

ACE PARTICIPATION JOURNEY 1

Improving the Short
Breaks Offer
-March 2021

The challenge given to us by families and other young people was to develop an offer that had (Short Breaks Strategy 2019-22)

- A greater focus on short breaks to provide opportunities for independence
- Access to the same opportunities as non-disabled children and young people
- More opportunities for children to take part in universal activities (with additional support where needed), for example after school activities



Cont....

- A greater diversity of targeted provision for children aged 5-12 years
- More local specialist short breaks
- More targeted and specialist short breaks opportunities during school holidays and at weekends
- A greater diversity of provision for children and young people with ASD and challenging behaviour
- Activities to improve the transition to adult short breaks when the young person is 18 years old.



Who took part?

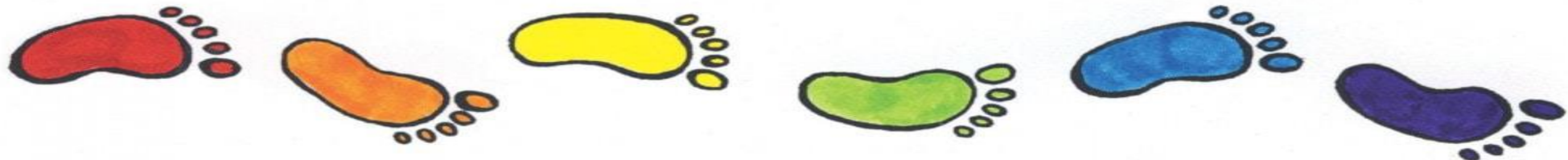
36 young people with a range of Special Education Needs and Disabilities through the ACE participation groups, including students from:

Halley Academy DSP

Kings Park School

Shooters Hill Sixth Form College

Woolwich Polytechnic DSP



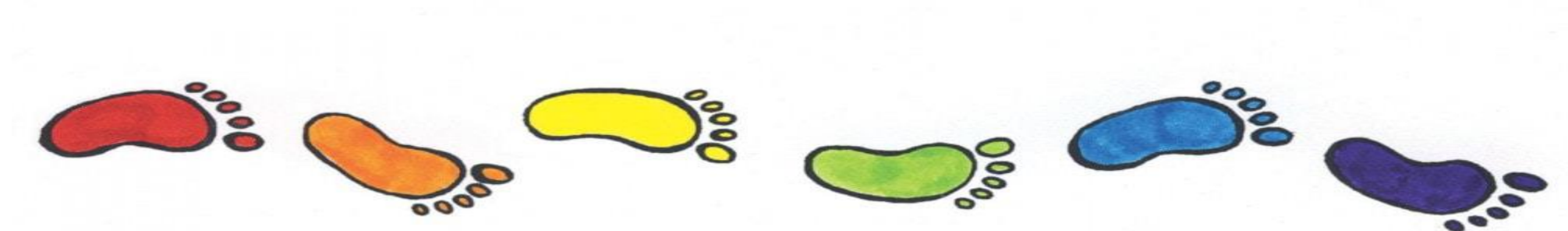
How did we do it?

- We contributed ideas to the Short Breaks strategy review which was done before the new short breaks were commissioned. We did this by:
 - Calling the young people to ascertain their interest in taking part in the Short Breaks consultation.
 - A Zoom session was organised for the young people that were interested in taking part. During the session it was clear the young people found this difficult. A different approach was then decided.
 - A copy of the bids from the potential providers were sent out to schools along with a scoring system. Young people were asked to score on; how it looked, how it was written and whether or not they would like to attend.
 - The scores were totalled and forwarded back on to the commissioning team.
 - The young people were informed of the successful bids and thanked for their participation.
 - The organisations who wanted to bid to be part of the new Short Breaks Offer were required to produce a SEND friendly bid which we marked as part of the selection process. We had 5% of the overall marks for the bid.



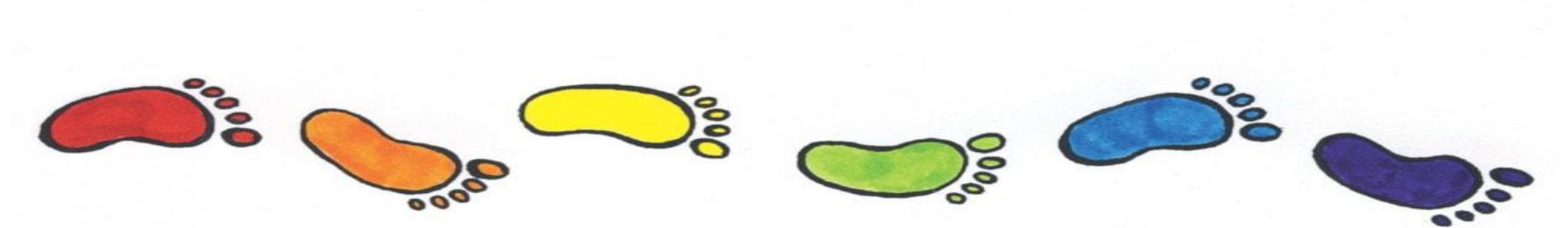
What did we think?

