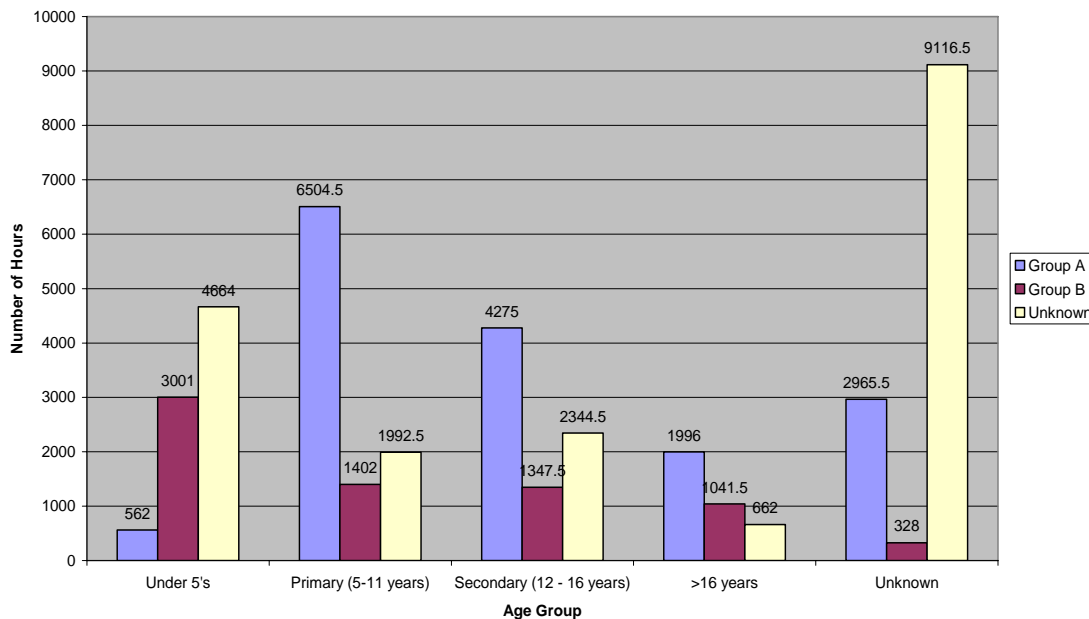
Number of targeted group based hours by age group



#### 4.4 Specific group based provision by priority and age group

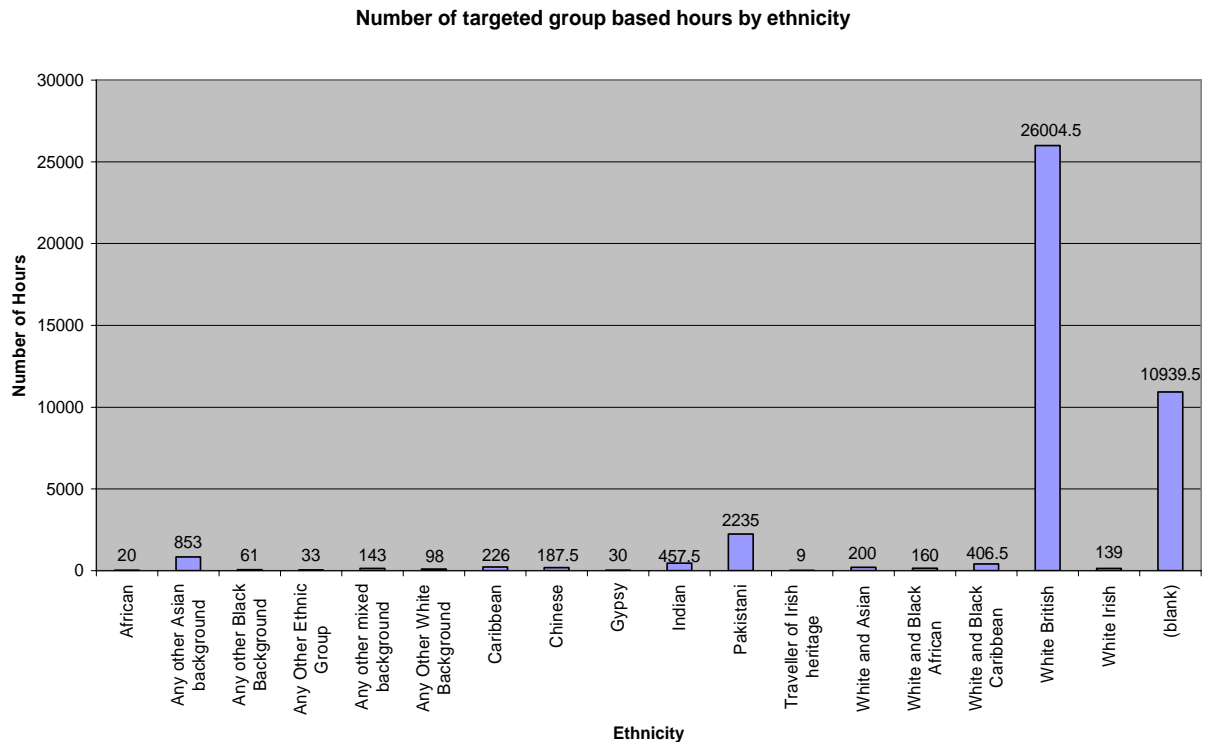
It is identified in the following graph and from the related data that children in Group A (excluding those in Unknown) were the largest recipients of care services (39%). As above the lack of ages from domiciliary care providers has made it difficult to see what age the children are in each priority group, with a large percentage falling within the Unknown category (44%). The remaining 17% fall within Group B children.

Number of targeted group based hours by age and priority groups



## 4.5 Targeted group-based care hours by ethnicity

The 'unknown' '(blank)' group is high due to domiciliary providers not providing us with ethnicity information for their children. Although there are some changes to last years' results, again this years' data follows similar trends.

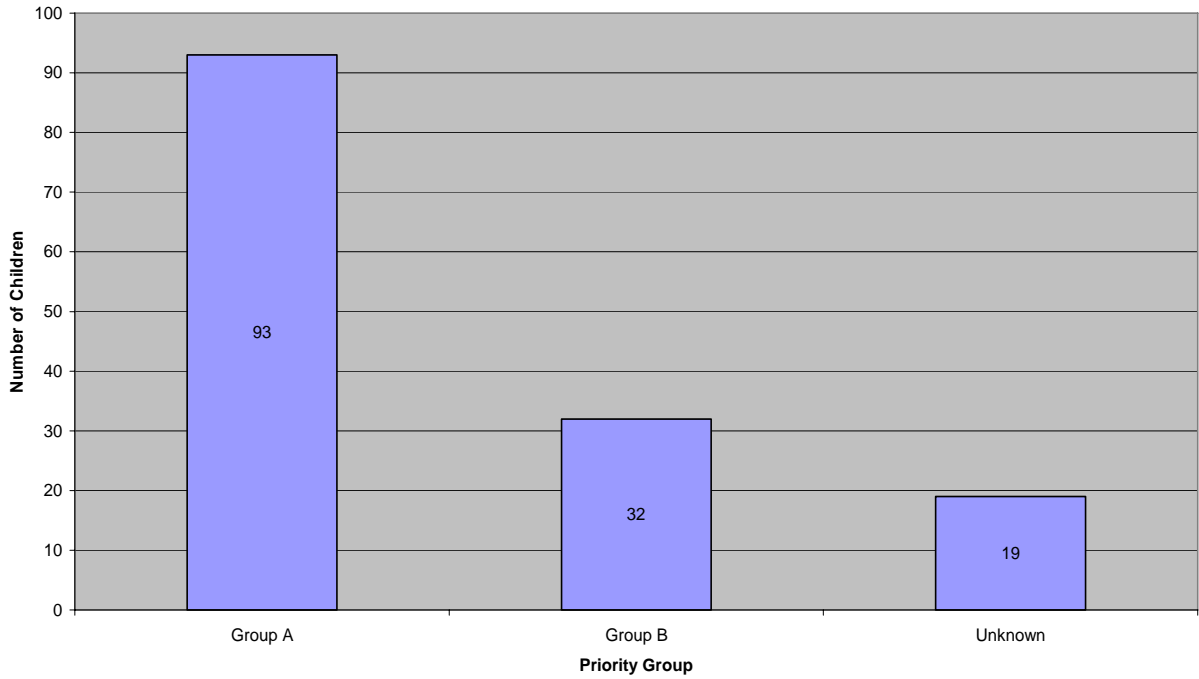


## 4.6 Children receiving universal group-based services by priority group

In 2010/11, 144 disabled children received services through universal groups. There will be many more children in the County accessing universal groups but this is a difficult number to record as not all providers ask for information regarding disability. As in cases above, this figure includes duplicate children that may receive services by more than one provider. Unique children receiving universal group-based services were 142.

As seen for the targeted group above, many of these providers do not provide us with full information on the children who attend their clubs which will distort the graphs below.

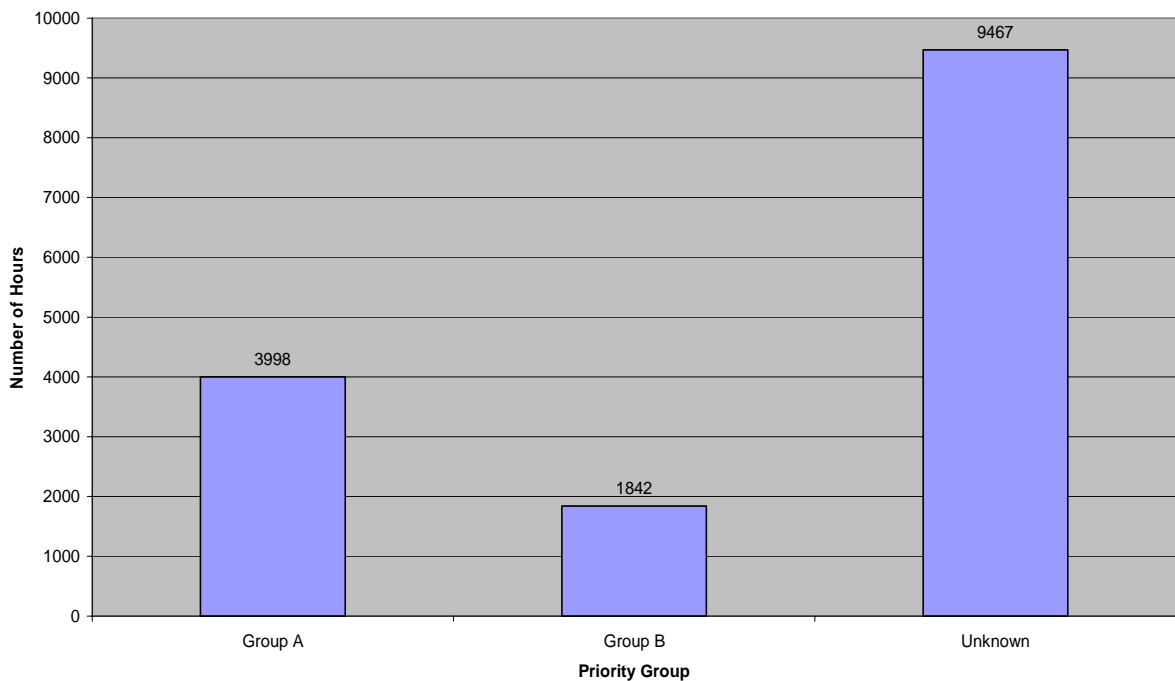
Number of children receiving universal group based services by priority group



#### 4.7 Universal group based hours by priority group

Overall, 15,307 hours were provided through universal group based activities in 2010/11.

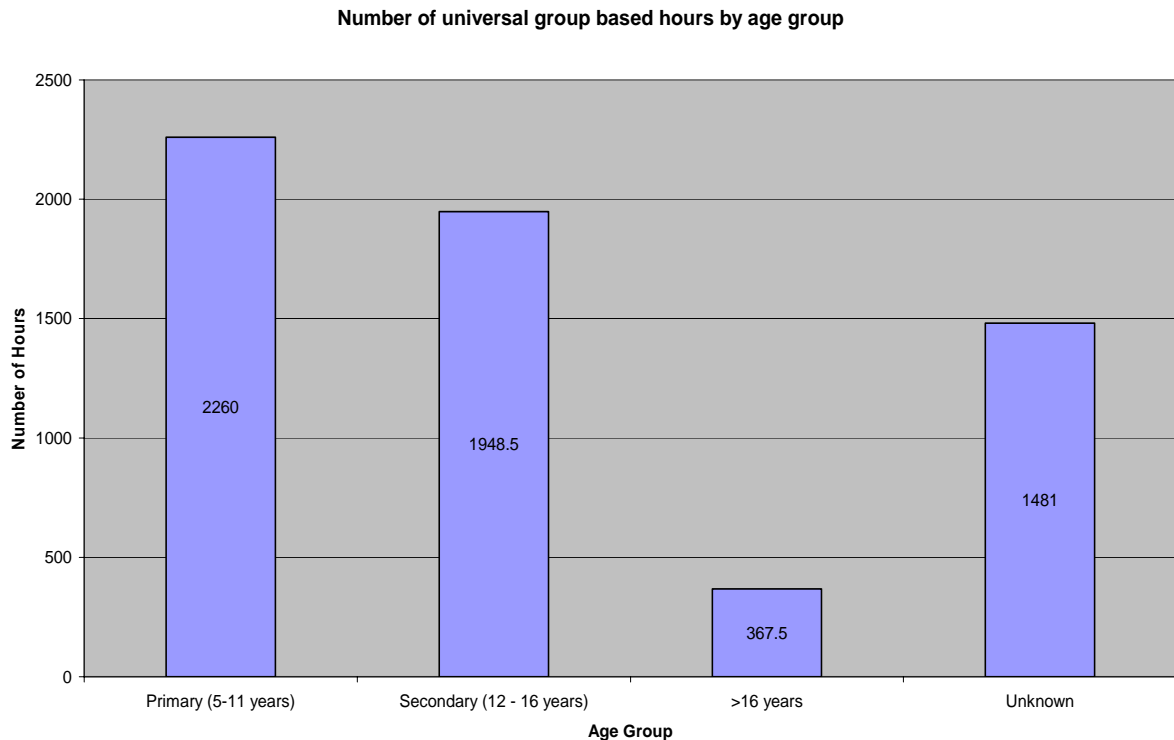
Number of universal group based hours by priority group



#### 4.8 Universal group based hours by age group

The following 3 graphs are based on the returns from providers where they have returned comprehensive data. This will not add up to the total number of hours, which includes hours from providers that have not returned comprehensive data and just provided the number of hours.

