

Appendix 11
Equality Impact Analysis Record Form 2024 – Derbyshire County Council

Introduction and context

Policy/ Service under development/ review		Repurposing of The Outback & The Getaway services for children with disabilities due to funding reductions within Children’s Services.			
Department/ Corporate		Children’s Services / Early Help & Safeguarding			
Lead officer		Luke Impey			
EIA Team:		Deborah Hill, Kevin Gardom			
Date analysis commenced:	7 th February 2024	Date completed:	30 th of June	Date approved:	1 st of July 2024

Part 1. About the service/ policy or function and the reason for the EIA

What is the purpose of the service, policy or function?
<p>The Outback service currently provides packages of support to children and young people with disabilities and their families that meets identified need in line with CIN, Child Protection and PLO plans/processes, types of support include the following:</p> <p>➤ Focused Work – This support reflects the principles of the stronger families model and is planned, holistic support for the family (including siblings where required). This may include but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundaries, structure & routines • Stimulation & Play Therapy (Positive Play) • Attachment • Communication • Sleep routines • Positive Behaviour Support • Family dynamics/relationships • Transition • Budgeting

- Support for parents/carers (signposting to mental health services)
- Supporting medical appointments
- Integration into the local community
- Fostering relationships (building a support network outside of services to build resilience and the need for long term intervention from social care and other services)

Other types of support currently provided by The Outback – The type of support is determined by the assessment of need.

- **Individual Support** (Direct work with children and young people)
- **Inclusion** (Connecting children, young people and families to more sustainable and community-based support)
- **Domiciliary Support** (in family homes, for example provision of personal care – regulated by CQC)
- **Nurture** (support to improve family relationships and address conflict)
- **Providing support to parents with learning disabilities** (with regard to their parenting, provision of practical hands-on support and guidance).
- **Providing support services outside normal working hours, including weekend support to vulnerable children and families.**
- **Parent support group** (Support for parents regarding diagnosis, including signposting and practical suggestions)
- **Sibling Group** (Groups for siblings of children with disabilities to ensure their wellbeing and wishes and feelings are addressed)
- **Parenting Assessments**
- **Supporting families in cases of neglect and child protection**
- **Supervised Family Time**
- Use of the Graded Care Profile (to support cases of neglect or compromised parenting)
- **Emergency/Crisis support** – As and when required at short notice (support of both residential settings and crisis response with the social work team)

The level and intensity of support offered by The Outback is planned around the needs of each individual young person and their family, with the specific purpose of giving those families the skills and resilience to thrive and safely remain together in their own homes. Support is also designed to aid the development of young people for example in relation to promoting independence, teaching coping strategies or improving communication skills. This support has also for many years played a vital role in the of safeguarding children and young people through closely supporting the Safeguarding and Specialist Children with Disabilities Social Work Team.

The Getaway is an OUTSTANDING Ofsted rated provision, which has been providing specialist care to some of Derbyshire’s most vulnerable children with disabilities for almost 15 years. The Service is provided under The Short Breaks Regulations which detail how as a local authority we perform our duty in the Children Act 1989 (“the 1989 Act”) which is to provide, as part of the range of services for families, breaks from caring for their disabled children and to support them to continue to care for their children at home and to allow them to do so more effectively. The service aims to provide a much-needed break to families in order to help prevent family break down and the risk of children coming in to long term care.

Access to overnight short breaks at The Getaway is assessed on a case-by-case basis. The Getaway is able to accommodate up to four children each night, over 6 nights per week. Alongside short breaks, the home provides wrap around support to prevent children and young people from needing full time residential care.

Predominantly short breaks are provided to young people aged 10 to 17 with a Learning Disability or Physical Disability and associated sensory impairment – that said The Getaway can accept children as young as 5 in extreme circumstances.

Are there any proposals to change these?

Due to budget constraints, the Council is having to make substantial savings and these services have been identified as areas where savings could be made.

In order to support the council setting a balanced budget it has been proposed that we need to save around £1.9m from the in-house residential/short break budget.

A reduction in funding of this level will necessitate the repurposing of The Outback and The Getaway, which would mean altering the use of both facilities/services to focus on prevention of family breakdown and children that are already in or at the edge of being in the full-time care of the local authority.

This means that there are a number of services that will be reduced or that cannot continue to be provided to children and families including:-

- Overnight short breaks
- Parenting Assessments
- Supervised Family Time
- Sibling Groups
- Parent Support Groups
- Individual support (for children not on the edge of care)

The repurposing of The Outback and Getaway services within the Children with disabilities service, carries with it some significant risks which can be summarised below:-

- Cessation of the current early help and short break services support to children, young people and families could result in a detrimental knock-on effect to the most vulnerable children and young people. Those young people needing help would need to access support from other agencies – and there is uncertainty over whether there is capacity amongst partner agencies to provide this.
- The proposals potentially serve as a false economy as there will be increased demand for frontline Social Care support as children's and families' needs become more acute.
- There is potential for delayed parenting assessments
- There is potential for reduced support for Family Time
- There are likely to be significant and increased pressures on partner agencies to provide a greater level of early help and early intervention in the absence of support from The Outback and Getaway services.

The proposed service repurposing does not impact on the statutory duties the council is legally required to provide:

- Parenting assessments – these are directed by the Family Law courts and form part of care proceedings under Section 31 of the Children Act 1989
- Family Time – as above
- Short breaks

The Local Authority has a duty to provide short breaks for disabled children. A short break:

- Means a day, evening, overnight and weekend activities for the child or young person (or an equivalent resource allocated via a direct payment or personal budget);
- Can be provided in the child's own home, the home of an approved carer, **or** in a residential or community setting;
- Has two aims:
 - To enable the child to participate in fun, interesting and safe activities; and
 - Provide a break from caring for the parents.

Following an assessment, short breaks can be arranged in a number of settings which are subject to different registration and inspection requirements intended to ensure that children using short breaks are safe and well looked after.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 defines early help as follows:-

“Early help is support for children of all ages that improves a family’s resilience and outcomes or reduces the chance of a problem getting worse. It is not an individual service, but a system of support delivered by local authorities and their partners working together and taking collective responsibility to provide the right provision in their area.

Some early help is provided through “universal services”, such as education and health services. They are universal services because they are available to all families, regardless of their needs. Other early help services are coordinated by a local authority and/or their partners to address specific concerns within a family and can be described as targeted early help.

Examples of these include parenting support, mental health support, youth services, youth offending teams and housing and employment services. Early help may be appropriate for children and families who have several needs, or whose circumstances might make them more vulnerable. It is a voluntary approach, requiring the family’s consent to receive support and services offered. These may be provided before and/or after statutory intervention.”

Under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, Derbyshire County Council has a statutory duty to ensure that children with disabilities are safeguarded and their needs met.

- 1) It shall be the general duty of every local authority (in addition to the other duties imposed on them by this Part)—
 - i. to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need; and
 - ii. so far as is consistent with that duty, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families, by providing a range and level of services appropriate to those children's needs.
- 2) For the purpose principally of facilitating the discharge of their general duty under this section, every local authority shall have the specific duties and powers set out in Part 1 of Schedule 2.
- 3) Any service provided by an authority in the exercise of functions conferred on them by this section may be provided for the family of a particular child in need or for any member of his family, if it is provided with a view to safeguarding or promoting the child's welfare.

Part 2. Supporting evidence about impact

What is presently known about how the current service or policy impacts upon people with a protected characteristic, people from disadvantaged communities, armed forces personnel and other groups outlined in the Council's guidance for EIAs?

The below tables present data from 2023 on Outback interventions and Getaway support provided to Derbyshire families, broken down into ethnicity, gender and age. **All families supported by The Outback and The Getaway have at least one child with a disability.**

AGE						
	0-5yrs	6-17yrs	18+	0-5 %	6-17 %	18+ %
OUTBACK	9	40	6	16.36%	72.72%	10.90%
GETAWAY	0	20	0	0%	100%	0%
Total	9	60	6			

GENDER					
	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	MALE %	FEMALE %
OUTBACK	55	32	23	58.18%	41.81%
GETAWAY	20	15	5	75%	25%
Total	75	47	28		

STATUS									
	TOTAL	CIN	CP	PLO	SECT 20	CIN %	CP %	PLO %	SECT 20 %
OUTBACK	55	15	21	18	1	27.27%	38.18%	32.72%	1.81%
GETAWAY	20	19	1	0	0	95%	5%	0	0
Total	75								

	Asian or Asian British	Black or African or Caribbean or Black British	Mixed or Multiple	Other Ethnic Group	White	Not Stated	Asian or Asian British	Black or African or Caribbean or Black British	Mixed or Multiple	Other Ethnic Group	White	Not Stated
OUTBACK	0	0	0	0	55	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
GETAWAY	1	0	0	0	19	0	5%	0%	0%	0%	95%	0%
Total	1	0	0	0	74	0	1.3%	0%	0%	0%	98.7%	0%

Please detail the sources for the above information

The information has been sourced from the Mosaic case recording system and service documents on interventions/support provided to children, young people and families across Derbyshire during 2023.