- We said that we liked the short breaks providers who offered:
 - Fun trips, sports and activities
 - Opportunities to make new friends
- We also liked the providers who used:
 - Easy to understand words
 - Not too many words
 - Photos and pictures



What has it meant for other young people with SEND?

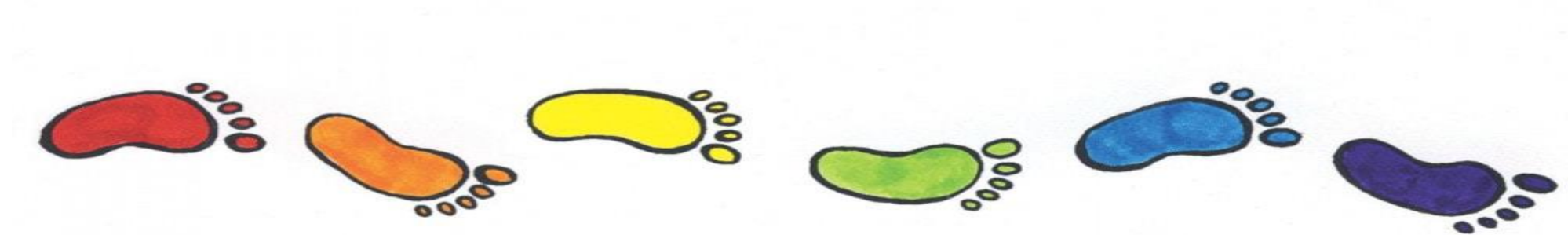
- 3 new providers were chosen with our help offering fun and exciting activities, increasing from 5 -8 and meaning children have a wider choice of activities :
 - Sport Works
 - Brighter Futures Project
 - Cray Wanderers Active Breaks
- ONE of the new providers, Brighter Futures has a focus on independence and getting ready for adulthood
- 6/8 provisions are available during the school holidays across the year
- 6 programmes deliver activities at the weekends (previously was 4)
- 5 provisions are available to those with highly specialist support needs including ASD with challenging behaviours (previously was 4)
- 5 provisions available for those aged 4-7 increasing choice (previously was 3)
- Outdoor space available for free to families across Spring and Summer of 2021
- A cap on cost for families, between £1.70 - £5 per hour (previously £2.50 – £9 per hour).



What do young people think about the new activities on offer that we helped choose?



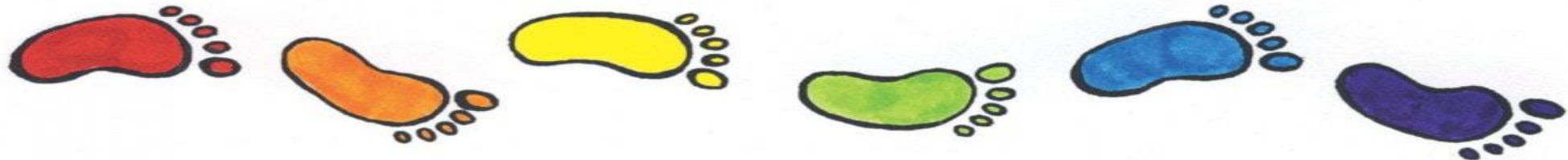
What do young people think about the new activities on offer that we helped choose?



Parent quotes.....

"This was the first time that CS has been away from me since I can't remember. Although, I spent a lot of time worrying about her, I knew she was safe in your care, and you would do everything to keep her safe during a seizure. The reassuring messages and phone calls you made were also appreciated. So from the bottom of my heart, one final thank you for making the weekend possible and for putting on the extra staff to help keep CS safe

Thanks again to you and the team for the weekend - it was really great that SF managed two nights away and that you got him to take part in all those activities. I think it did his confidence a lot of good. We really appreciate it!



Child/Young person quotes

Riding is enjoyable and fun and friendly. I get a chance to ride my bike here by myself because it is local. I don't always get a chance to do this.



What next?: How will we ensure that young people are continually consulted with for service development?

- Re-commissioning of short breaks 2023-26 with the ACE group as part of the evaluation panel
- Using feedback from providers/ service visits to inform the service specification
- Work with Short Break providers to consult with children and young people to inform service specification on what works/ what can be better for short breaks
- Through monitoring ensure that providers are seeking feedback from children and their families to improve service delivery