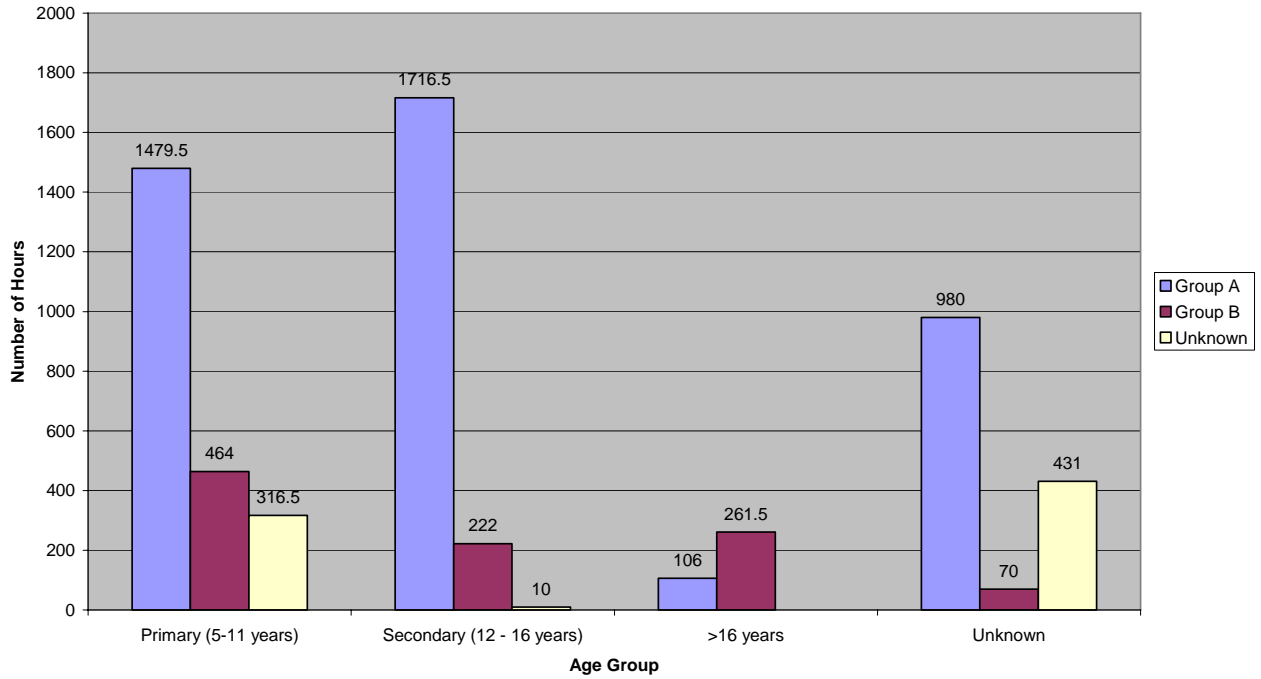
As can be seen in the following graph, from those that do provide the data, the majority of targeted group based hours are received by the Primary (37%), and Secondary (32%) age groups.



#### 4.9 Universal group based provision by priority and age group

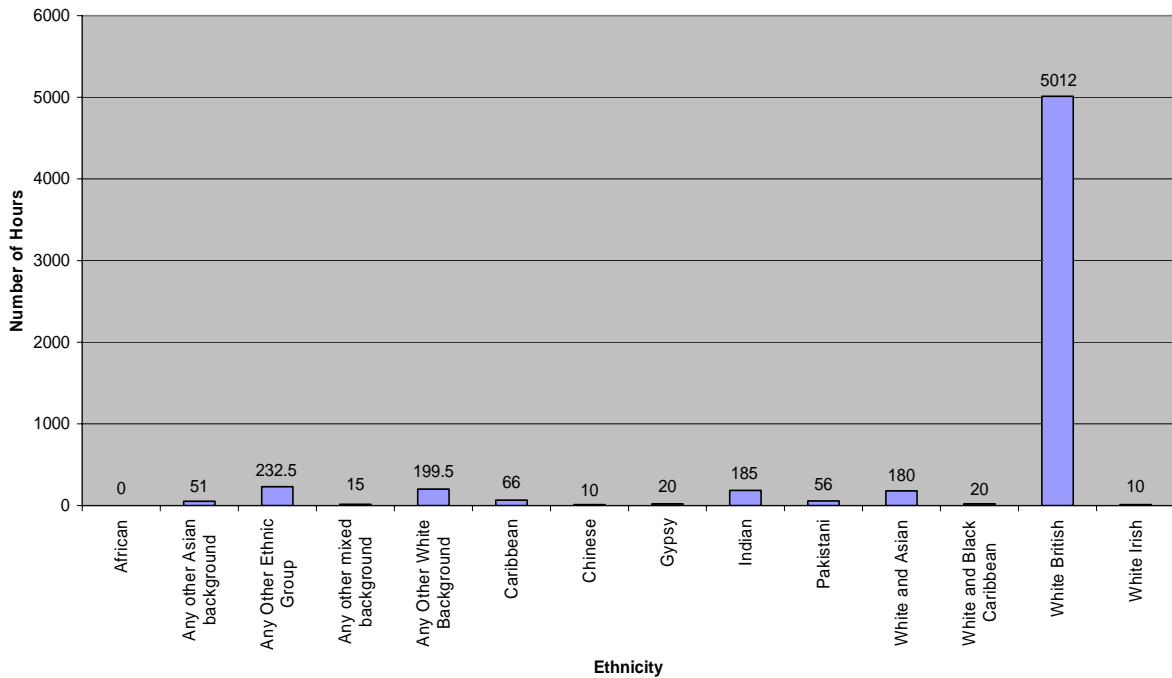
It is identified in the following graph and from the related data that children in Group A were the largest recipients of care services (71%). Only a small percentage fall within the Unknown category (13%) The remaining 17% fall within Group B children.

Number of universal group based hours by age and priority groups



#### 4.10 Care hours by ethnicity

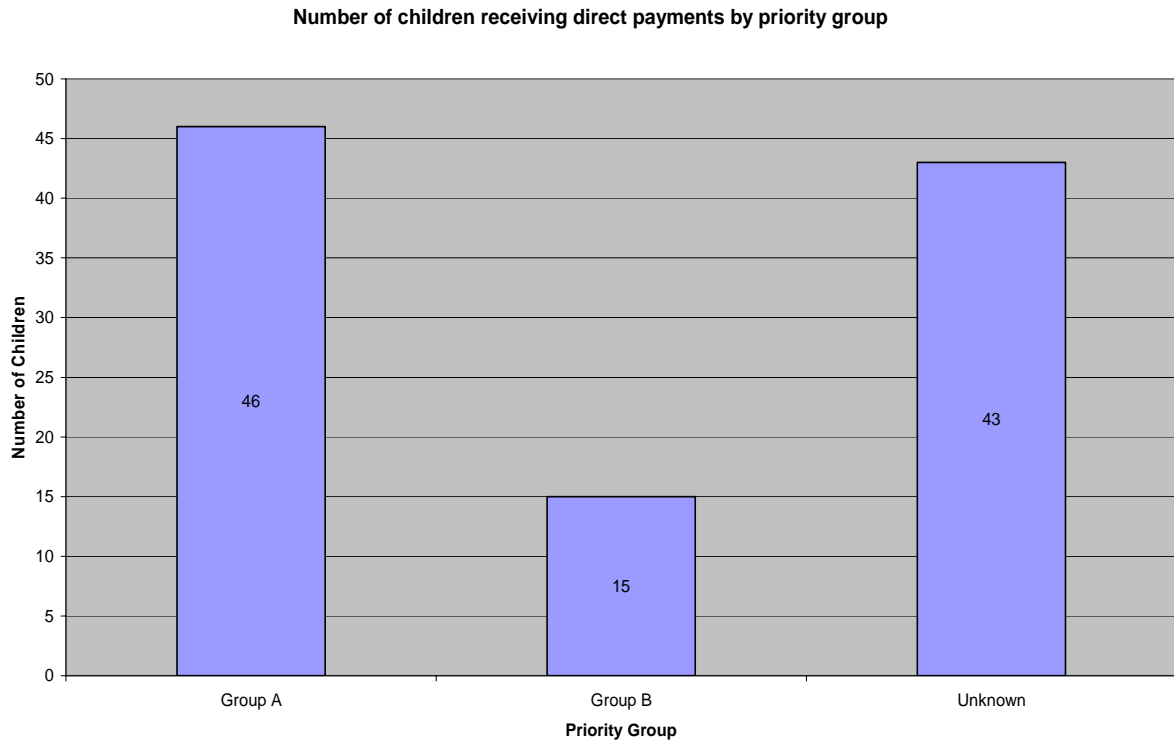
Number of universal group based hours by ethnicity



Charts of combined data for Targeted and Universal Group based services can be seen in appendix 1.

## 5. Direct Payments

The number of children receiving direct payments is 104, with 44% falling within the Group A children, 14% in Group B. A large percentage is unknown for similar reasons as stated in above report.

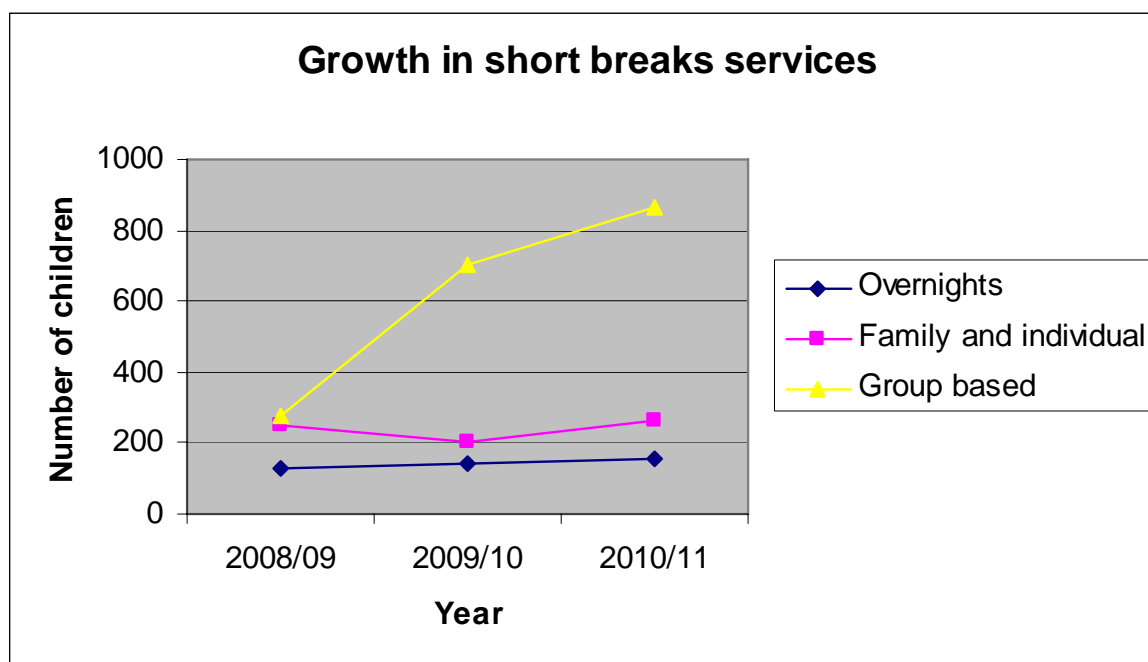


## 6. Growth in short breaks provision

The number of children receiving short breaks overall has increased since 2008 by 183% since 2008 and by 76% since 2009/10.

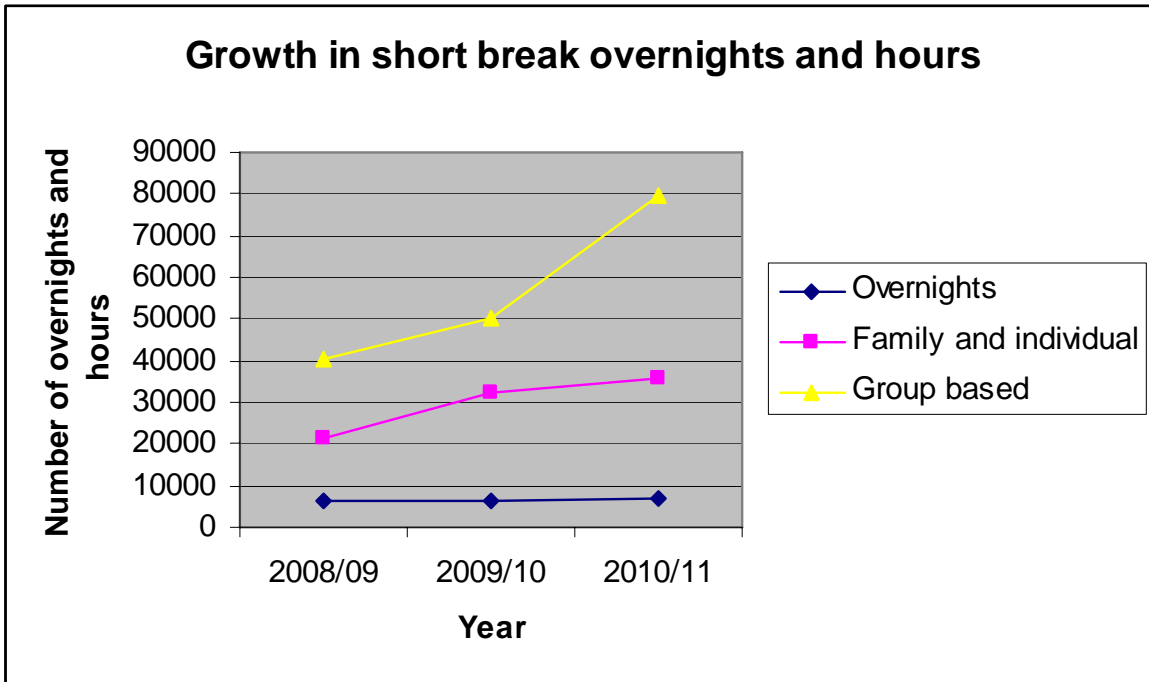
The largest increase shown is in group based provision and family and individual provision (includes all short breaks regardless of funding source). Overnights will mostly remain at the same level as Buckinghamshire as the greatest resources (residential overnight services) serves a small number of children with the highest level of need/and or family need receiving larger packages of care.