Is consultation planned/ has consultation take place? If Yes, what is this telling us about the likely impact on the protected characteristic and other communities/ groups etc.?

If there is insufficient information to determine likely impact, what information is needed and how will it be obtained in the future?

No.

Part 3. Analysing and assessing the impact by equality Protected Characteristic group

Use the information, customer feedback and other evidence to determine upon whom the policy/ service and any proposed changes will impact upon and how, highlighting where these have a negative, positive or no impact, including where this could constitute unfair treatment, limit access, or result in additional inequality or disadvantage, hardship, or exclusion.

For any identified negative potential impact, you must provide details of any action or options which could mitigate against this, and in serious cases, you should highlight where the Council would be advised not to proceed with a new or changing policy or service, including any proposals which are being considered.

Please use your action plan towards the rear of this document to record the action and the monitoring that will take place to deliver or identify appropriate mitigation.

Protected Characteristic or Group	Positive impact	Negative impact	No impact
All protected characteristics			
(Please describe)			
Age		Negative Impact	
(Please describe)	<p>Young people aged 0 -18 will be adversely impacted by the proposal to reduce support/close The Outback and Getaway children with disabilities services. The data on page 6 shows that on average 92% of interventions/support delivered by The Outback and Getaway have been to children aged 0-18 (the remaining percentage to people over 18 was to parents and carers).</p> <p>For young people living out of county currently, the proposed changes could have a positive impact in that they will be living closer to their families.</p>		
Disability		Negative Impact	
(Please describe)	<p>The disability Census 2021 (Taken from the Office for National Statistics) states that <i>'In England, 18.7% of females and 16.5% of males were disabled'</i>.</p> <p>100% of families supported by The Outback and The Getaway have at least one child with a disability. Many have more than one child with a disability or have a disability themselves as parents/carers - this is in the context that the percentage of people classed as disabled in the UK in the 2021 census was 17.8%.</p> <p>Changes to these services may have a negative impact on some of the most vulnerable children and families in Derbyshire and may lead to an increase in safeguarding and child protection concerns.</p>		

Protected Characteristic or Group	Positive impact	Negative impact	No impact
	Parents that have a learning need themselves, require the specialist parenting support/intervention that can be provided by the services at The Outback and The Getaway. It would be detrimental to remove these services and leave those families with this protected characteristic without the level of support that is able to make a positive impact on their lives.		
Gender assignment			No Impact
(Please describe)			
Marriage & civil partnership¹			No Impact
(Please describe)			
Pregnancy & maternity		Negative Impact	
(Please describe)	The Outback works with families with new-born children, so there would be a negative impact on this group.		
Race & ethnicity		Negative Impact	
(Please describe)	White British children, young people and families will be adversely impacted by the proposals to repurpose/close The Outback and Getaway services. On average, 98.7% of children/families who have received an intervention from The Outback and Getaway Children with Disabilities Services are recorded on the Mosaic case recording system as white British. There will also be a negative impact on 1.3% of children that are recorded on Mosaic as Asian or Asian British.		
Religion/ belief²			No Impact
(Please describe)			
Sex or gender³		Negative Impact	
(Please describe)	<p>Overall, 37.3% of people who received support from The Outback and The Getaway services in 2023 are female and 62.7% of people are male. The impact would be equally as detrimental to both male and female children being supported by the services.</p> <p>The National Census 2021 (Taken from the Office for National Statistics) states that '<i>Disability prevalence increased with age. In those aged under 15 years (where responses were most likely to be reported by parents or guardians), a higher percentage of males were disabled compared with females. However, after the ages of 15 to 19 years, a higher percentage</i></p>		

¹ Under EA 2010 – someone in a CP must not be treated less favourably than a married person

² Under EA 2010 – must also consider non-religious belief

³ Sex and gender can be used at different times depending upon whether you are referring to the EA 2010 and the different duties which exist

Protected Characteristic or Group	Positive impact	Negative impact	No impact
	<i>of females were disabled. In particular, the percentage of disabled females increased notably between the ages of 10 to 14 years and 15 to 19 years, rising from 6.8% to 12.2% respectively'.</i>		
Sexual orientation		Negative Impact	
(Please describe)	Whilst we do not capture data around the sexual orientation of the people who are supported by The Getaway and The Outback services, The Outback provides support to young people and their families around their sexual orientation and therefore there would be a negative impact on this group.		
Human Rights	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact
(Please describe)	All service users have an article 8 right to family life. If services are reduced, this could be negatively impacted, as there might be an increased risk of children coming into care. However, part of the proposals is to increase the edge of care support from the Outback and support in keeping children in their family homes. The Council is also looking to bring children back into Derbyshire County Council provision. This will likely increase their contact with their families and their communities and promote article 8 right to family life.		
Armed Forces personnel/ households			No Impact
(Please describe)			
Users of British Sign Languages			No Impact
(Please describe)			
DCC Employees		Negative Impact	
(Please describe)	Closure of the services may lead to a significant number of job losses affecting at least 40 DCC employees, resulting in the loss of highly trained, skilled and knowledgeable workers. Both services have strong teams of staff and management teams with many years' experiences.		
Community and Voluntary organisations working with protected characteristic groups		Negative Impact	
(Please describe)	There are likely to be significant and increased pressures on partner agencies to provide a greater level of early help and early intervention in the absence of support from The Outback and Getaway services.		

Protected Characteristic or Group	Positive impact	Negative impact	No impact
Socio-economic/ financial inclusion/ deprived communities/ Thriving communities	Positive Impact for children living out of county	Negative Impact	
(Please describe)	<p>There would be a geographical inequality for children with disabilities accessing the appropriate support should The Getaway and Outback close/change, potentially necessitating longer distances for them to travel.</p> <p>Children brought back into county would be living closer to family which would be positive for those young people and their families.</p>		
Carers (Unpaid and paid)		Negative Impact	
(Please describe)	<p>The closure of these services is likely to result in additional pressures being put onto carers, both paid and unpaid. Without support from The Outback and Getaway, carers and siblings that are already under significant strain due to their caring role would be greatly impacted, potentially resulting in family breakdown. This may in turn bring significant cost to the local authority for full time residential placements for those children. There is currently a shortage of identified PA's that are able to support children with additional needs.</p>		
Other, please state			
(Please describe)	<p>When making decisions on where and how short breaks are provided there may be implications under HRA To support their right to respect for private life protected by the (Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights), all service users should be supported by providers to have the same opportunities as others in relation to their own sexuality and personal relationships. This will include giving service users space and time to be alone with partners and friends when they choose.</p> <p>Ref: Guidance on human rights for commissioners of home care - Equality and Human Rights Commission</p>		

Part 4. Summary of main findings

- This assessment highlights potential disability-based inequality as well as a geographical inequality. Under the Equality Act, equality for children with disabilities covers a broad scope, in addition to the impact on the child, we need to consider the impact of

discrimination by association, for example what impact do potential changes have on family members, siblings and carers.

- Impact of the restructuring of Early Help and closure of Childrens centres – may mean significantly less infrastructure available to support children with disabilities should The Getaway and Outback services close/change.
- A large proportion of respondents opposed the proposals.
- The closure of these services is likely to result in additional pressures being put onto carers, both paid and unpaid. Without support from The Outback and The Getaway, carers and siblings that are already under significant strain due to their caring role would be greatly impacted, potentially resulting in family breakdown. This may in turn bring significant cost to the local authority for full time residential placements for those children.
- Closure of these services would likely have a negative impact on some of the most vulnerable children and families in Derbyshire and may lead to an increase in safeguarding and child protection concerns.

Are there any recommendations for changes to proposals?

No

Part 5. Proposed Equality Action Plan

Please complete this Action Plan to outline any mitigation you intend to take.

