

04 May 2023

**Availability of short term respite services for over and under 18s –  
Response from Children with Disabilities Service**

Please note the following response is from the Trust's Children with Disabilities Service, who deliver supports and services to children aged 0-18yrs.

Please also note that the reference to "short-term respite" for under 18yrs has been interpreted as "overnight respite care".

**1. What Trust centres and centres with a Trust contract are currently offering short term respite placements for both under and over 18s in the 2022/23 year?**

The Belfast Trust Children with Disabilities Service offer overnight respite to children under the age of 18years via the Trust Forest Lodge short term residential facility. Additionally, the Service also contracts short break respite provision via South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust Lindsay House and hold a respite contract with Barnardo's, Homelinks (the latter provision is via foster carers and not a residential unit)

**2. How many families within the Trust were supported in the 2022/23 year with short term respite placements for both over and under 18s?**

- 15 (Forest Lodge)
- 7 (Lindsay House)
- 9 (Homelinks)

All above children who accessed this service provision was under 18yrs.

**3. What policies and procedures are used to determine a respite care need and who is involved in this decision?**

The need for respite is determined via Social Work assessment via the UNOCINI family support pathway process.

**4. Has the capacity of the centres used for short term respite been reduced following the pandemic?**

The capacity of short break provision has reduced following the pandemic due to a range of factors:

- The withdrawal of the Trusts Willow Lodge Short-breaks facility Registration in June 2022.
- Reduced capacity in Forest Lodge due to children who access the service presenting with more complex needs
- Reduced capacity in Lindsay House due to children having to be accommodated on an emergency bases full time.