The number of children overall receiving overnights has increased by 18% since 2008 and by 9% since 2009/10.

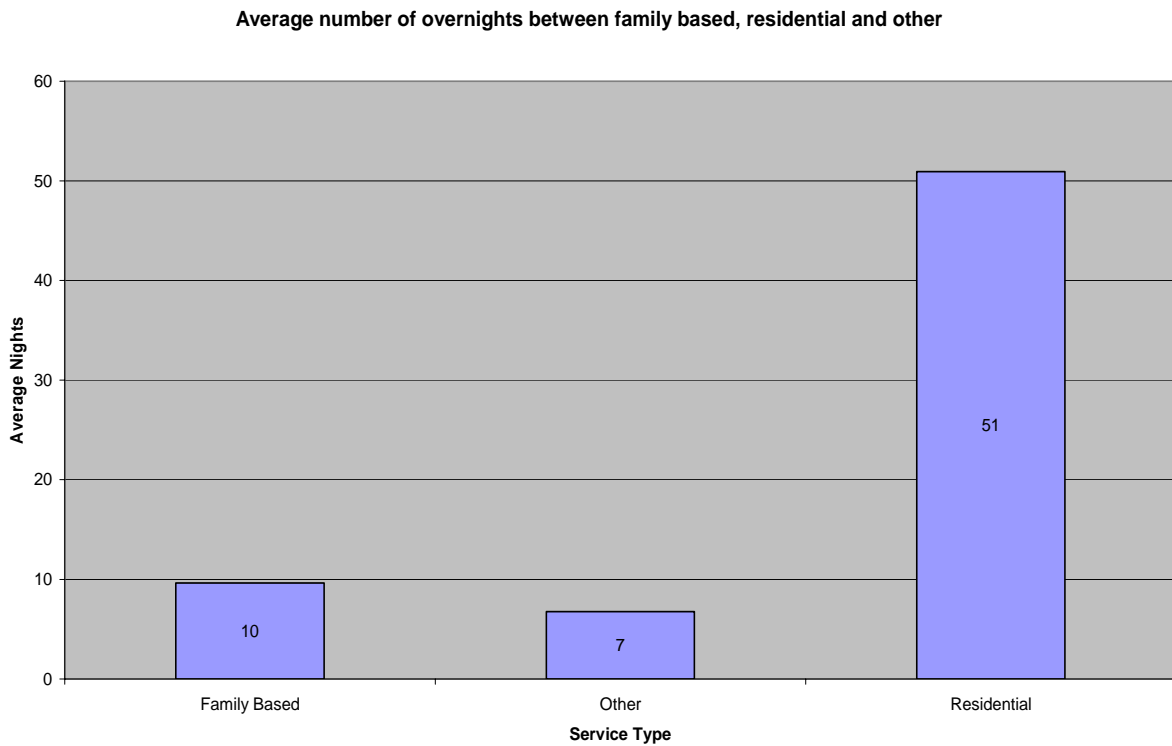


For increase in hours of short breaks, group based provision will be the area of largest increase due to the new commissioned holiday scheme, weekend activities and under 5's pilot scheme. Again overnights are showing only slight increase as Buckinghamshire County Council already provides above what other local areas offer.

- The number of overnights overall has increased by 8% since 2008 and by 0.9% since 2009/10.
- The number of family based day hours has increased by 26% since 2008 and by 10% since 2009/10.
- The number of group based specialist day hours has increased by 105% since 2008 and by 62% since 2009/10.
- The number of group based universal day hours has increased by 86% since 2008 and by 49% since 2009/10.

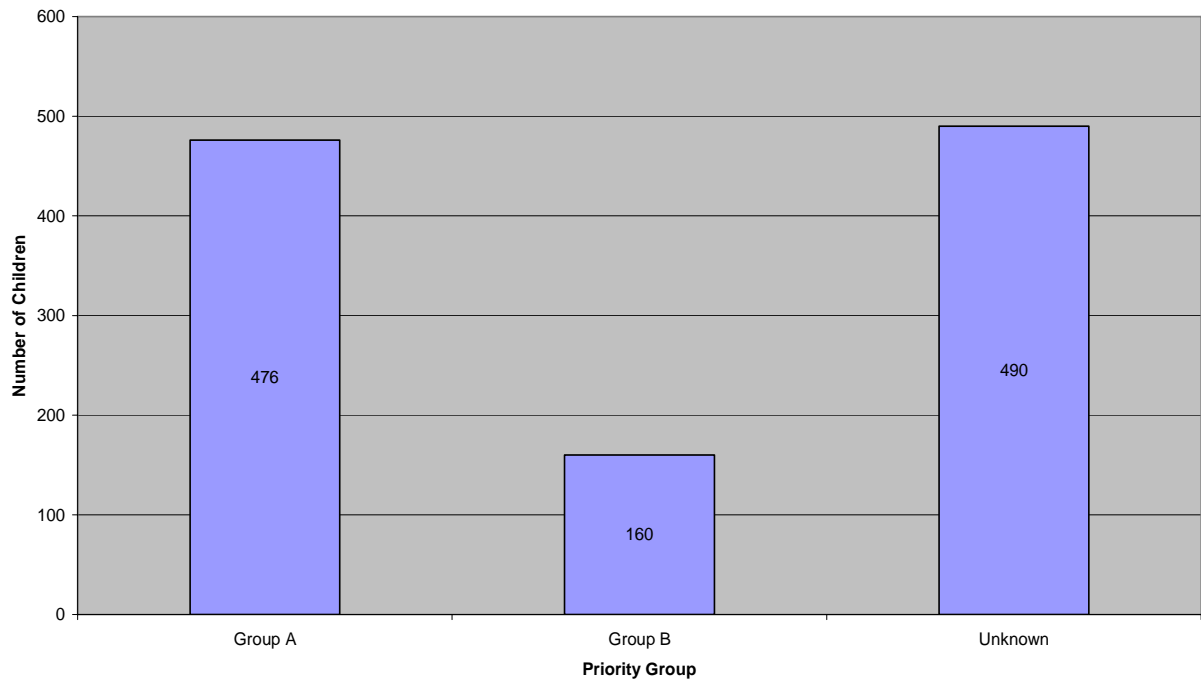


The following graph shows that of the average overnight provisions, 76% are within Residential service provision.

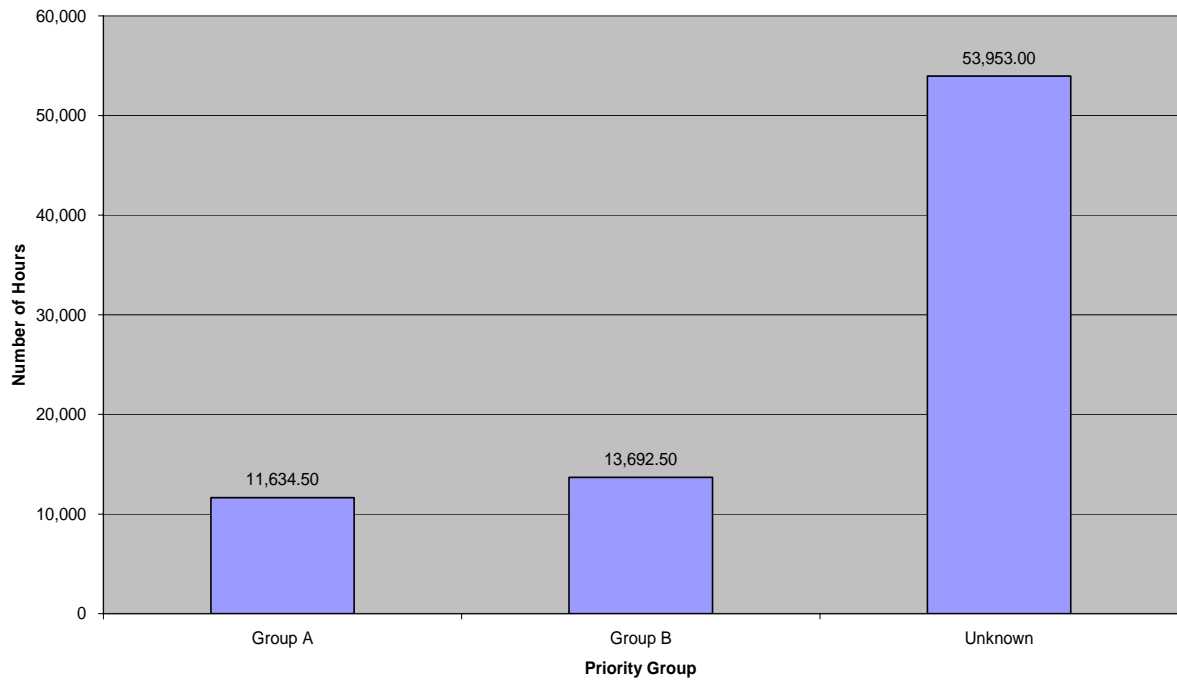


# Appendix 1

Number of children receiving group based services by priority group

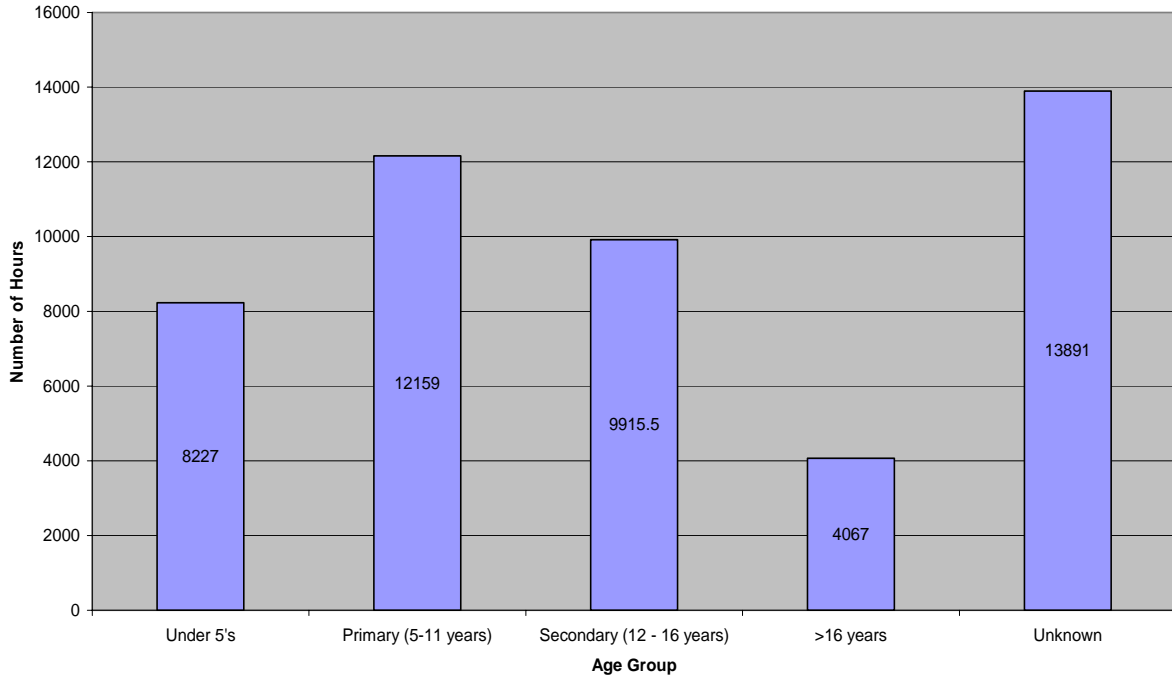


Number of group based hours by priority group

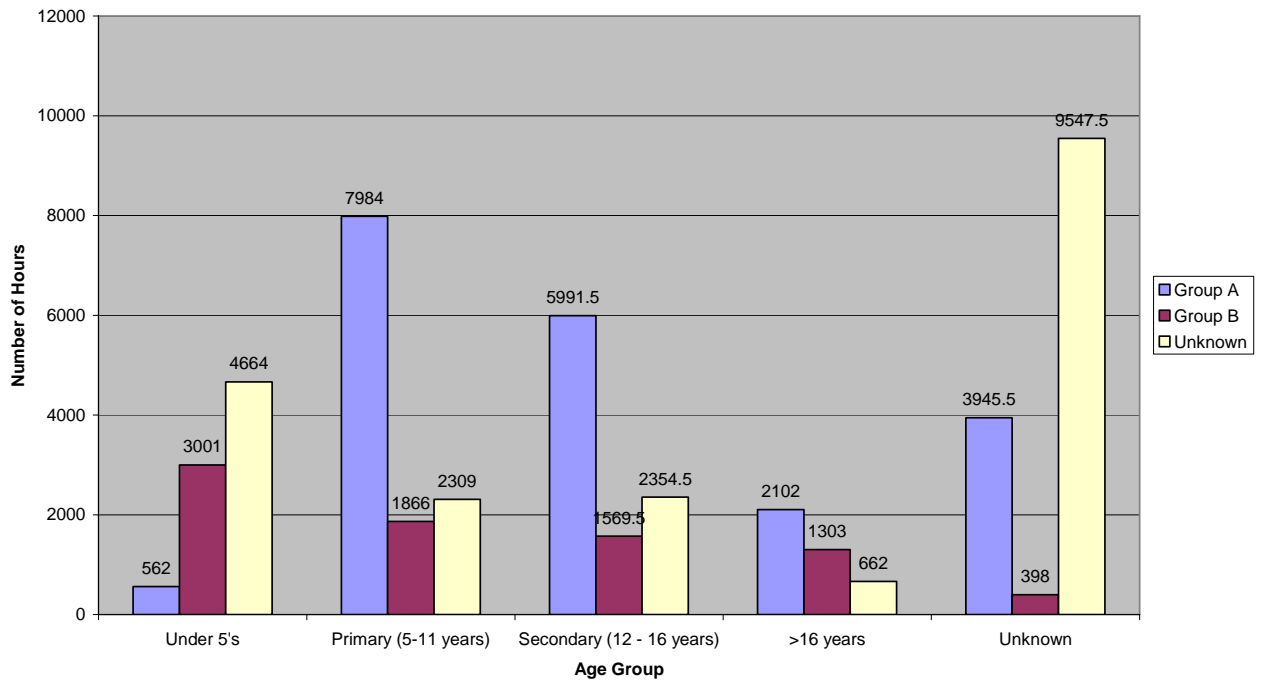


The following 3 graphs are based on the returns from providers where they have returned comprehensive data. This will not add up to the total number of hours, which includes hours from providers that have not returned comprehensive data and just provided the number of hours.