Issue identified	Action required to reduce impact/ mitigate	Timescale and responsibility	Monitoring and review arrangements
Reduction in Short Break provision	<p>There has been an initial informal review of the children and young people who currently access the Getaway and an exploration of what alternative provisions could be put in place based on individual needs and circumstances. 3 young people within this cohort, have been identified as having a clear residential short break need. It would be planned for these 3 young people to be offered alternative short break provision within DCC wider residential provision (The Willow's/Spire Lodge children's home- placements are limited.)</p> <p>Some young people may be reassessed to access universal services or personal</p>	August 2024	On-ging monitoring and bi-monthly review

Issue identified	Action required to reduce impact/ mitigate	Timescale and responsibility	Monitoring and review arrangements
	<p>assistants through direct payment budgets, reducing reliance on specialized or costly provisions.</p> <p>The wider Derbyshire residential provision will maintain some short break provision. The Willow's home currently offers 2 short break beds, alongside 2 long-term beds. However, there is scope to increase this provision by 2 beds and some of this could be used for additional long-term or short break beds. However, some additional staffing cost will likely be needed.</p> <p>Spire Lodge residential home is another DCC residential home which offers short breaks. They currently offer 5-beds for a range of short breaks. Short break care provision will continue to be offered. There could be future potential of increasing this provision, depending on increase in staffing budgets.</p>		

Issue identified	Action required to reduce impact/ mitigate	Timescale and responsibility	Monitoring and review arrangements
	<p>The Councils children's commissioning team have started a tendering process to look at establishing block contracts for short break provision. This is an on-going process, and the tendering process is likely to end in August 2024.</p> <p>The Council will continue spot purchasing short breaks packages as needed, this currently already happens for a number of children.</p> <p>The DCC fostering service also offers specialist short break for children with disabilities. There is currently a new D2N2 fostering recruitment hub, where the DoE have given D2N2 Councils an extra £1.2million of funding to support foster carer recruitment. It is hoped that this will increase the specialist short break fostering provision to strength the Council overall short break offer.</p>		

Issue identified	Action required to reduce impact/ mitigate	Timescale and responsibility	Monitoring and review arrangements
	<p>If the proposals are agreed, The Outback service will offer targeted support for children who may typically access short breaks.</p> <p>A full short break offer review will be taking place in July 2024, this will provide further opportunity for consultation and a review of service provision and further mitigation work.</p> <p>Sufficiency across DCC is being reviewed on a continuous basis to improve DCC provision.</p>		

Date and outcome of any Cabinet/ Cabinet Member or Council Report to which this was attached and their decision:

7. Initial Consultation- 11th to the 24th of March 2024

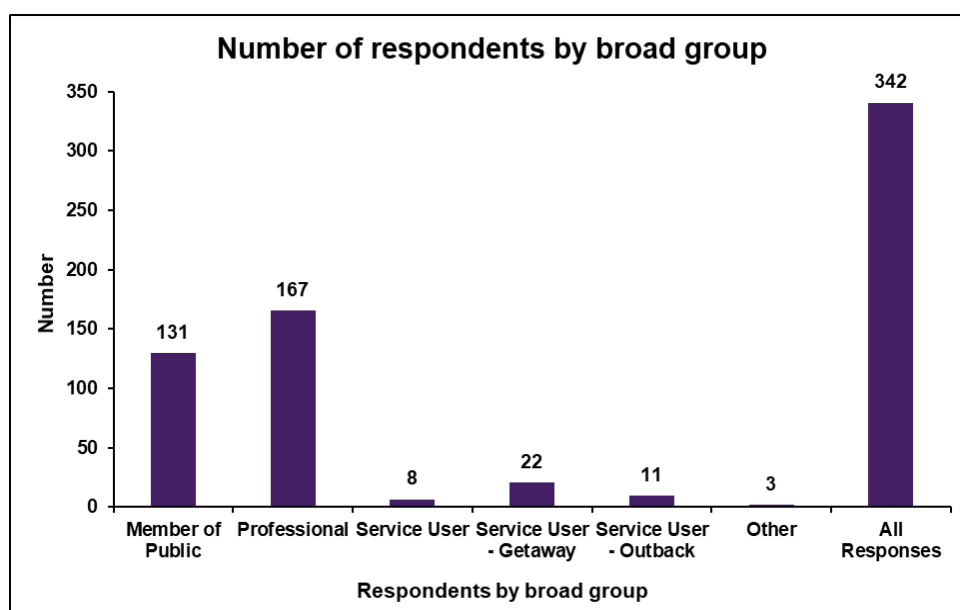
7.1 An initial consultation for the Outback and the Getaway proposed options first ran from the 11th to the 24th of March 2024. It was then decided to run a full consultation which ran from 22nd April to the 30th of June 2024. Views have been sought in respect of either disestablishing The Outback and Getaway or remodelling the provisions. The latter public consultation ended on the 30th of June 2024. This section includes both the 2 week and the 10-week consultation findings as some of the questions slightly change in the 10-week consultation to reflect feedback from the initial consultation.

The Local Authority are required to review the local offer to children with a disability and this review will commence in July of 2024.

7.2 The Outback service and the Getaway short break service consultation

The initial 2-week consultation between 11th March 2024 and the 25 March 2024) analysis from the finding.

From the initial consultation response, March 2024, there were 342 responses to this consultation. Looking at respondents by broad group, the largest number of responses (167 – 49%) were from professional agency representatives. This was followed by members of the public; 131 responses (38%.); and followed by 33 response (13%) for service users.

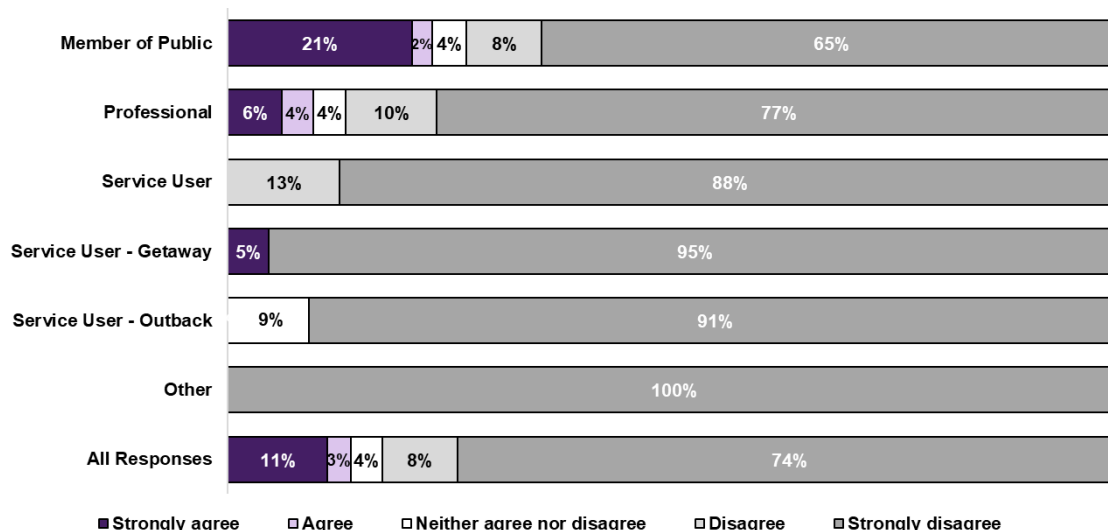


74% of respondents were female and 94% were White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, or British. No ethnic minority group had more than 5 respondents. Further breakdown of responses can be found in the table above.

7.3 Q2: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal of stopping short breaks at The Getaway?

Most respondents (74%) strongly disagreed with the proposal of stopping short breaks at the Getaway. Besides 'Other' (5 or less respondents), the proportion that strongly disagreed with the proposal ranged from a high of 95% for service users of the Getaway (21 out of 22 respondents), to a low of 65% for members of the public (85 out of 131 responses). Just 14% of all respondents had some level of agreement.

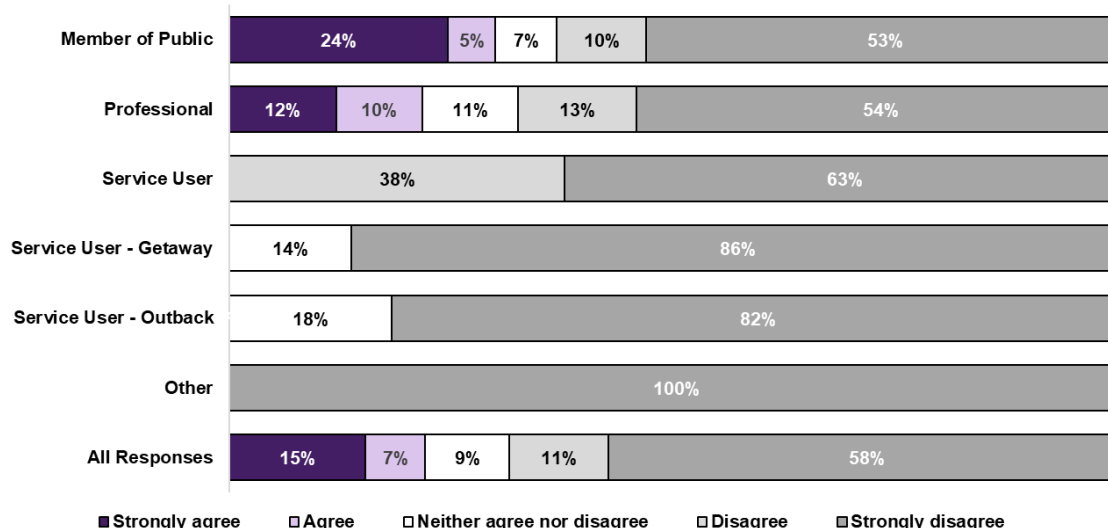
Q2: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal of stopping short breaks at The Getaway?



7.4 Q3: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to reduce the capacity of the short breaks service and to use the building partially for residential care for children with disabilities who are under local authority care?

Most respondents (58%) strongly disagreed with this proposal with a further 11% disagreeing. Less than a quarter of all respondents (22%) agreed or strongly agreed. Members of the public had the highest proportion in agreement (30%) followed by those in professional occupations (22%).

