

## Frequently Asked Questions for Parent Carer Forums

<b>Short Break Funding - post Aiming High</b>	
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Answers</b>
<p><b>Is there going to be money for short break services now the Aiming High programme is ending?</b></p>	<p>Over £800m has been made available by the government for short breaks funding, through the newly established Early Intervention Grant. The money will be delivered in instalments of £198m, £202m, £206m and £210m over the next four years.</p> <p>This is the amount of money that the government believe is a reasonable and fair amount to have a positive impact on the lives of families of disabled children, drawing on evidence of outcomes from the short breaks programme over the past 3 years.</p> <p>It means that Local Authority areas should be receiving at least as much, if not more funding for short breaks in 2011/12 as they did in 2010/11.</p>
<p><b>Is this money ring fenced so Local Authorities have to spend this amount on short breaks?</b></p>	<p>The new funding is not ring fenced. It will be paid to local authorities as part of a bigger grant called the Early Intervention Grant. This grant covers a wide range of Children and Young People's services, including Youth Services, Children's Centres and Teenage Pregnancy.</p> <p>Local Authorities will have greater freedom in how they spend their money, so they can better respond to local need and meet the early intervention needs of a range of groups of children, rather than having fixed amounts imposed on them for funding specific services.</p>
<p><b>If there is this money for short breaks, why are some Local Authorities talking about cutting or ending some services for disabled children?</b></p>	<p>Although the government have announced this investment for short breaks, most Local Authorities have been told their overall budget has been reduced. Therefore, although money for short breaks has been announced which should mean no reduction in service, most areas are receiving less money this year than in 2010/11, to deliver all the services now funded by the Early Intervention Grant.</p>

	<p>For more information on the Early Intervention Grant go to:  <a href="http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/informationforprofessionals/a0070357/early-intervention-grant-frequently-asked-questions/">http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/informationforprofessionals/a0070357/early-intervention-grant-frequently-asked-questions/</a></p>
<p><b>How much money should the Local Authorities be spending on short breaks?</b></p>	<p>The £800 million means most Local Authorities will receive at least the same amount for short breaks as they did for Aiming High, and for most will see a significant increase.</p> <p>The short breaks allocation of 2010/11 is a good starting point for local negotiation though Individual authorities will be at different stages of short breaks transformation and will know their own populations best.</p>
<p><b>How can I find out what funding my Local Authority received for short breaks in 2010/11?</b></p>	<p>This can be seen on the DfE website in a spreadsheet entitled “Early Intervention Grant Allocations Methodology”. This can be downloaded from:  <a href="http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/informationforprofessionals/a0070357/early-intervention-grant-frequently-asked-questions/">http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/informationforprofessionals/a0070357/early-intervention-grant-frequently-asked-questions/</a></p> <p>Go to the ‘Associated resources’ box on the right hand side and click on the link to download.</p> <p>The first worksheet in this spreadsheet is called ‘10-11 base allocations’ and shows a breakdown of the amount of funding which was given to each Local Authority in 2010/11 for all services which are now to be covered by the Early Intervention Grant. This includes short breaks.</p>
<p><b>How can I find out what savings my Local Authority has to make across all services?</b></p>	<p>The third worksheet ‘Final indicative allocations’ on the same spreadsheet shows the total amount allocated to each Local Authority in 2010/11, and the amounts to be allocated through the Early Intervention Grant in 2011/12 and 2012/13.</p> <p>From this you can calculate the overall savings your Local Authority will need to make.</p> <p><i>NB: The second worksheet called ‘11-12 and 12-13 allocations’ is more complicated, showing how these total amounts were calculated.</i></p>

<p><b>Should we be asking our Local Authority how much they intend to spend next year on short breaks?</b></p>	<p>Throughout the AHDC programme, we have encouraged parent carer forums to, wherever possible, work in partnership with their Local Authorities to help plan service delivery, and make decisions about services. We would hope this will continue and that if Local Authorities are having to make savings you are part of these discussions at an early stage.</p> <p>We would advise that you speak with your Local Authority leads, the Director of Children Services, and your elected members, (the lead councillor for Children’s Services, and your own local councillor) to determine what the current thinking is around short break funding, and remind them of the importance and value of short break services for your local community.</p> <p>Our experience would suggest that there are often better outcomes when parent carers and Local Authorities work together, rather than getting into combative roles.</p>
<p><b>Are there any resources to help us put the case for continued funding of short breaks and parent participation to the Local Authority?</b></p>	<p>New regulations on Local authorities to provide a range of short breaks and consult with parents about them take affect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011. You can read more about these at <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2010/9780111503850">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2010/9780111503850</a></p> <p>We have been collecting information about the benefits of parent carer participation and good short break provision. You can read about this in the attached report ‘How Parent Participation and Parent Forums leads to better outcomes for disabled children, young people and their families.’</p> <p>In particular Section 9 contains information about how short breaks can help prevent family crisis and breakdown, and for some children possibly becoming looked after by the Local Authority. A small research project detailing is now available on the TDC website at <a href="http://www.togetherfdc.org/supportdocuments/ImpactSBonPreventionDCEnteringLAC.pdf">http://www.togetherfdc.org/supportdocuments/ImpactSBonPreventionDCEnteringLAC.pdf</a></p> <p>Also, please look on the TDC website to find examples of where positive parent participation leads to better outcomes for children and families: <a href="http://www.togetherfdc.org/Topics/CaseStudies/Parentalparticipation.aspx">http://www.togetherfdc.org/Topics/CaseStudies/Parentalparticipation.aspx</a></p>

<b>Parent Forum Funding</b>	
<b>Will there be funding available to continue to support parent carer forums in the next financial year?</b>	We do not know for certain if funding will be available to support local parent carer forums in the next financial year. However, we have been able to show how parent carer forums, and parent participation, has a really positive impact on service planning and delivery, and has a range of other benefits for local communities, and individual involved.
<b>Does this mean that we can carry forward some of our parent participation grant?</b>	No. It is important that you spend your parent participation grant as planned by 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2011, and you will need to provide your grant monitoring spend as usual.
<b>What do we do if we want to change what we are spending our grant on?</b>	The grant should be spent in line with the application which was agreed when the grant was awarded. If a parent carer forum wants to spend the money in a different way they need to first discuss it with their Parent Participation Adviser to make sure it meets the criteria of the programme, and is sensible for the area concerned. The forum then needs to finally get written approval from the Grants Programme Manager, Sheila Davies, before going ahead with this.
<b>What do we do if we are struggling to spend our grant?</b>	Please contact your Parent Participation Adviser and discuss this as soon as possible.
<b>Will the National Network of Parent Carer Forums continue next year?</b>	The National Network of Parent Carer Forums fully intend to continue in 2011/12. Again, more information will be provided when it is clear if there is any funding available from the Department for Education for the development of the National Network