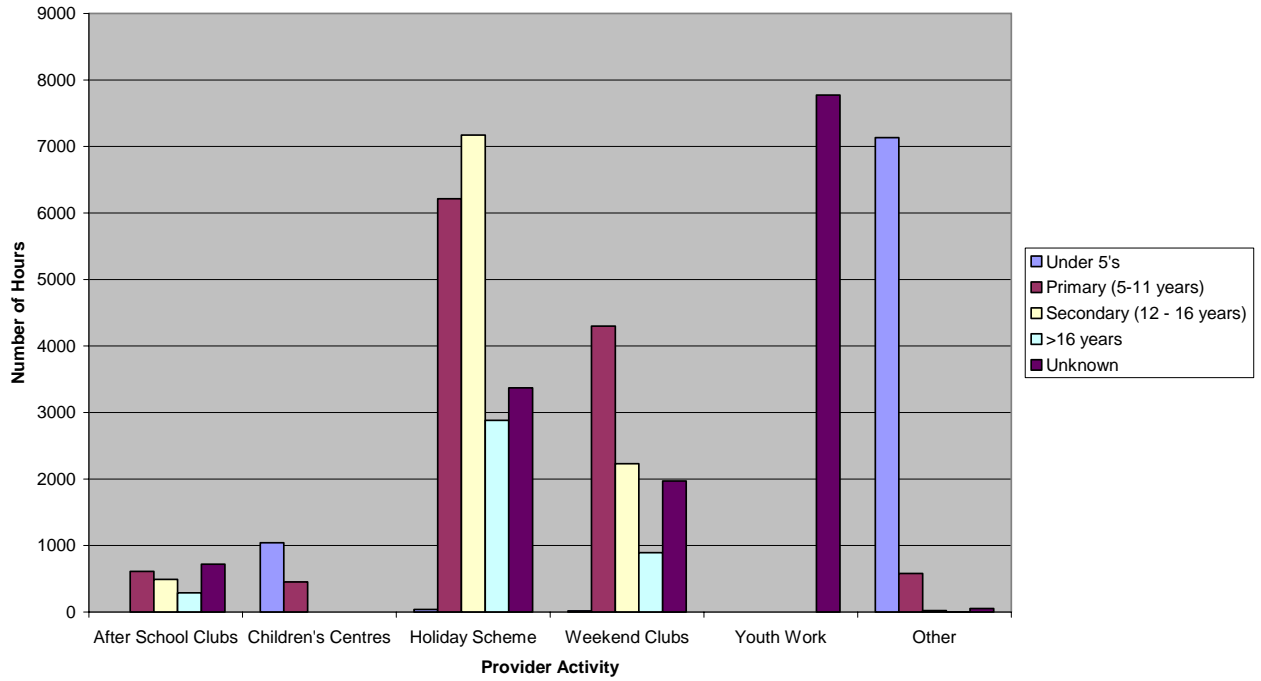
Number of group based hours by age group



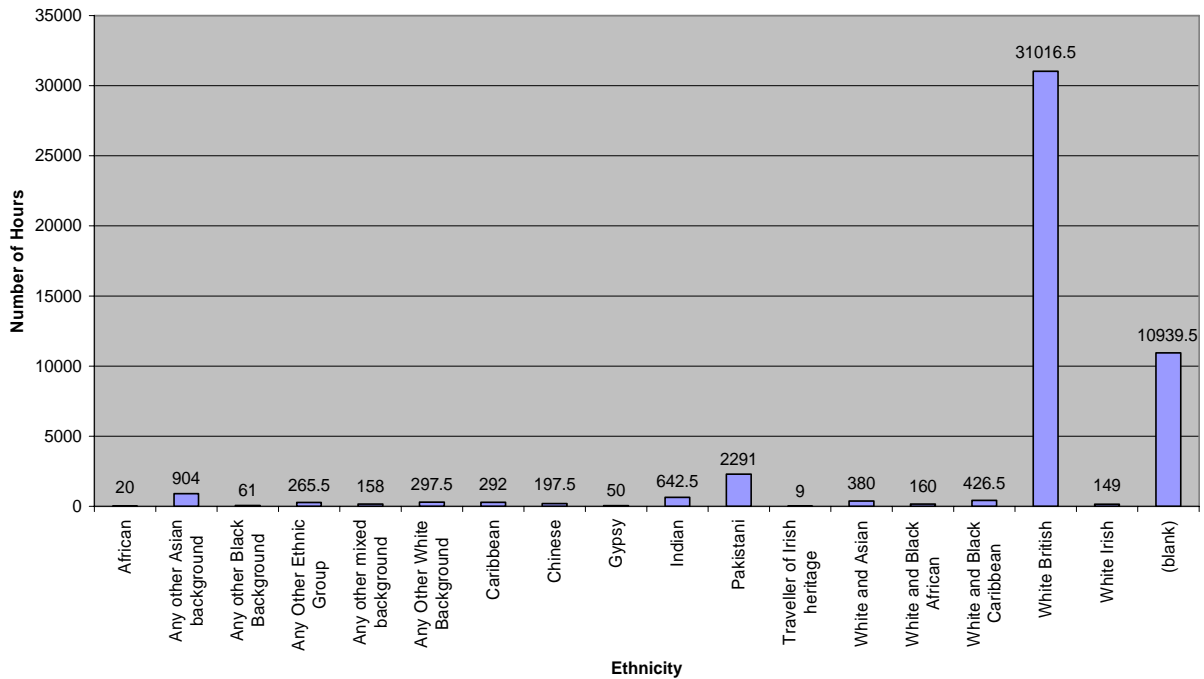
Number of group based hours by age and priority groups



Number of group based hours by activity and age groups



Number of group based hours by ethnicity



### Aiming High Short Breaks Parent Questionnaire Key Results

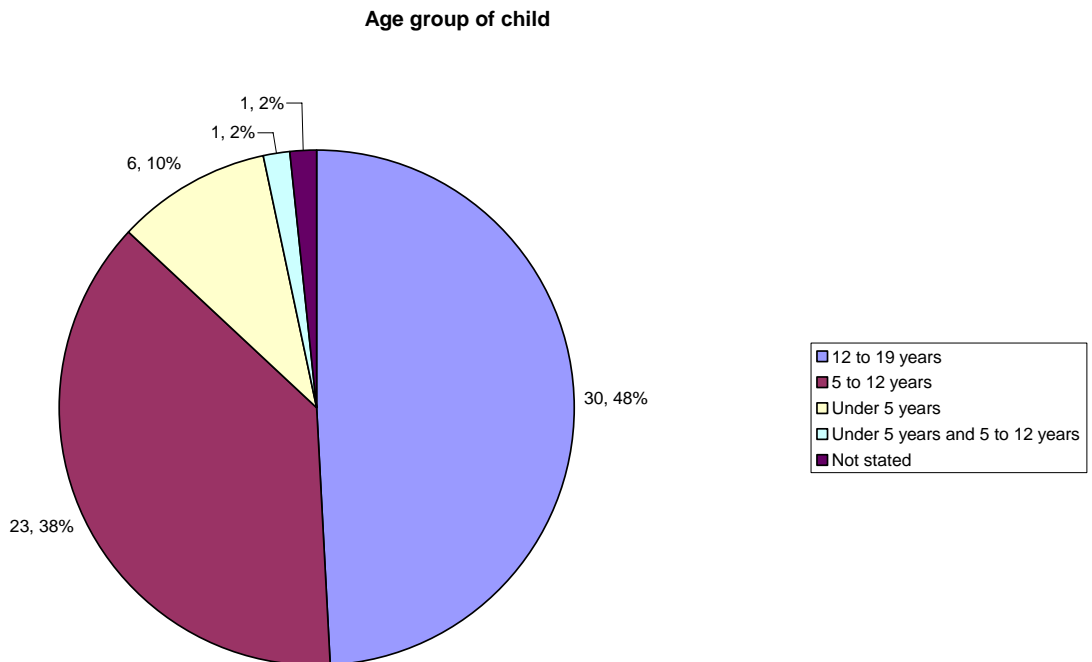
This questionnaire was aimed at parents / carers of disabled children, to find out their experience of local short breaks that they receive for their disabled child and the impact made by the Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) programme in Buckinghamshire.

The following results are some of the key areas that highlight the positive outcomes of the programme and also some of the areas that are clearly identified as needing improving.

#### Headline results

A total of 61 questionnaires were returned, which due to the nature of how they were completed represents 61 children between the age of 0 and 19 years.

By far the largest group of children represented were between the ages of 5 and 19 years, representing over 80% of responses (Graph 1).



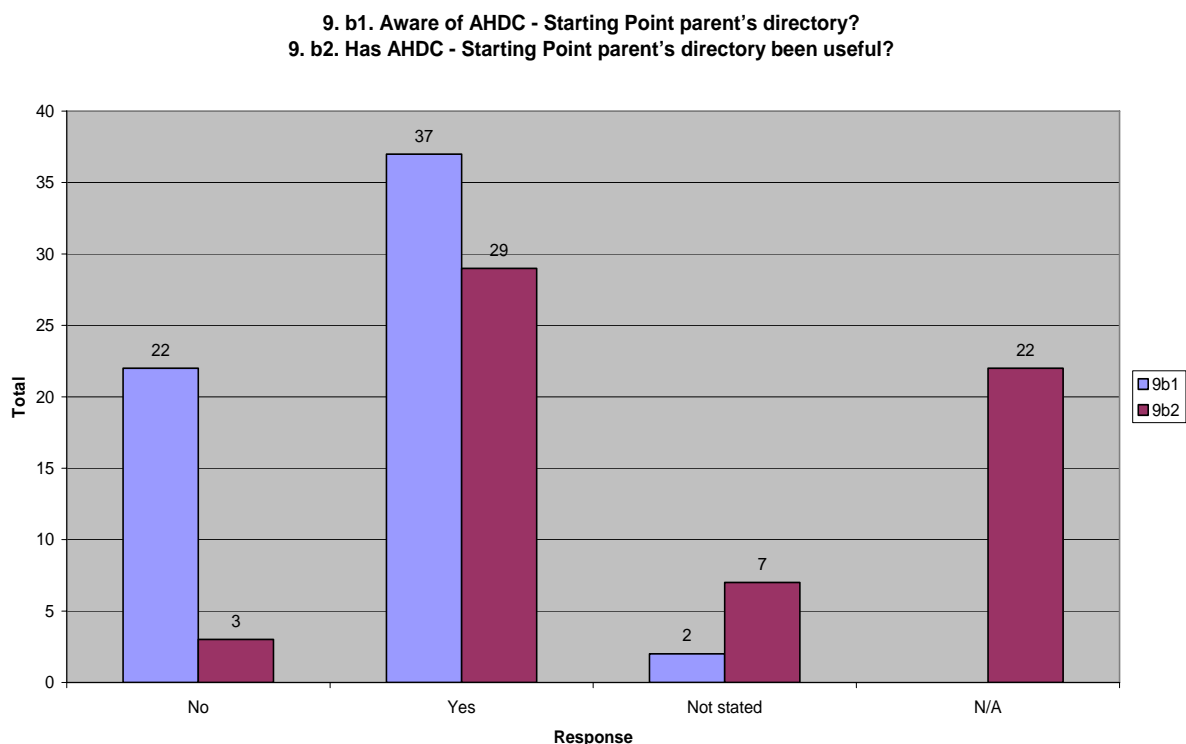
The split of male and female of these age groups is fairly equal at 27 (44%) female and 34 (56%) male.

Encouragingly over 90% of respondents had heard of the Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) programme, with similar figures relating to awareness of the AHDC – Keeping you in the Picture newsletter and finding it useful.