Q3: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to reduce the capacity of the short breaks service & to use the building for residential care for children with disabilities who are under local authority care?



7.5 Q4: Instead of offering short breaks at The Getaway, following an assessment of need, we may provide short breaks at other similar homes elsewhere in Derbyshire. Please let us know what you think about this proposal.

There were 324 responses to this question. The top 15 issues/ themes by broad group are highlighted in Table 1 below.

- 7.6 In summary, the top theme for all respondents was scepticism whether the medium/long term intention of the changes would save money or disagreement with the proposal, featuring in a quarter of all comments. By broad group, this theme emerged in 71% of comments from members of the public compared to 23% of people in professional occupations.
- 7.7 Across all respondents, the second most predominant issue were concerns about the potential negative impact of changes on families and children's well-being e.g., heightened risk of family breakdown. This theme was present in 24.1% of all responses and was the top issue for professionals; featuring in 31% of comments made.

7.8 **Table 1: Top 15 issues raised in proposals to provide short breaks at other similar homes elsewhere in Derbyshire. Top 5 highlighted in blue.**

Description	All Respondents		Public		Service Users/ Other		Professional	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Importance of short breaks as a lifeline for families and children with disabilities	71	21.9%	71	61.2%	12	27.3%	34	20.7%
Concerns about the potential negative impact of changes on families and children's well-being, eg heightened risk of family breakdown	78	24.1%	78	67.2%	11	25.0%	51	31.1%
Need for short breaks to be provided locally to prevent travel burden and maintain family stability	65	20.1%	65	56.0%	7	15.9%	37	22.6%
Worries about lack of available alternatives and capacity in other similar homes	58	17.9%	58	50.0%	11	25.0%	37	22.6%
Importance of continuity and consistency in care provision for children with disabilities	26	8.0%	26	22.4%	<=5	<=11.4%	16	9.8%
Financial considerations and cost efficiency of service provision	8	2.5%	8	6.9%	0	0.0%	7	4.3%
Skepticism or disagreement with the proposed changes	82	25.3%	82	70.7%	13	29.5%	37	22.6%
Requirement for appropriate training and expertise of staff providing short break care	8	2.5%	8	6.9%	<=5	<=11.4%	<=5	<=3%
Concerns about potential disruption to children's routines and adaptation to new environments	34	10.5%	34	29.3%	6	13.6%	22	13.4%
Emphasis on safeguarding and protecting the interests of disabled children and their families	26	8.0%	26	22.4%	<=5	<=11.4%	17	10.4%
Addressing the shortage of short break services and residential placements - need more not less	29	9.0%	29	25.0%	0	0.0%	23	14.0%
Advocacy for maintaining or enhancing existing services to prevent family breakdown	38	11.7%	38	32.8%	<=5	<=11.4%	21	12.8%
Emotional attachment and trust built between families and Getaway staff	14	4.3%	14	12.1%	<=5	<=11.4%	8	4.9%
Qualified support for proposals provided properly organised and funded	28	8.6%	28	24.1%	<=5	<=11.4%	12	7.3%
Skepticism about whether in the medium/long run changes will save money	18	5.6%	18	15.5%	<=5	<=11.4%	12	7.3%
Exceptional care and support already being offered at the Getaway. Why change this.	31	9.6%	31	26.7%	<=5	<=11.4%	15	9.1%
Need to identify/ensure alternative provision and reassure families about quality of provision	22	6.8%	22	19.0%	<=5	<=11.4%	11	6.7%
Agree with proposals	15	4.6%	15	12.9%	<=5	<=11.4%	6	3.7%
Families will need help with travel	14	4.3%	14	12.1%	<=5	<=11.4%	9	5.5%
Total	324		116		44		164	

NB: As respondents can raise more than one issue in their comments, percentages will exceed 100%

7.9 Q5: Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you have regarding the proposed changes to the short breaks service at The Getaway.

There were 188 responses to this question. The top 15 issues/ themes by broad group are highlighted in Table 2 below.

7.91 Table 2: Top 15 issues raised regarding changes to the short break service. Top 5 highlighted in blue.

Issue or Theme	All Responses		Member of Public		Service Users/ Other		Professional	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Opposition to proposals/Leave service as it is	59	31.4%	28	42.4%	15	50.0%	16	17.4%
Commitment to Service: Appreciation for the dedication of staff at the Getaway, emphasis on maintaining high-quality care and the overall importance of these services	57	30.3%	16	24.2%	11	36.7%	30	32.6%
Advocacy for Vulnerable Groups: Strong call to protect services for disabled children and their families.	47	25.0%	15	22.7%	9	30.0%	23	25.0%
Long-term Consequences: Concerns about potential long-term impacts of service reductions, including strain on families, heightened risks of crisis situations, and higher costs for local authorities.	46	24.5%	8	12.1%	7	23.3%	31	33.7%
Community Impact: Highlighting the local significance of services to families and children within the community.	44	23.4%	16	24.2%	7	23.3%	21	22.8%
Child-Centered Approach: Prioritizing the well-being of children over budget concerns.	37	19.7%	13	19.7%	<=5	<=16.7%	22	23.9%
Importance of short breaks in reducing number of family breakdowns	20	10.6%	<=5	<=7.6%	<=5	<=16.7%	14	15.2%
Alternative Solutions: Suggestions to explore alternative cost-saving measures, such as restructuring or seeking funding from other sources.	16	8.5%	<=5	<=7.6%	<=5	<=16.7%	9	9.8%
Quality of Care: Importance of maintaining high standards of care and skepticism about proposed changes affecting service quality.	15	8.0%	<=5	<=7.6%	<=5	<=16.7%	11	12.0%
Service Accessibility: Concerns about disruptions to service accessibility and availability of alternative provisions, particularly for families in crisis.	14	7.4%	<=5	<=7.6%	<=5	<=16.7%	6	6.5%
Need for more not less of these services	13	6.9%	<=5	<=7.6%	<=5	<=16.7%	9	9.8%
Make savings elsewhere, eg reduce numbers of senior managers, admin, etc	11	5.9%	6	9.1%	<=5	<=16.7%	<=5	<=5.4%
Qualified support for proposals provided properly organised and funded	8	4.3%	<=5	<=7.6%	<=5	<=16.7%	<=5	<=5.4%
Financial Considerations: Recognizing budget constraints and suggesting alternative funding sources or budget allocations.	7	3.7%	<=5	<=7.6%	<=5	<=16.7%	<=5	<=5.4%
Skepticism about whether proposals will save money	7	3.7%	0	0.0%	<=5	<=16.7%	6	6.5%
Transparency and Consultation: Frustration with perceived lack of transparency in decision-making processes/ call for greater consultation with stakeholders/ better survey design.	6	3.2%	<=5	<=7.6%	<=5	<=16.7%	<=5	<=5.4%
Skepticism about the viability of using private providers to offer quality care	6	3.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	6	6.5%
Total	188		66		30		92	

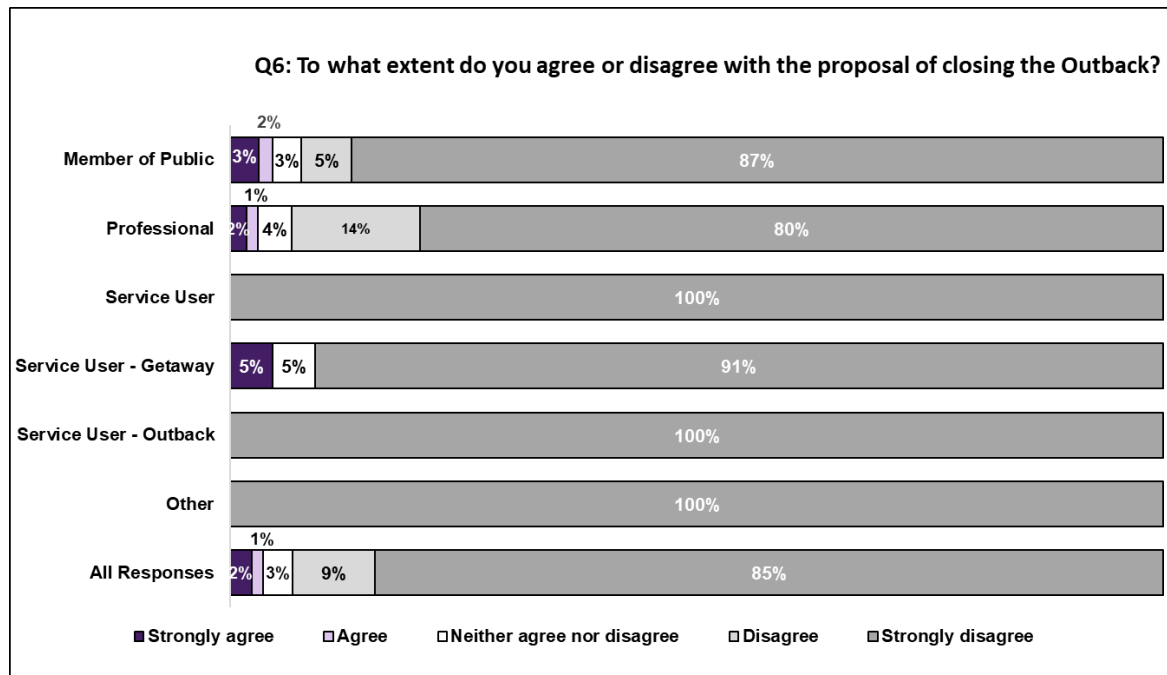
NB: As respondents can raise more than one issue in their comments, percentages will exceed 100%

7.92 Looking at all responses, the predominant theme regarding proposed changes to the short breaks service at The Getaway was opposition to the proposals and a desire to leave the service as it is (31% of responses). This was followed by comments around commitment to service; appreciation for the dedication of the staff at the Getaway, an emphasis on maintaining high-quality care and the overall importance of these services (30% of all responses).