## Specific results

### Question 9 – Awareness of AHDC Starting Point Directory and its usefulness

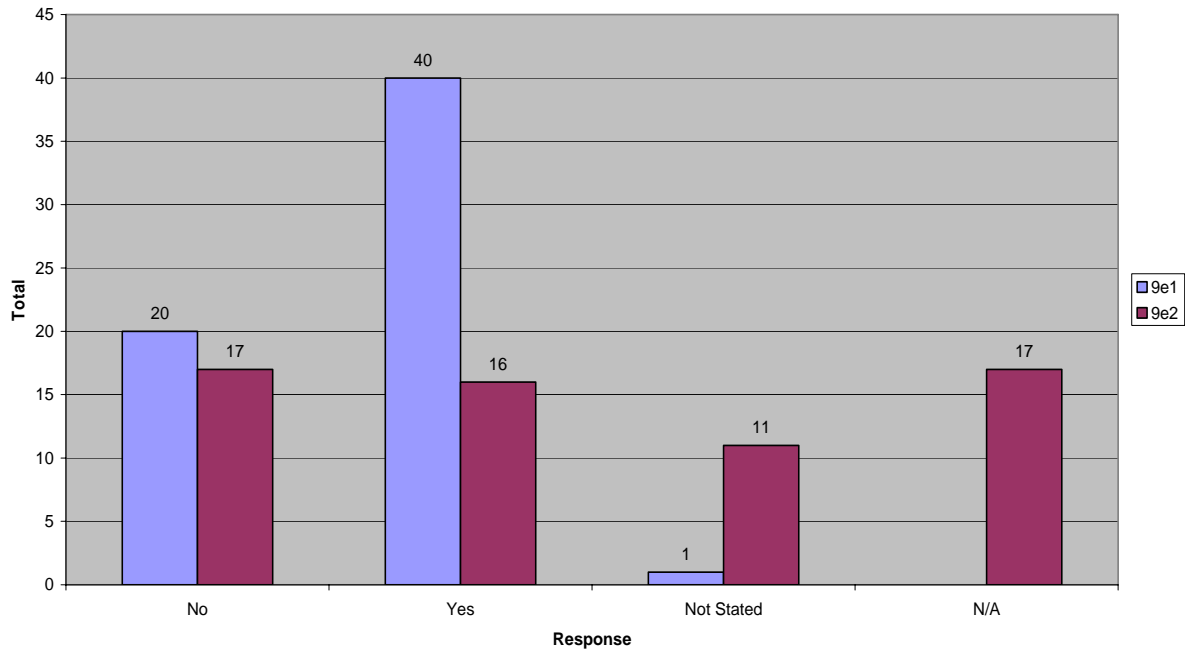
This recently published resource (Feb 2011) is known to over 60% of respondents, with nearly 50% saying that it was useful. However, 22 (36%) were not aware of it which raises questions as to its publicity to parents and carers. It is sent out to those newly registered on the Pinpoint database, and is also provided to service providers for distribution. Being a new publication, this sort of response is likely to be expected and to change over the coming months and year.



### Question 9 – Awareness of Parent regional meetings with participation workers and their usefulness

A large percentage of respondents were aware of these meetings 66%, though only 26% felt they were useful, with 28% stating they were not. How many of these have actually attended any of the meetings is unknown, but those not attending should be those falling under the 11 respondents (18%) that had not stated any answer.

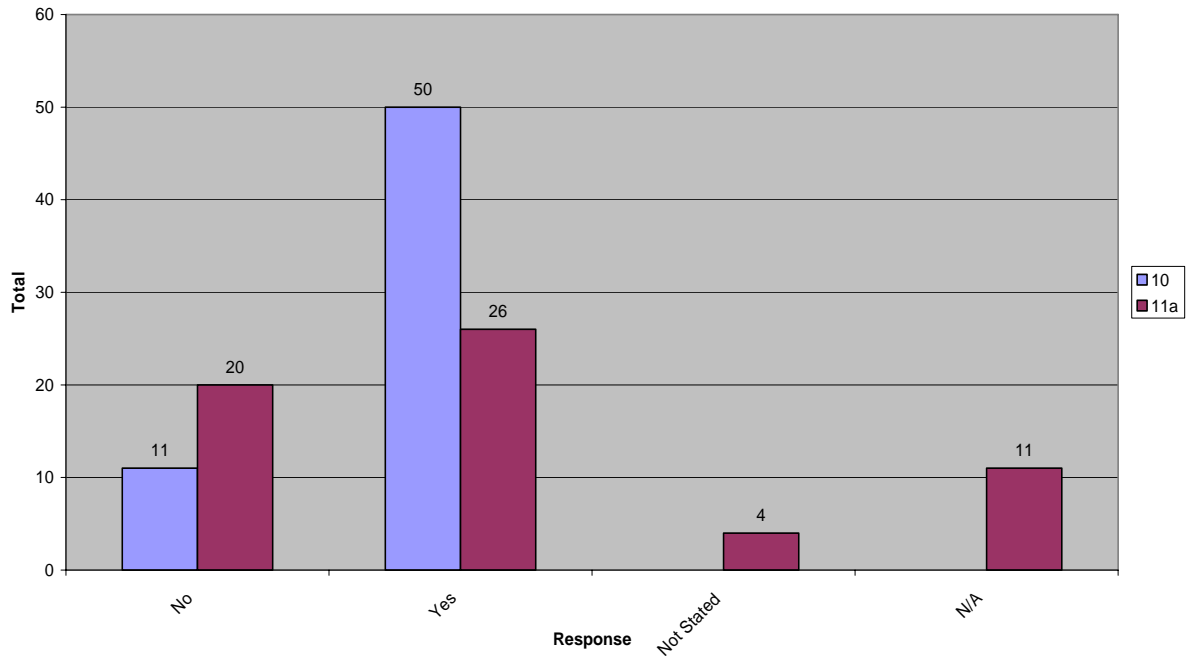
**9. e1. Aware of Parent regional meetings with participation workers?  
9. e2. Have Parent regional meetings with participation workers been useful?**



**Question 10 and 11 – Registration on Pinpoint database and access to short break information**

There were 50 respondents that said they were registered on the Pinpoint database (82%), with 26 of these stating the information provided about short breaks having increased as a result. Of the 11 that stated they were not registered, the majority indicated the reason for this was not being aware of it.

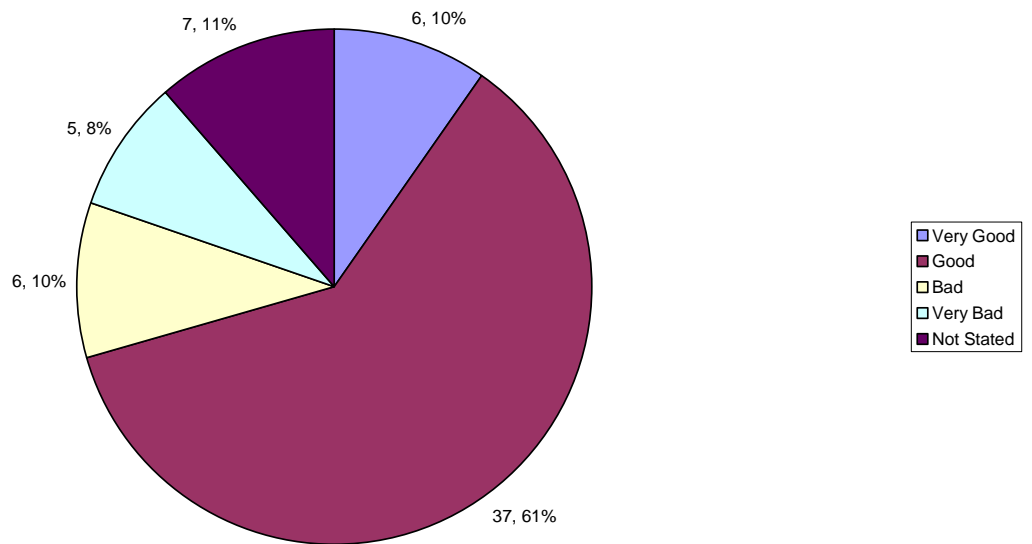
10. Have you registered your disabled child on the AHDC Pinpoint Database?  
 11. a. If Yes, has this increased your access to information on short breaks specific for your family?



Similarly 57% of respondents said they had noticed an increase in information provided about short breaks since the beginning of the AHDC programme (Question 12).

A high percentage rated the information on short breaks as good or very good (70%), with only 18% stating it was bad or very bad (11% had not rated this).

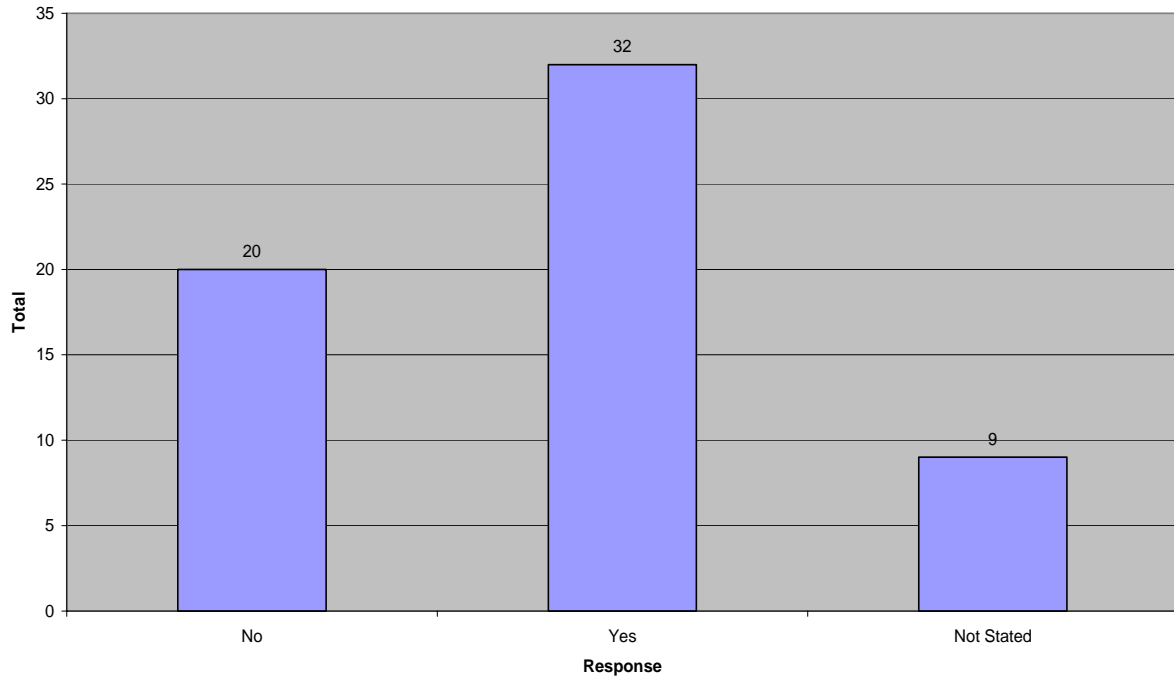
### Rating of information currently available on short breaks



### Question 14 – Disabled child currently receiving short breaks

Of those that responded with either a yes or no to this question (85% of responses) over 1/3 of these said No, i.e. that their disabled child did not currently receive short break services. Again, the reasoning behind this is difficult to determine from the results of this questionnaire, but possible answers could be related to the lack of awareness of services available (relating to the 36% not aware of the Starting Point Directory), or not considering the activity their child accesses is a short break (still some perception that a short break involves overnight care) or equally, some of these not actually requiring access to these services.

Disabled child currently receiving short breaks

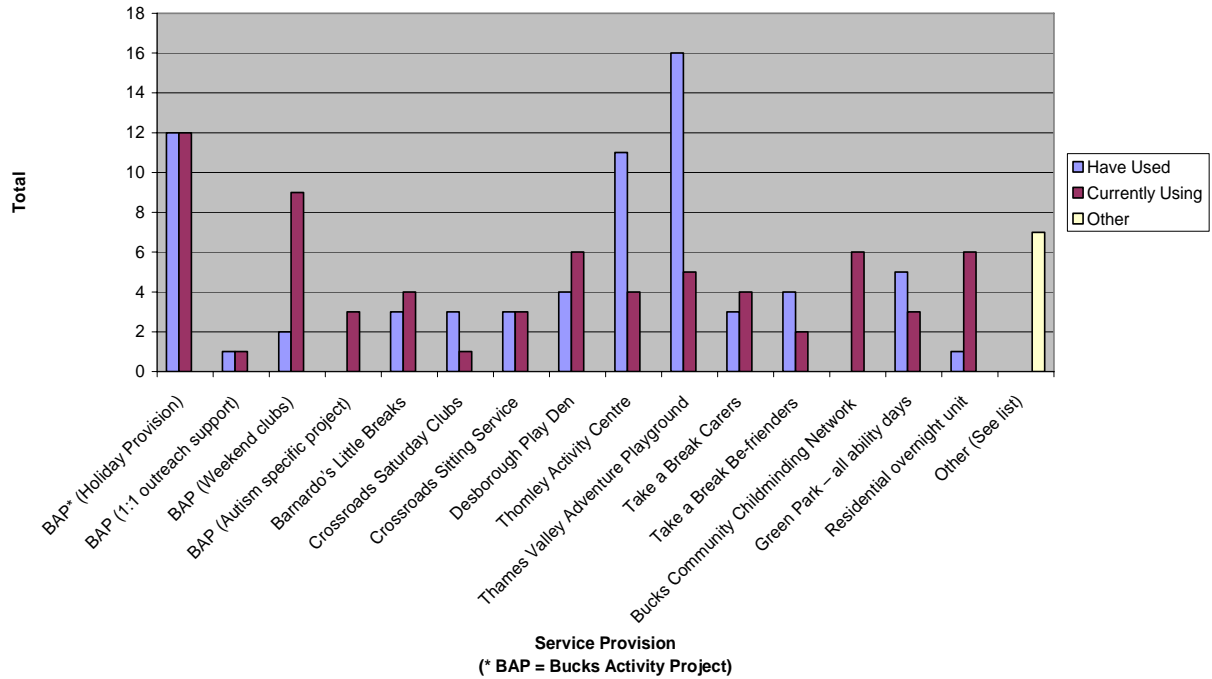


### Question 15 – Use of short break services

The following graph shows a good spread of services having been used or being used by those who have used short breaks. It shows that the Bucks Activity Project (BAP) – Holiday Provision is consistent in past and current usage. The Thames Valley Adventure Playground had proved very popular in past usage, as too was seen with the Thomley Activity Centre. Although numbers for these for currently using are not as high, this could be down to the time the questionnaire was filled in, if these centres are more fair weather services, or simply that the services required are now different.

A summary of the other short breaks services follows after the following graph.