7.93 For professionals, the predominant concern was about long-term consequences; concerns about potential long-term impacts of service reductions, including strain on families, heightened risks of crisis situations and higher costs for local authorities (34% of responses).

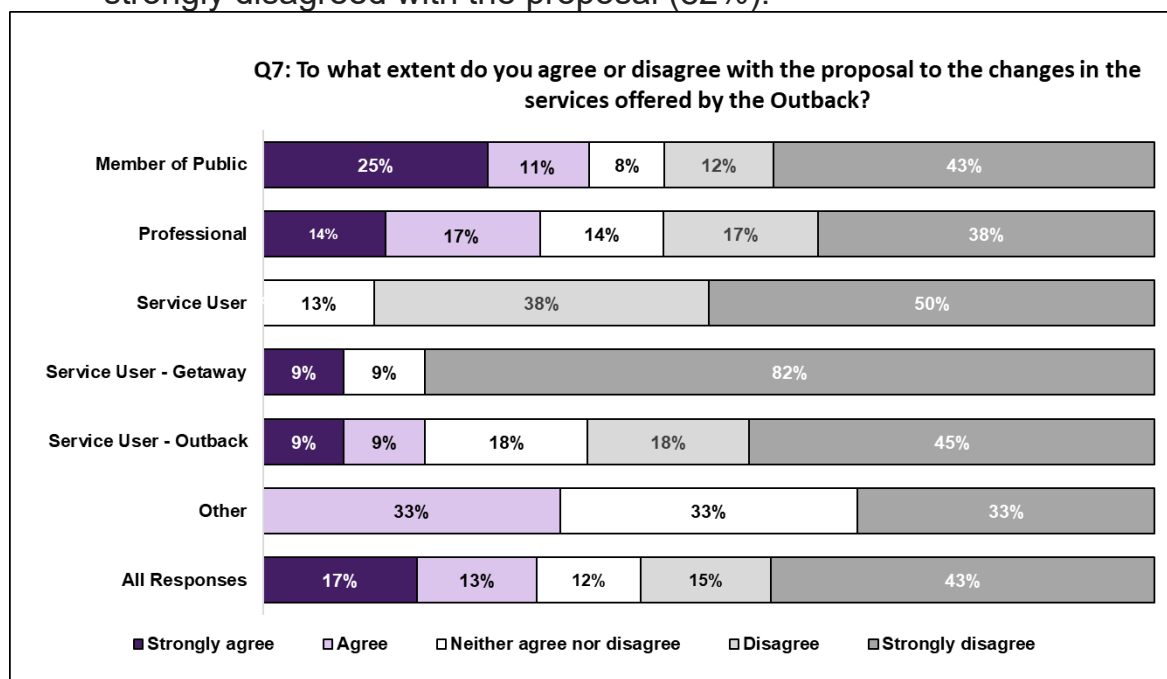
7.94 Q6: We are considering closing the Outback service. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal of closing the Outback?

7.95 The vast majority of respondents (93%) either strongly disagreed (85%) or disagreed (9%) with proposals to close the Outback service. 100% of services users strongly disagreed.



7.96 Q7: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal of the changes in the services offered by the Outback?

7.97 105 respondents (31%) agreed with proposals to change services offered by the Outback while a further 40 (12%) neither agreed nor disagreed. Services users of the Getaway (22 respondents) had the highest proportion of respondents who strongly disagreed with the proposal (82%).



7.98 Q8: Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you have regarding the proposed changes to the Outback service.

7.99 There were 188 responses to this question. The top 15 issues/ themes by broad group are highlighted in Table 3 below.

7.991 In summary, the predominant concern across all respondents was about the potential negative impact on families if services are reduced or discontinued (41%). Separately, this was also the predominant concern for members of the public (42%) and Service users (42%).

7.992 The second most predominant theme across all responses was the emphasis on the vital role of services in supporting families, especially those in need (37%). For professionals, this rose to 42%, the top concern for this group. Opposition to proposals/ leave service as it was also a top theme among respondents (37% of all responses).

7.993 **Table 3: Top 15 themes regarding changes to the Outback service. Top 5 highlighted in blue.**

Theme or Issue	All Responses		Member of Public		Service Users/Other		Professional	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Emphasizes the vital role of the Outback services in supporting families, especially those in need.	70	37.2%	18	28.1%	13	41.9%	39	41.9%
Highlights the preventive nature of the services, aiming to prevent family breakdown and crises.	28	14.9%	8	12.5%	6	19.4%	14	15.1%
Concerns about the potential negative impact on families if services are reduced or discontinued.	78	41.5%	27	42.2%	13	41.9%	38	40.9%
Praises the flexible and holistic approach of the Outback services in meeting the diverse needs of families.	27	14.4%	9	14.1%	<=5	<=16.1%	14	15.1%
Expresses concerns about proposed changes, including reductions in service size and funding.	46	24.5%	17	26.6%	<=5	<=16.1%	25	26.9%
Appreciation for the effectiveness and value of the current services provided by The Outback.	39	20.7%	12	18.8%	9	29.0%	18	19.4%
Concerns about impact on other parts of social services, worker support, workload, and the potential for burnout among staff, and external services such as schools.	12	6.4%	<=5	<=7.8%	<=5	<=16.1%	8	8.6%
Considers cost-effectiveness and explores alternatives to cutting essential services suggesting alternatives may not be cost effective	24	12.8%	10	15.6%	<=5	<=16.1%	11	11.8%
Suggests outsourcing/reorganising certain aspects of support to reduce costs while maintaining service quality.	10	5.3%	<=5	<=7.8%	<=5	<=16.1%	6	6.5%
Advocates for long-term, proactive support strategies to address both practical and emotional needs of families.	5	2.7%	<=5	<=7.8%	0	0.0%	<=5	<=5.4%
Highlights the need for accessible and available services, including support during weekends and holidays.	7	3.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	7.5%
Provides personal testimonies about the positive impact of the Outback services on families.	7	3.7%	0	0.0%	7	22.6%	0	0.0%
Opposition to proposals/Leave service as it is	69	36.7%	30	46.9%	12	38.7%	27	29.0%
Change other things first, eg senior management salaries, reduce admin, etc	13	6.9%	7	10.9%	0	0.0%	6	6.5%
More not less of this service is needed	21	11.2%	<=5	<=7.8%	7	22.6%	9	9.7%
Qualified support for changes provided funding and correct organisation is in place	14	7.4%	<=5	<=7.8%	<=5	<=16.1%	8	8.6%
Total	188		64		31		93	

NB: As respondents can raise more than one issue in their comments, percentages will exceed 100%

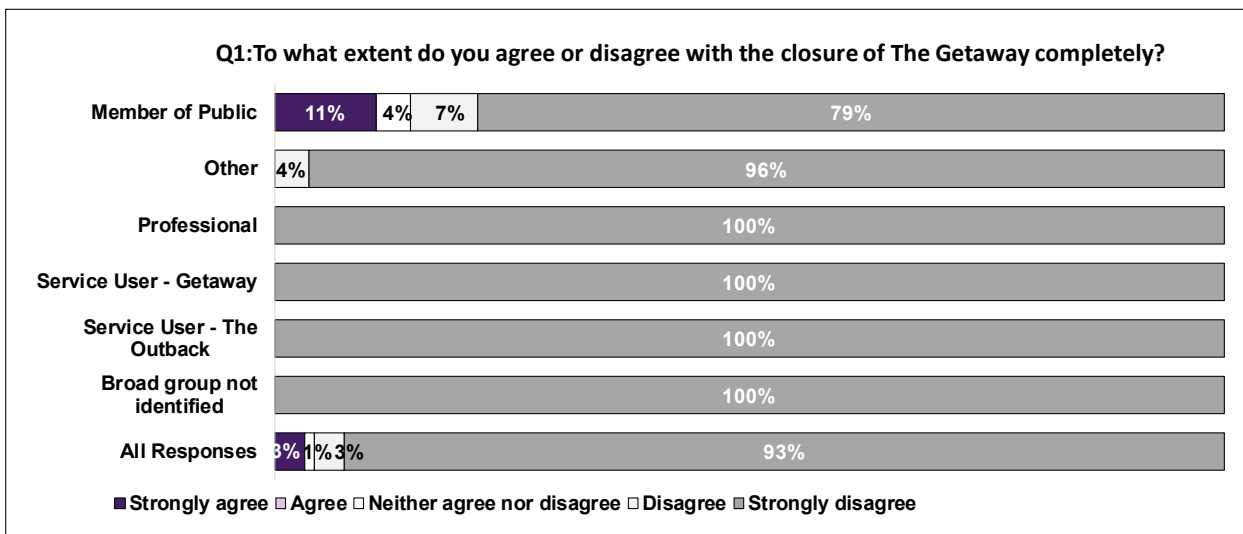
8. Further Consultation- 22nd April to the 30th of June 2024.