### Use of short break services (Past and Present)



### Other Service Providers used or currently using

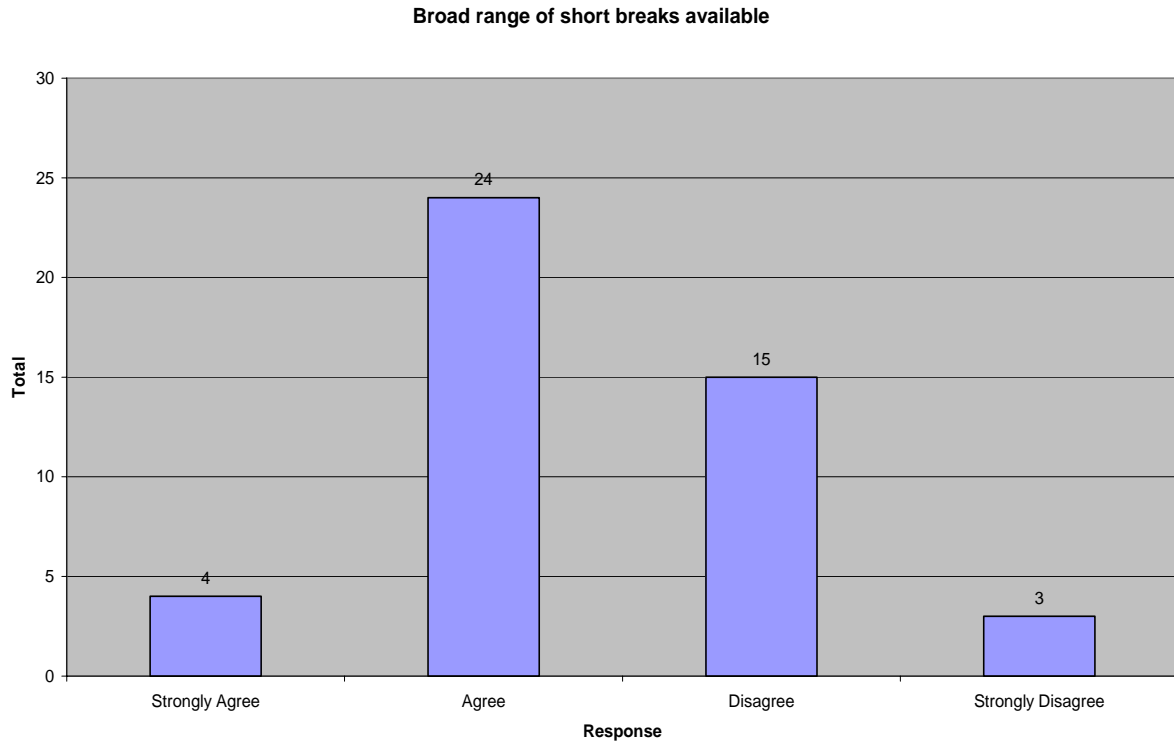
- Action for Children days - not family (summer)
- Bucks Activity Project
- Clearly speaking activity days (Buckingham)
- Dukes Barn residential trip - Finland Trip
- Green Park
- Green Park - family activities stopped
- The Chiltern Centre (Henley-on-Thames)
- Thomley
- TVAP

### Question 16 responses

The total responses for the following represent the numbers that agree (or strongly agree) or disagree (or strongly disagree) in each.

- **Broad range of short breaks available**

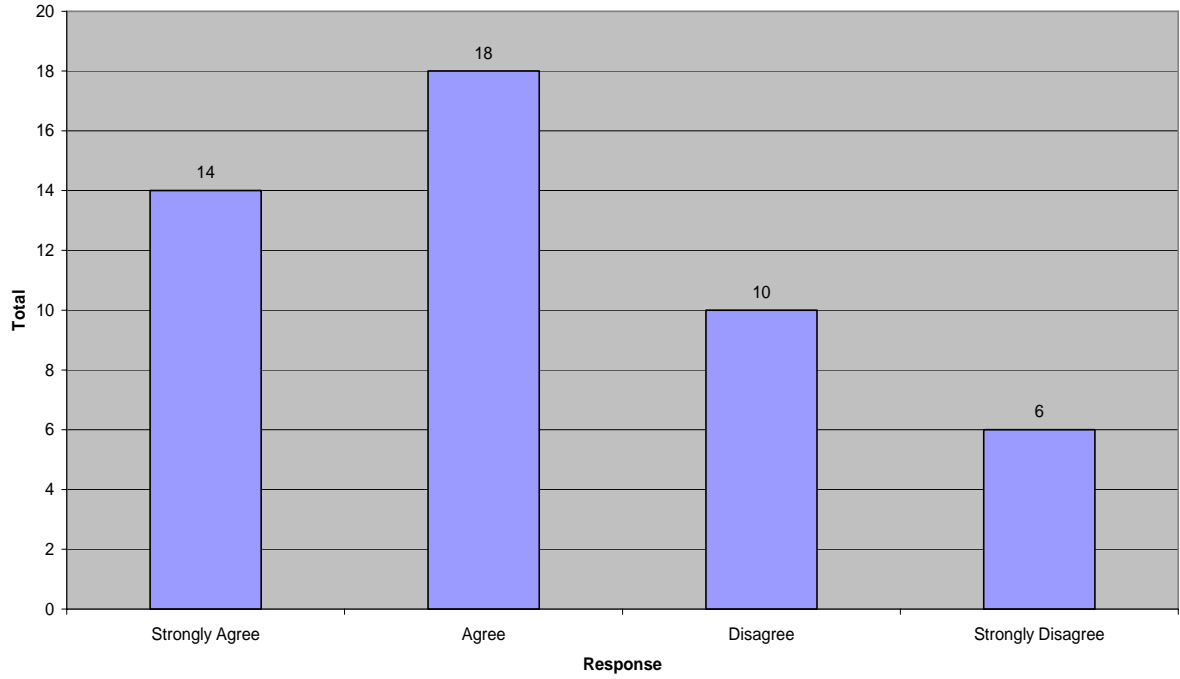
There is a high percentage that agree or strongly agree that there is a broad range of services made available (61%), however, nearly 40% disagree or strongly disagree.



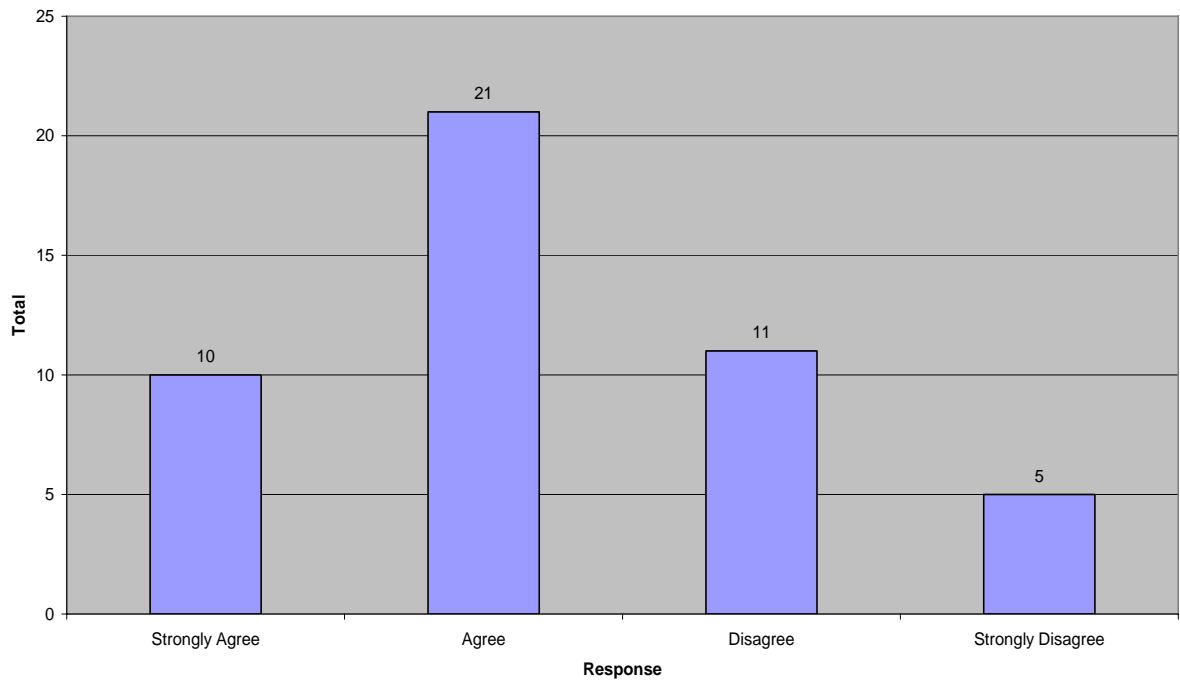
- **Able to cope better during school holidays, evenings and weekends**

Around 2/3 agree or strongly agree that they feel better able to cope during school holidays as well as during evenings and weekends due to short breaks being available. This is a clear indication of the importance of these services to families. The following two graphs indicate these results and the breakdown of strength of agreement or disagreement.

**Able to cope better during school holidays**



**Able to cope better during evenings and weekends**

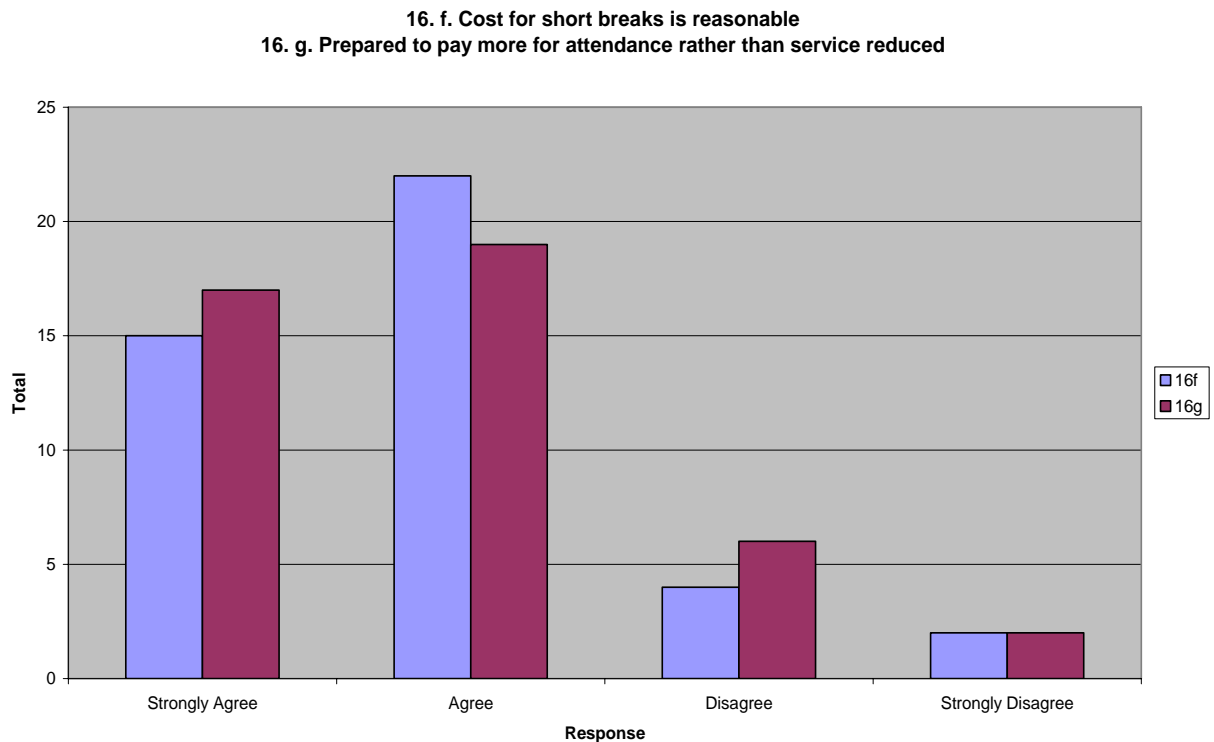


- **No need to travel >10 miles for short break service**

As seen earlier with the range of available services, 60% agree or strongly agree that short break services are available in their local area (<10 miles away), but again leaving 40% not agreeing.

- **Reasonable cost for short breaks and willingness to pay more for attendance**

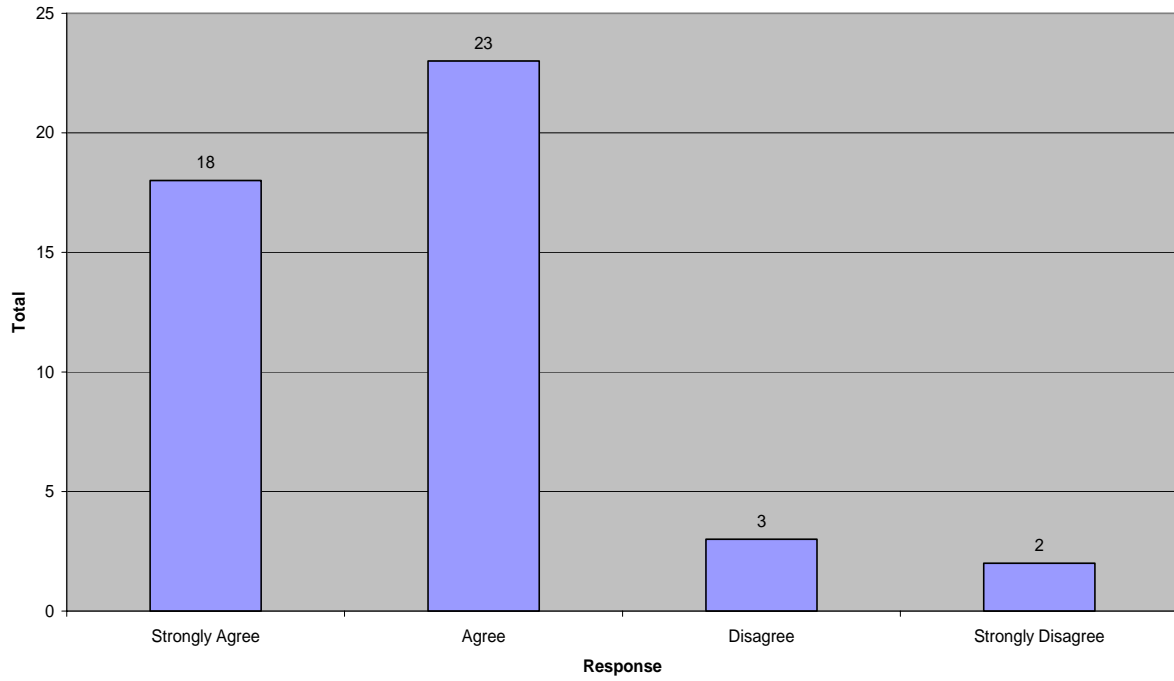
86% say that the costs for short breaks is reasonable, with 82% saying they would be prepared to pay more for attendance rather than seeing the service reduced.