8.1 A second and full consultation which ran from 22nd April to the 30th of June 2024. This analysis shows the data received from the 95 people completing the later consultation.

8.2 Q1: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the closure of the Getaway completely?

95 people answered this question from the consultation.

- Regardless of the broad grouping of respondents, the majority of respondents (overall 93%) strongly disagreed with the proposal of closing the Getaway completely.
- The proportion that strongly disagreed with the proposal ranged from highs of 100% (Professionals, Service users at the Getaway or the Outback and those who didn't tell us which broad group they belonged), to a low of 79% for members of the public.
- Overall, just 3% of all respondents had some level of agreement, with a slightly higher 11% of members of the public agreeing.

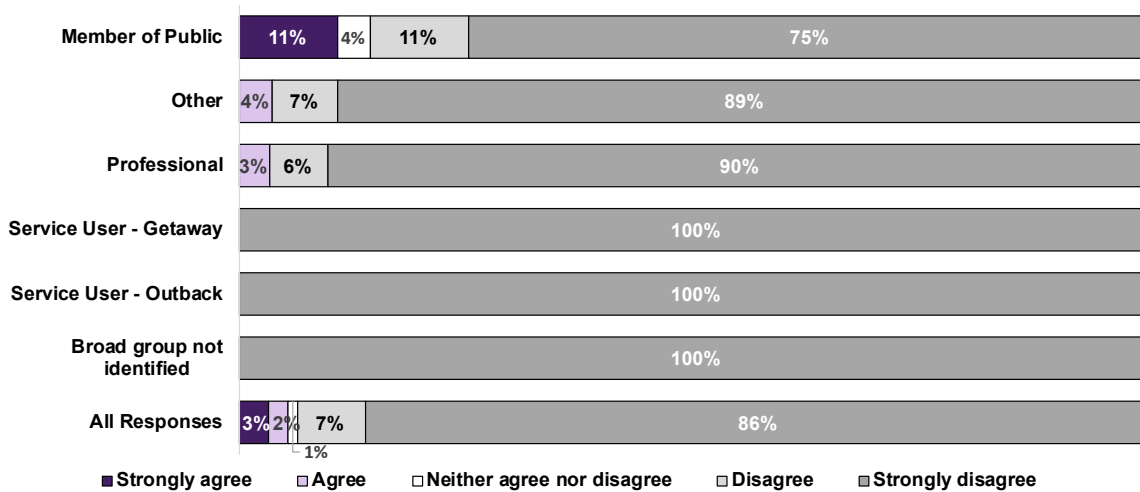


8.3 Q2: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal of stopping short breaks at the Getaway?

95 people answered this question.

- The majority of respondents (86%) strongly disagreed with the proposal of stopping short breaks at the Getaway.
- Excluding the group 'broad group not identified' where there were 5 or less respondents, the proportion that strongly disagreed with the proposal ranged from a high of 100% for service users of the Getaway and the Outback, to a low of 75% for members of the public.
- Overall, just 5% of all respondents had some level of agreement with the proposals although this increased to 11% for members of the public.

Q2: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal of stopping short breaks at The Getaway?

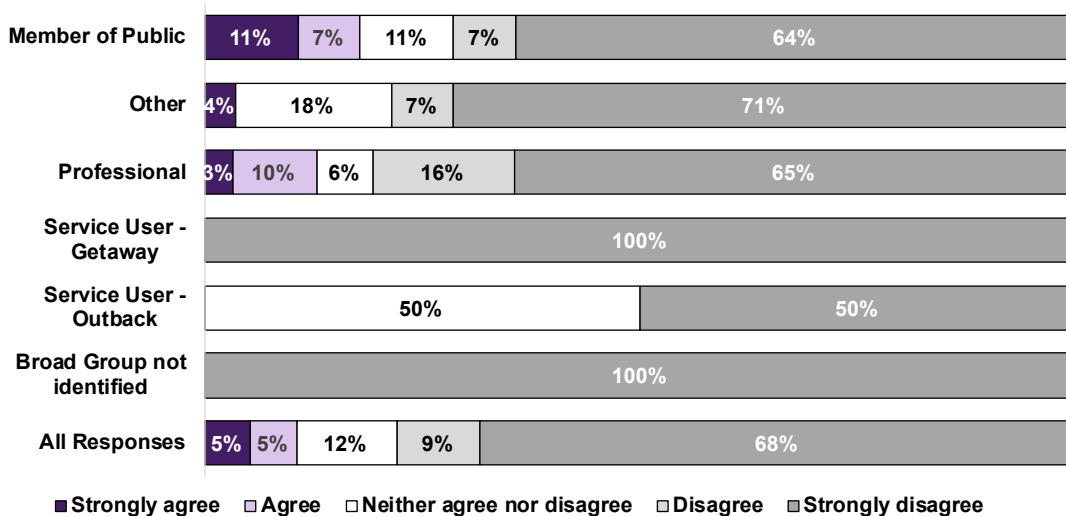


8.4 Q3: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to reduce the capacity of the short breaks service, and to use the building partially for residential care for children with disabilities who are under local authority care?

95 people answered this question.

- Looking at all respondents, the majority (68%) strongly disagreed with this proposal with a further 9% disagreeing.
- Of all respondents (18%) agreed or strongly agreed.
- Members of the public had the highest proportion who agreed or strongly agreed (18%) followed by those in professional occupations (13%).

Q3: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to reduce the capacity of the short breaks service & to use the building for residential care for children with disabilities who are under local authority care?



8.5 Q4: Instead of offering short breaks at The Getaway, following an assessment of need, we will assist families in providing short breaks by providers in and around Derbyshire, best able to meet the specific needs of their children. Please let us know what you think about this proposal?

There were 92 responses (96.8% of all respondents) to this question from the consultation. Themes raised by 6 or more people are shown in **Table 1** overleaf. It is recommended that you read some of the free text responses in

Across all groups of respondents, the top themes were:

- Scepticism or disagreement with the proposal, featuring in 43.5% of all comments. By broad group, this was the top theme for all groups with 44% of members of the public, 52% of service users/other types of respondent group and 36% of professionals raising this issue.
- Concerns about the potential negative impact of changes on families and children's well-being, e.g., heightened risk of family breakdown (27% of all comments). This was the second most commonly raised issue for members of the public (30%) and service users/other types of respondents (27%), and the third common theme for professionals (26% of this group).
- Worries about lack of available alternatives and capacity in other similar homes (15% of all respondents). This was the second most frequently raised theme for professionals (29% of this group).

Table 1: Issues raised by 6 or more respondents when considering proposals to provide short breaks at other similar homes elsewhere in Derbyshire. Top 5 highlighted in blue.

Description	All Respondents		Public		Service Users/ Other		Professional	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Skepticism or disagreement with the proposed changes	40	43.5%	12	44.4%	17	51.5%	11	35.5%
Concerns about the potential negative impact of changes on families and children's well-being, eg heightened risk of family breakdown	25	27.2%	8	29.6%	9	27.3%	8	25.8%
Worries about lack of available alternatives and capacity in other similar homes	14	15.2%	<=5	<=18.5%	<=5	<=15.2%	9	29.0%
Addressing the shortage of short break services and residential placements - need more not less	12	13.0%	<=5	<=18.5%	<=5	<=15.2%	<=5	<=16.1%
Importance of short breaks as a lifeline for families and children with disabilities	11	12.0%	<=5	<=18.5%	<=5	<=15.2%	<=5	<=16.1%
Need for short breaks to be provided locally to prevent travel burden and maintain family stability	9	9.8%	<=5	<=18.5%	<=5	<=15.2%	7	22.6%
Concerns about potential disruption to children's routines and adaptation to new environments	9	9.8%	<=5	<=18.5%	<=5	<=15.2%	<=5	<=16.1%
Financial considerations and cost efficiency of service provision.	8	8.7%	<=5	<=18.5%	<=5	<=15.2%	<=5	<=16.1%
Emphasis on safeguarding and protecting the interests of disabled children and their families	7	7.6%	<=5	<=18.5%	<=5	<=15.2%	<=5	<=16.1%
Emotional attachment and trust built between families and Getaway staff	6	6.5%	<=5	<=18.5%	<=5	<=15.2%	<=5	<=16.1%
Qualified support for proposals provided properly organised and funded	6	6.5%	<=5	<=18.5%	<=5	<=15.2%	<=5	<=16.1%
Exceptional care and support already being offered at the Getaway. Why change this.	6	6.5%	<=5	<=18.5%	<=5	<=15.2%	<=5	<=16.1%
Sceptism about whether privately provided care would be any cheaper/of same quality	6	6.5%	<=5	<=18.5%	<=5	<=15.2%	<=5	<=16.1%
Need to identify/ensure alternative provision and reassure families about quality of provision	6	6.5%	<=5	<=18.5%	0	0.0%	<=5	<=16.1%
Total Comments	92		27		33		31	

NB: As respondents can raise more than one issue in their comments, percentages will exceed 100%

8.6 Q5: Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you have regarding the options set out for the Getaway.

There were 50 responses to this question (52.6% of all respondents). The top 14 issues/ themes by broad group are highlighted in **Table 2** below.