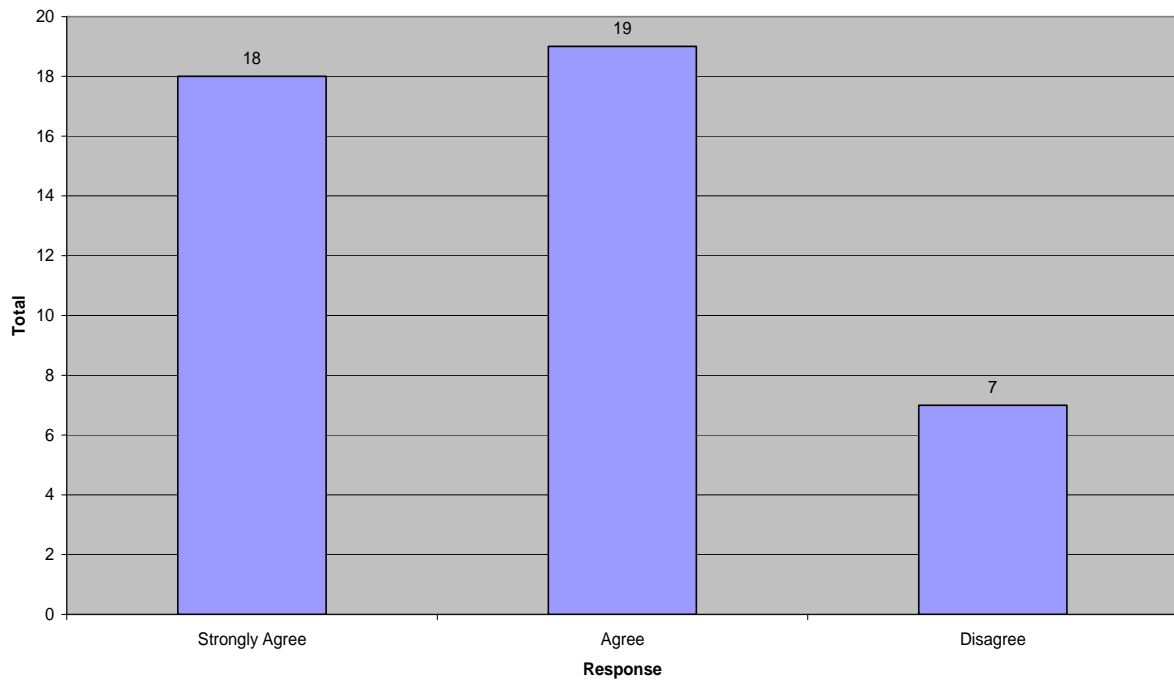
- **Family life a bit easier, positive impact on child’s life, confidence and self-esteem**

It is seen that between 80% and 90% agree or strongly agree that short breaks have positive impacts on family life and the life of the disabled child where attending these services, including their levels of confidence and self-esteem (see following three graphs).

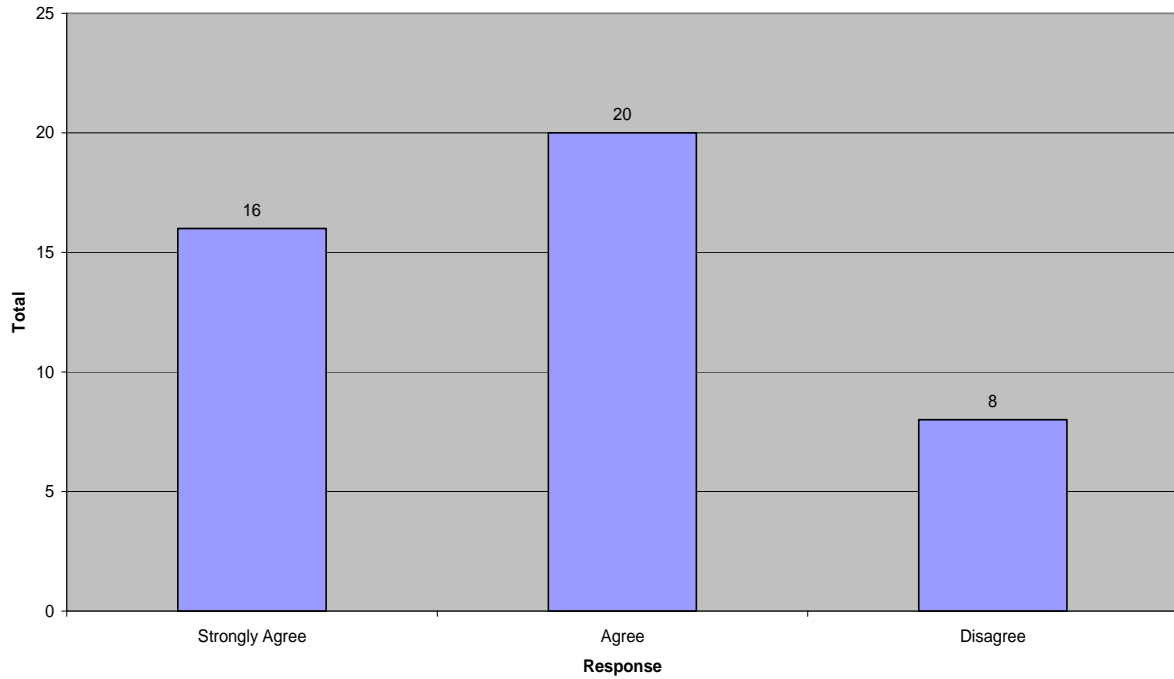
### Family life made a bit easier



### Positive impact on disabled child's life since attending short breaks



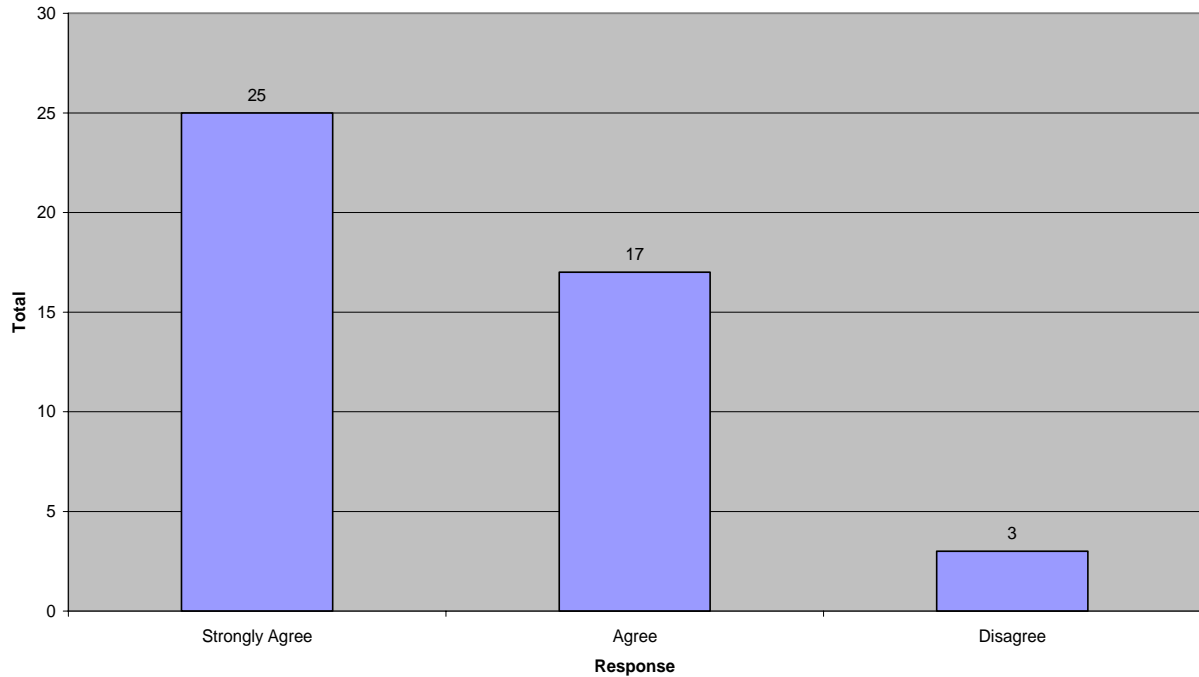
**Positive impact on disabled child's confidence and self-esteem**



- **Trust of short break provider**

Very positively, 93% of those responding to this part of the question agree or strongly agree that they are able to trust the providers of short breaks to care for their child in a safe and enjoyable environment.

### Feel can trust provider of short break to care for child

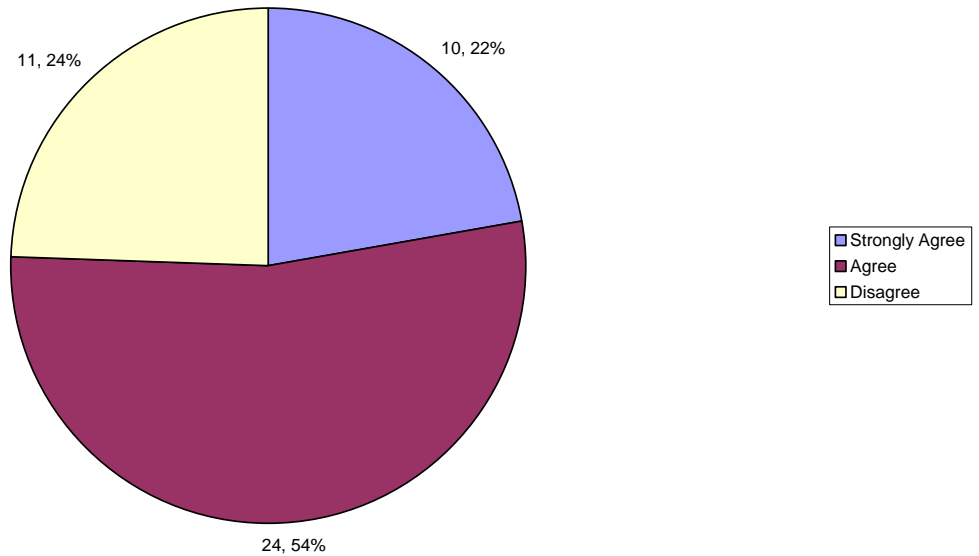


The following four parts to this question relate to the impact the short breaks services have on family life. All of these are positive results with large numbers of respondents agreeing.

- **Short break providing sufficient break to continue caring for child**

Also very positively, just over  $\frac{3}{4}$  (76%) of those responding to this part of the question agreed or strongly agreed that the short breaks provided sufficient break to allow them to continue to care for their children or children in their care.

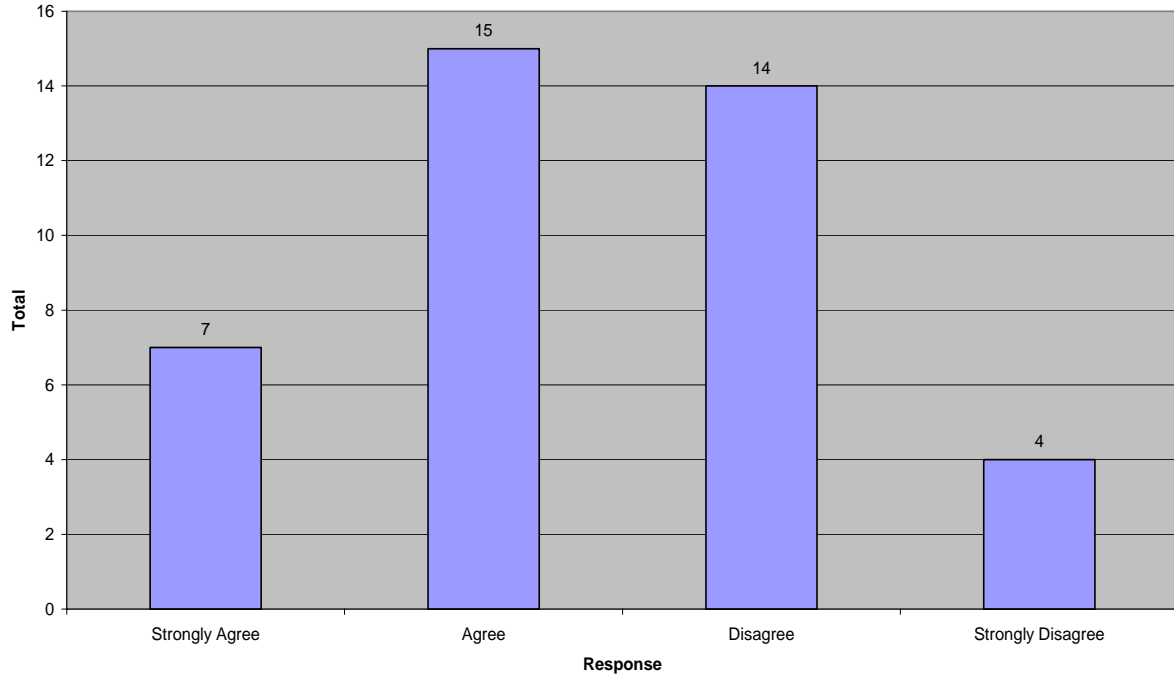
**Short break provided sufficient break to continue caring for child**



- **Short break allows parent / carer to carry out education, training, leisure**

The split between these responses is nearly half and half. The reasoning behind this result again could be many, and without further questions identifying assumptions can only be made. One reason may be related to the response further down related to undertaking household duties, as the time may be used in this area rather than in education or training, or even leisure activities. However, half respondents are carrying these out, which is a positive outcome.

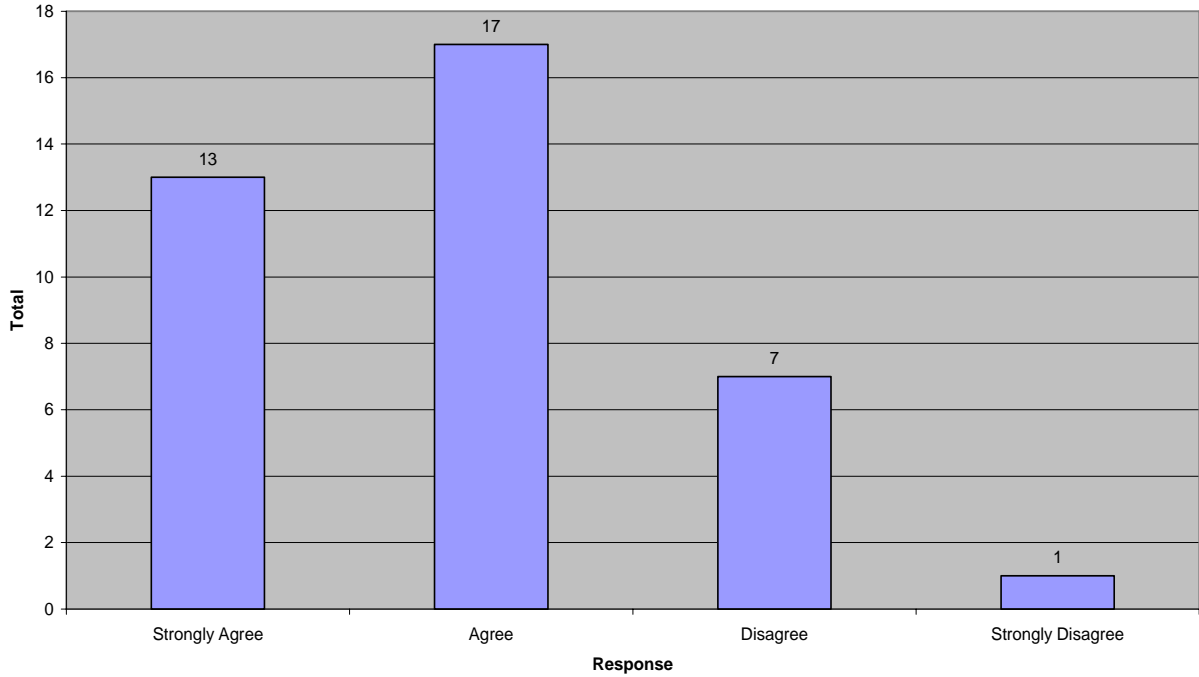
**Short break allows parent/carer to carry out education, training, leisure**



- **Short break allows parent / carer to meet needs of other children in family**

There is a high response relating to parents / carers being able to meet the needs of other children in the family as a result of the short breaks. Though just over 20% disagree or strongly disagree that this is possible.

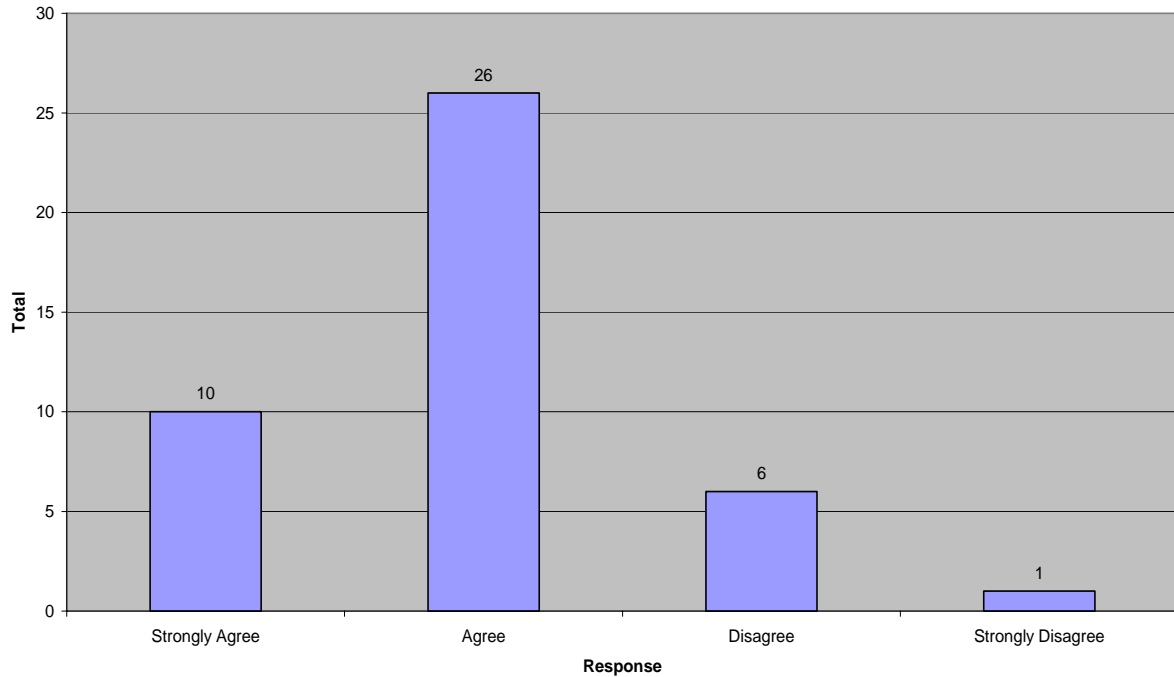
**Short break allows parent / carer to meet needs of other children in family**



- **Short break allows parent / carer to carry out household tasks**

As identified earlier the short breaks are allowing for household tasks to be undertaken, which helps with the overall wellbeing of the family. Nearly 85% agree or strongly agree with this part of the question.

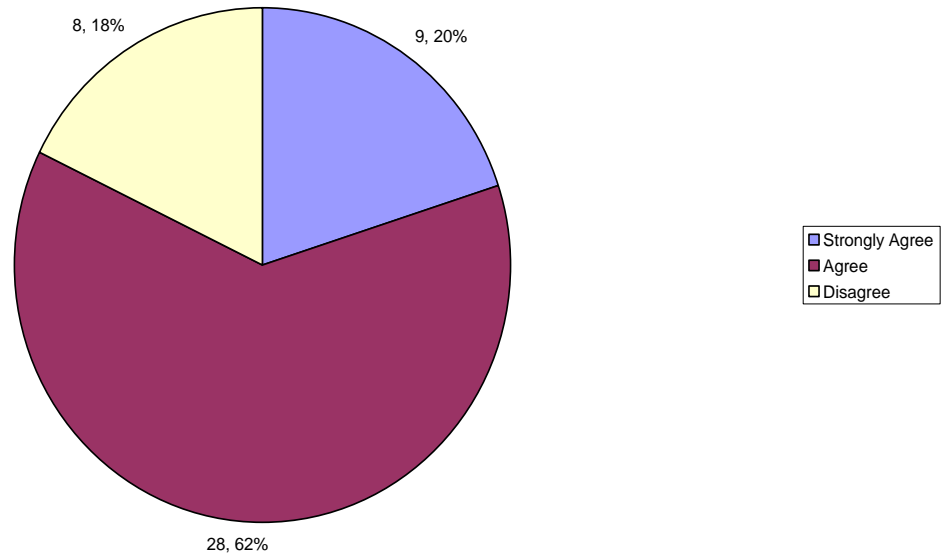
**Short breaks allow parent / carer to carry out household tasks**



- **Respondents views will be taken into account to improve services**

The response to this part is similar to the previous; however, nearly 1/5 of respondents did not agree and therefore think that their views will be taken into account to improve services. Whether this is based on previous experience or simply a pessimistic assumption is unknown, but clearly there is some work that is needed in this area, relating to trust in the council listening to users of services.

**Think your views will be taken into account to improve service**



**Question 17 - Comments / feedback on short breaks received**

The following list is a selection of some comments received (positive and negative split is not representative of numbers of comments received in both)

- **Positive**

- Action for Children provide invaluable and reliable service.
- Bucks Activity Project - feel relaxed knowing son in good hands.
- Bucks Activity Project days really enjoyed. Child feels valued part of group.
- Child benefited from aiming high money for trips last year
- Desborough Playden weekend lifeline. Action for Children staff incredible.
- Direct payments allow us to pay for care.
- Green Park activity days very good. Week away with them also excellent.
- Respite enjoyed, staff communication good. Child happy to go and when come home.
- Short breaks are a lifesaver and allow time for other siblings and partner.
- Green Park activity days enjoyed; The Spectrum Club at Wycombe source of enjoyment.
- Take-a-Break carer brilliant, though long wait for one; Crossroads take son to youth club enabling him to join in with peers.

- **Negative**

Attendance at Marlow weekend clubs low so little interaction with other children.

Barnardo's little breaks on Sunday not a good day as like to spend day as family together.

Larger range of activities, but hard to find suitable ones for specific behaviour challenges.

Many services stop at 18 which is a problem for work.

More diversity needed for teenagers in short breaks.

No services in South Bucks

Short breaks not appropriate to child's particular challenges.

Unaware of short breaks or how to find out more about them.

Would like to have more than one day a week provided by Action for Children during school holidays.

Excellent variety of short breaks in school holidays through Bucks Activity Project - but reduced recently.; Need Service to continue.; Bucks Childminding Network positive outcomes.

Desborough Playden excellent; Outreach service not work due to lack of carers in Chalfont's area.

Used Sunday club run by Action for Children; Would like a Saturday morning club too.

More flexibility on dates for short breaks.

Bucks Activity Project - Autism specific should be offered during school holidays instead of weekends; Bucks Activity Project oversubscribed;

Seem to be more play schemes and transport available in Aylesbury area, but not in High Wycombe area transport to these not available.

Bucks Activity Project and TVAP excellent, but oversubscribed limiting places; Merryfields also excellent; Previous years' experience of Take-a-Break Befriender very poor - teenager allocated had no interest in children and needed attention themselves.

Take-a-Break Befriender person lacked initiative and did not engage with daughter.

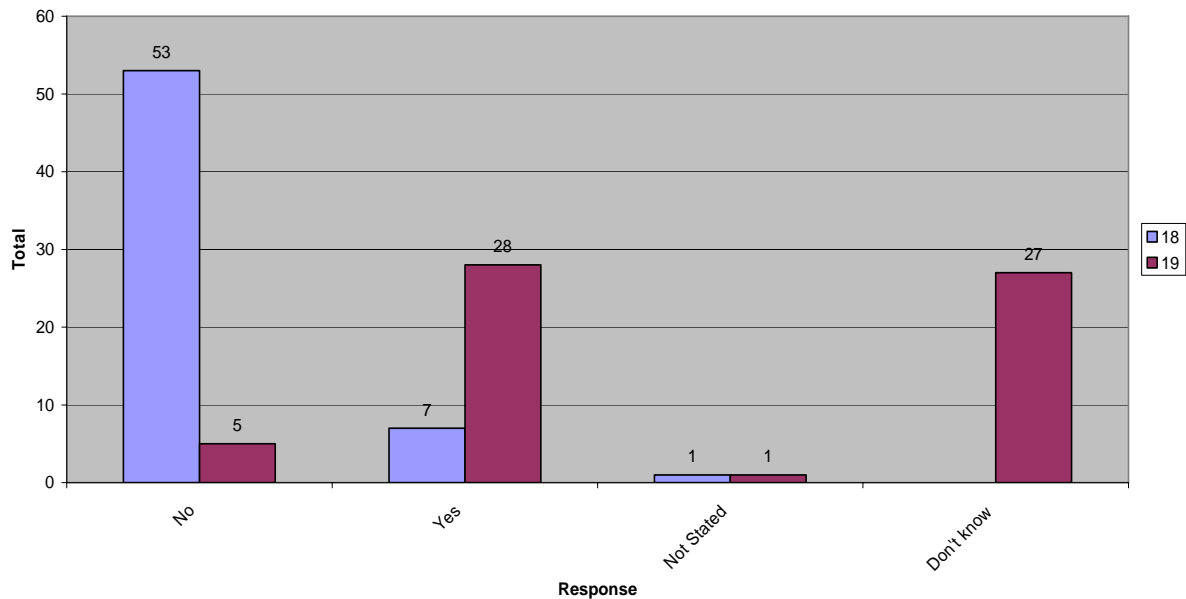
Barnardo's mini breaks in Children's Centre not worked as had to stay with child; Tried to get home help from Barnardo's but let down by them and not heard from since.

### **Questions 18 and 19 – Awareness of free Childcare & Early Education Broker service through Buckinghamshire Family Information Service and helpfulness of service**

The high response of No to the first question of awareness of this service to help families access suitable short break services (53 (87%)) is unsurprising as the brokerage service had only just commenced as the survey was distributed. This means that promotion of this service is needed, though this has been happening through the Celebration Day and the Starting Point Directory. The responses to whether people think it would be a helpful service to them is encouraging with 28 saying yes, but also perhaps indicative of the lack of understanding of what is

can actually provide and help with, with 44% saying they did not know if it would be helpful.

**18. Aware of new free Childcare & Family Education Broker service through Bucks Family Information Service to help families with disabled children access suitable childcare, activities and short breaks**  
**19. Think this service would be helpful**



**Question 22 - How would like to be involved in work by BCC to improve short break services in the future**

The low response to this question is often expected for a number of reasons, including people happy with how things work at present, lack of seeing how they can participate, not having time to participate, etc. Some of these can be seen from the responses provided in the following summary list.

- Be kept informed about work of FACT and changes / proposals BCC considering.
- Difficult to attend meetings.
- Want to be kept updated on changes and pending changes.
- Email information and provide opportunity for comment.
- Not easy to attend meetings
- Ensure parents' views heard by BCC
- Evening meetings so could have child minded
- Focus groups, research, surveys and interviews.
- Happy to continue being part of delivery of services.
- If local and child care available.
- Like information on activities especially during school holidays.
- Local weekly support groups to help understand autism
- Parent participation meetings to continue.

Questionnaires.

Provide info to others on living with autistic child and challenges that demands.

Through work with NAS and their branches.

To receive information about play centres.

### **Questions 24, 25 and 26 – Child involvements in planning / improving services**

The responses to these questions were very varied, with many stating their child's disabilities or learning difficulties mean they would not be able to be involved in this type of participation. Some responses agreed with suggestions such as Youth Cabinets and Clubs, while others were looking for more getting feedback direct from the child on the activity they enjoy and feeding that in. Other suggestions included one to one interviews, focus groups, surveys and debates.

All these involvements clearly depend on the level of engagement and type of disability of the child.