The top three responses were:

- Opposition to proposals/Leave service as it is (64%). This was the top concern for all groups. Even higher proportions of respondents from the Service Users/other types of user group (65%) and professionals (73%) raised this issue.
- 24% of all respondents advocated for Vulnerable Groups. This was a strong call to protect services for disabled children and their families. This was the third most frequent issue for all groups.
- 22% of all respondents mentioned the impact of community, highlighting the local significance of services to families and children within the community. The proportion raising this issue was even higher for the service users/other types of respondent group at 30%.

Table 2: Top 17 issues raised regarding changes to the short break service. Top 6 Issues highlighted in blue.

Issue or Theme	All Responses		Member of Public		Service Users/ Other		Professional	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Opposition to proposals/Leave service as it is	32	64.0%	8	57.1%	13	65.0%	11	73.3%
Advocacy for Vulnerable Groups: Strong call to protect services for disabled children and their families.	12	24.0%	<=5	<=35.7%	<=5	<=25%	<=5	<=33.3%
Community Impact: Highlighting the local significance of services to families and children within the community.	11	22.0%	<=5	<=35.7%	6	30.0%	<=5	<=33.3%
Need for more not less of these services	10	20.0%	<=5	<=35.7%	<=5	<=25%	<=5	<=33.3%
Long-term Consequences: Concerns about potential long-term impacts of service reductions, including strain on families, heightened risks of crisis situations, and higher costs for local authorities.	9	18.0%	<=5	<=35.7%	<=5	<=25%	<=5	<=33.3%
Commitment to Service: Appreciation for the dedication of staff at the Getaway, emphasis on maintaining high-quality care and the overall importance of these services	8	16.0%	<=5	<=35.7%	<=5	<=25%	<=5	<=33.3%
Alternative Solutions: Suggestions to explore alternative cost-saving measures, such as restructuring or seeking funding from other sources.	<=5	<=10%	<=5	<=35.7%	<=5	<=25%	<=5	<=33.3%
Make savings elsewhere, eg reduce numbers of senior managers, admin, etc	<=5	<=10%	<=5	<=35.7%	<=5	<=25%	<=5	<=33.3%
Personal testimonies	<=5	<=10%	<=5	<=35.7%	<=5	<=25%	0	0.0%
Proposals need more in-depth analysis of risks, possible capacity elsewhere, etc	<=5	<=10%	<=5	<=35.7%	<=5	<=25%	0	0.0%
Quality of Care: Importance of maintaining high standards of care and skepticism about proposed changes affecting service quality.	<=5	<=10%	<=5	<=35.7%	<=5	<=25%	<=5	<=33.3%
Service Accessibility: Concerns about disruptions to service accessibility and availability of alternative provisions, particularly for families in crisis.	<=5	<=10%	<=5	<=35.7%	<=5	<=25%	<=5	<=33.3%
Skepticism about the viability of using private providers to offer quality care	<=5	<=10%	0	0.0%	<=5	<=25%	0	0.0%
Skepticism about whether proposals will save money	<=5	<=10%	0	0.0%	<=5	<=25%	0	0.0%
Total Responses	50	100.0%	14		20		15	

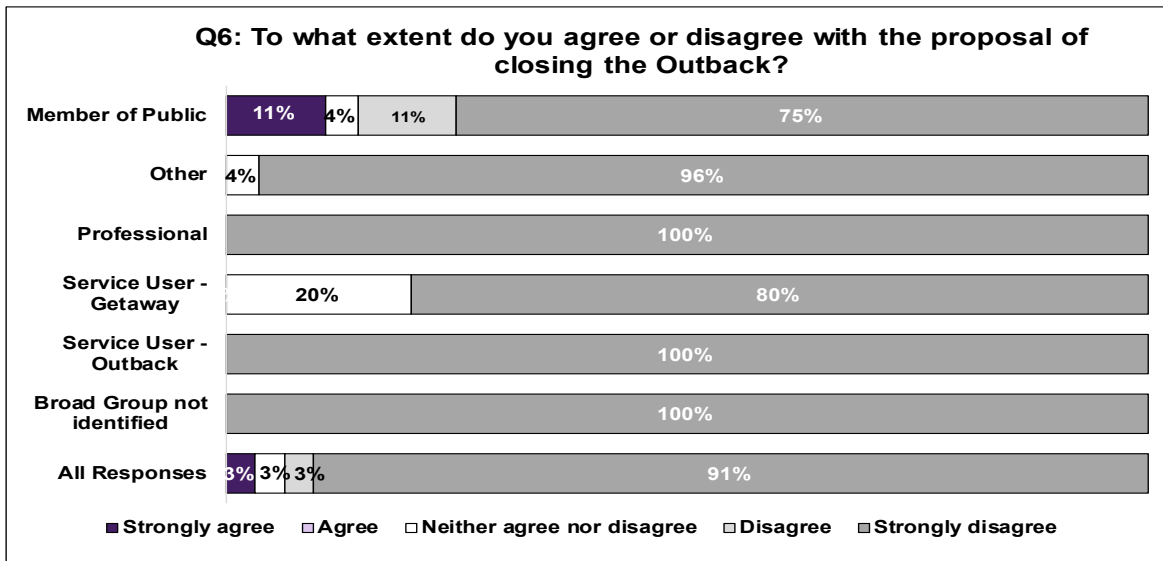
NB: As respondents can raise more than one issue in their comments, percentages will exceed 100%

8.7 Q6: We are considering closing the Outback service. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal of closing the Outback?

95 people completed this question.

- The vast majority of respondents (94%) either strongly disagreed (91%) or disagreed (3%) with proposals to close the Outback service.

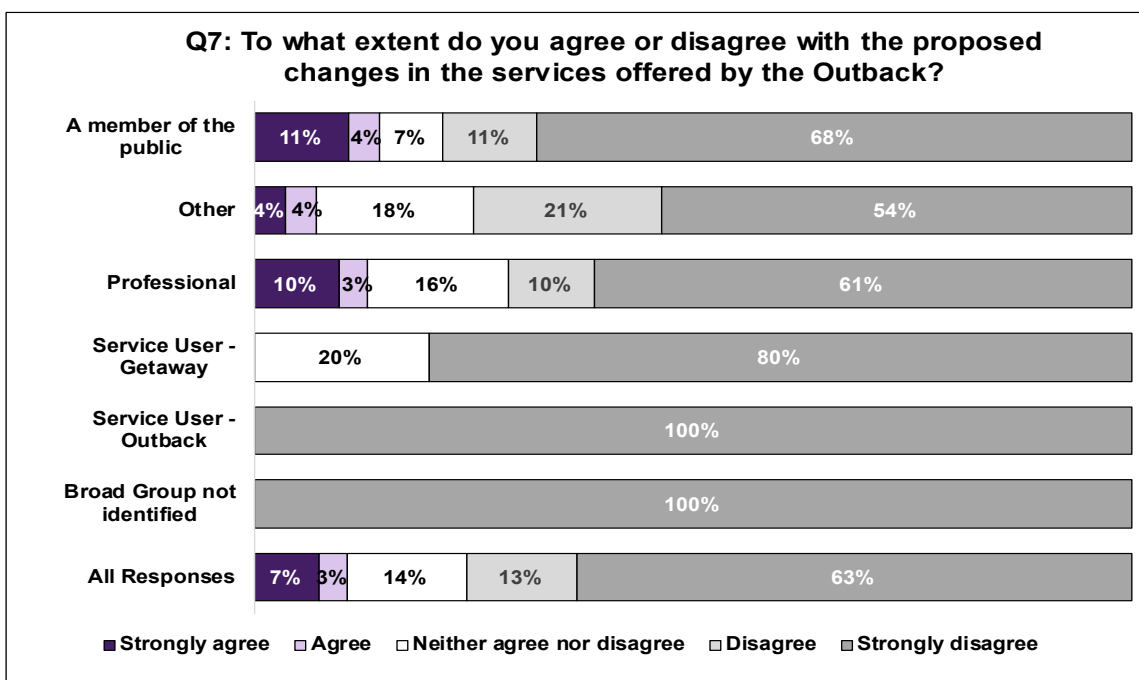
- Excluding the group 'broad group not identified' where only 5 or less people were in this group, 100% of services users at the Outback, and 100% of professionals strongly disagreed with the proposals.



8.8 Q7: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal of the changes in the services offered by the Outback?

95 respondents completed this question.

- Overall, 76% of respondents strongly disagreed, or disagreed with the proposed changes to services offered by the Outback.
- Excluding people from the group 'broad group not identified' where 5 or less people completed this question, 100% of service users at the Outback and 80% of Service Users at the Getaway strongly disagreed with proposed changes to services offered by the Outback.
- 15% of members of the public and 13% of professionals agreed or strongly agreed with proposed changes to services at the Outback.



8.9 Q8: Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you have regarding the options set out for the Outback.

From the survey and the consultation, combined there were 37 responses to this question. The top 15 issues/ themes by broad group are highlighted in **Table 3** below.

For all respondents the top three concerns were:

- Opposition to proposals/Leave service as it is (49%). This was also the top concern for the public (43%). High proportions of the of the service users/other types of respondent group (60%) also raised this concern.
- 35% of all respondents emphasized the vital role of these services in supporting families, especially those in need.
- 22% of all respondents highlighted the preventive nature of the services in trying to prevent family breakdown and crises.

Table 3: Top 15 themes regarding changes to the Outback service. Top 4 Issues highlighted in blue.

Theme or Issue	All Responses		Public		Service Users/Other		Professional	
	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Opposition to proposals/Leave service as it is	18	48.6%	6	42.9%	9	60.0%	<=5	<=62.5%
Emphasizes the vital role of the Outback's services in supporting families, especially those in need.	13	35.1%	<=5	<=35.7%	10	66.7%	<=5	<=62.5%
Highlights the preventive nature of the services, aiming to prevent family breakdown and crises.	8	21.6%	<=5	<=35.7%	<=5	<=33.3%	<=5	<=62.5%
Concerns about the potential negative impact on families if services are reduced or discontinued.	7	18.9%	<=5	<=35.7%	<=5	<=33.3%	<=5	<=62.5%
More not less of this service is needed	<=5	<=13.5%	<=5	<=35.7%	<=5	<=33.3%	<=5	<=62.5%
Expresses concerns about proposed changes, including reductions in service size and funding.	<=5	<=13.5%	0	0.0%	<=5	<=33.3%	<=5	<=62.5%
Need more information on possible changes/Focus on consultation too narrow.	<=5	<=13.5%	<=5	<=35.7%	<=5	<=33.3%	<=5	<=62.5%
Suggests outsourcing/reorganising certain aspects of support to reduce costs while maintaining service quality.	<=5	<=13.5%	<=5	<=35.7%	<=5	<=33.3%	<=5	<=62.5%
Qualified support for changes provided funding and correct organisation is in place	<=5	<=13.5%	<=5	<=35.7%	<=5	<=33.3%	<=5	<=62.5%
Appreciation for the effectiveness and value of the current services provided by the Outback.	<=5	<=13.5%	0	0.0%	<=5	<=33.3%	<=5	<=62.5%
Concerns about impact on other parts of social services, worker support, workload, and the potential for burnout among staff, and external services such as schools.	<=5	<=13.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	<=5	<=62.5%
Considers cost-effectiveness and explores alternatives to cutting essential services suggesting alternatives may not be cost effective	<=5	<=13.5%	<=5	<=35.7%	<=5	<=33.3%	0	0.0%
Advocates for long-term, proactive support strategies to address both practical and emotional needs of families.	<=5	<=13.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	<=5	<=62.5%
Previously, service has been able to provide even more support, eg more group activities	<=5	<=13.5%	0	0.0%	<=5	<=33.3%	0	0.0%
Change other things first, eg senior management salaries, reduce admin, etc	<=5	<=13.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	<=5	<=62.5%
Total	37	100.0%	14		15		8	

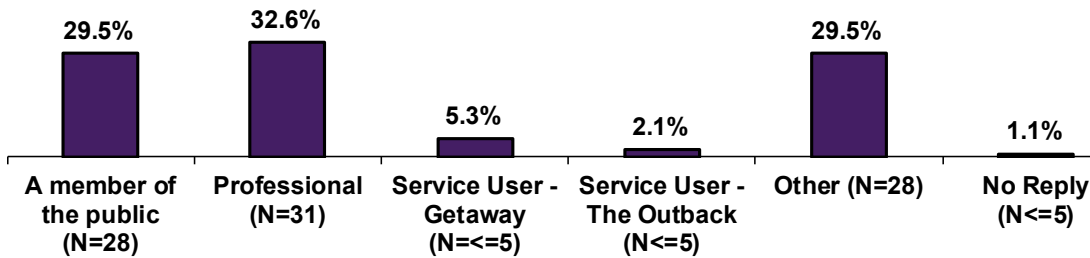
NB: As respondents can raise more than one issue in their comments, percentages will exceed 100%

8.91 Who completed the Consultation?

There were 95 responses to the consultation.

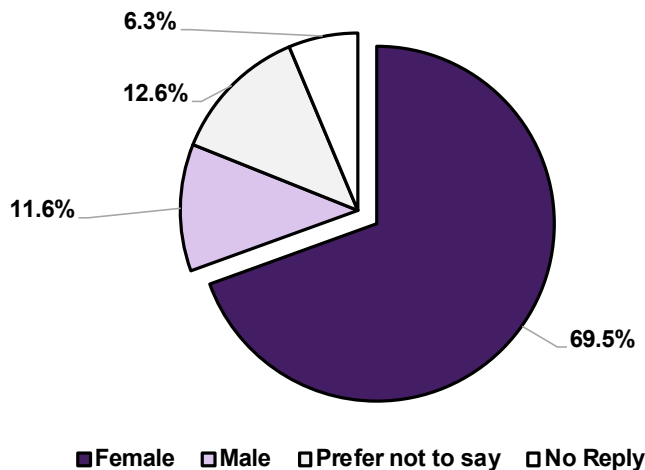
- Looking at respondents by broad group (Q9 in the consultation), the largest proportion of responses (32.6% were from professional occupations. This was followed by members of the public and respondent from the 'other' category (29.5% each).

Who completed the survey: Percentage of respondents by broad group



- 69.5% of respondents were female.

Q11: What is your gender?



Ethnicity

- 88.4% were White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, or British.
- No ethnic minority group had more than 5 respondents.

People with Disabilities

- 20 people (21.1% of all respondents) said they considered themselves disabled.
- Of these people 50% said they had a disability affecting mobility and 38.9% said they had other types of disability such as neurodivergent conditions.
- Less than a 25% of these people said they had disabilities affecting vision or a learning disability.

9 Consultation Summary and Conclusions

- 9.1 The consultation on the Outback and Getaway short break services, conducted from March 11-25, 2024, received 342 responses, with the majority from

professional agency representatives (49%). Most respondents (74%) strongly disagreed with stopping short breaks at The Getaway, with significant opposition also seen for reducing the service's capacity (58% strongly disagreed). The primary concern was scepticism about the long-term cost savings and potential negative impacts on families and children's well-being. Similarly, 93% opposed closing the Outback service, emphasizing the importance of these services in supporting families, with particular concern about potential adverse effects if the services were reduced or discontinued. Overall, the responses highlighted a strong desire to maintain the current level of services and appreciation for the dedication of the staff.

- 9.2 The consultation on the Outback Early Help Service and the Getaway Short Break Service, conducted from April 22 to June 30, 2024, revealed strong opposition to proposed closures and service reductions. Of the 95 respondents, a significant majority (93%) strongly disagreed with closing the Getaway, and 86% opposed stopping short breaks there. Similarly, 91% strongly disagreed with closing the Outback, and 76% opposed changes to its services. Key concerns again included scepticism about the proposals' effectiveness, potential negative impacts on families and children's well-being, and the lack of viable alternative services. Respondents emphasized the importance of these services in supporting vulnerable groups and maintaining community support.
- 9.3 In conclusion, the overall results are as expected, especially given the difficult proposals being consulted on. The consultations reveal strong opposition to the proposed changes for both The Getaway and The Outback services, with concerns focused on potential negative impacts on families, lack of alternative services, the importance of maintaining these supportive services for vulnerable groups and the effectiveness of service reductions.
- 9.4 Respondents emphasized the importance of maintaining high-quality care and the vital role these services play in supporting families. There was a significant theme for all respondents was scepticism or disagreement with the proposal to close the Getaway and the Outback. There were also concerns about potential long-term impacts of service reductions, including strain on families, heightened risks of crisis situations and higher costs for local authorities. Further concerns were around the potential negative impact on families if services from the Outback were to be reduced or discontinued.
- 9.5 In consideration of the consultation result and if the proposals were agreed, every attempt will need to be made to mitigate against impacts or the concerns expressed. However, given the Council current and future financial difficulties, the department is having to prioritise its statutory responsibilities, children in care and edge of care, rather non-statutory areas of work.