

## Appendix 7- Strategic Context and Demand

Shropshire Council



The following documents were taken into account in the development of the service specification.

- [The Shropshire Plan](#)
- [Shropshire Market Position Statement](#)
- [Shropshire SEND Strategy](#)
- SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy and Outcomes framework (awaiting sign off)
- [Shropshire Short Breaks Statement](#)
- Youth Strategy (awaiting sign off)

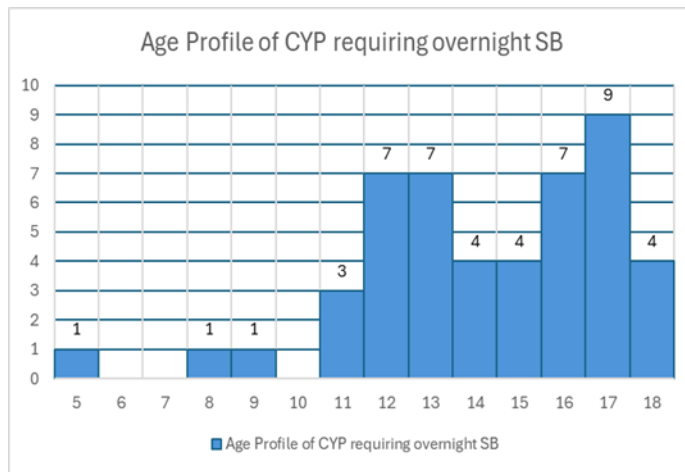
### Strategic Context

The Shropshire One Plan is closely linked to the provision of short breaks for children with disabilities, as it aims to ensure that these children and their families receive comprehensive and coordinated support. Short breaks, which include activities such as after-school clubs, weekend programs, and overnight stays, are designed to provide children with disabilities opportunities to engage in enjoyable and enriching experiences while giving their families much-needed respite. The Shropshire Plan emphasizes a holistic approach, ensuring that the needs of children with disabilities are met through tailored services that promote their well-being and development. By integrating short breaks into the broader framework of support, the Shropshire Plan will create a more inclusive and supportive environment for these children and their families.

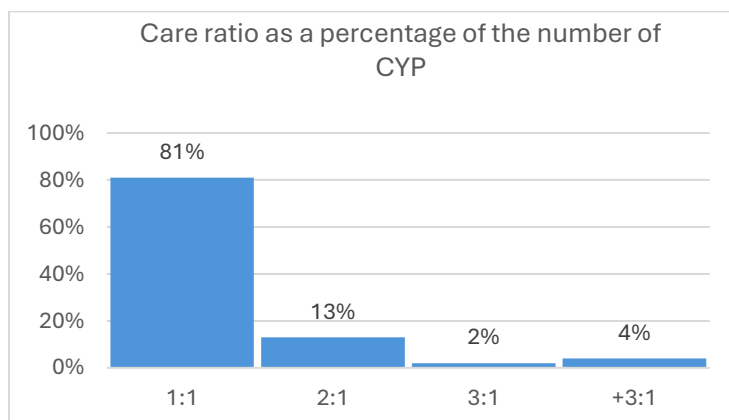
1. Early Years and Childcare: Focuses on providing high-quality early years education and childcare to support children's development from a young age.
2. Education and Learning: Ensures access to quality education for all children, including special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) support.
3. Health and Well-being: Promotes the physical and mental health of children through various health services and initiatives.
4. Safeguarding and Protection: Ensures that children are protected from harm and have safe environments to grow up in.
5. Family Support and Early Help: Provides support to families to help them care for their children and prevent issues from escalating.
6. Youth Services: Offers programs and activities for young people to support their personal and social development.

### Current Position (March 2025)

- There are 48 CYP are currently assessed as requiring an overnight Short Breaks. The age profile of these CYP is detailed in diagram 1 (below)



- 9 of these are currently on a waiting list having had their need assessed but awaiting allocation to a service
- The majority of CYP need 1:1 care and support, approximately 19% require more than 1:1 care and support – see diagram below



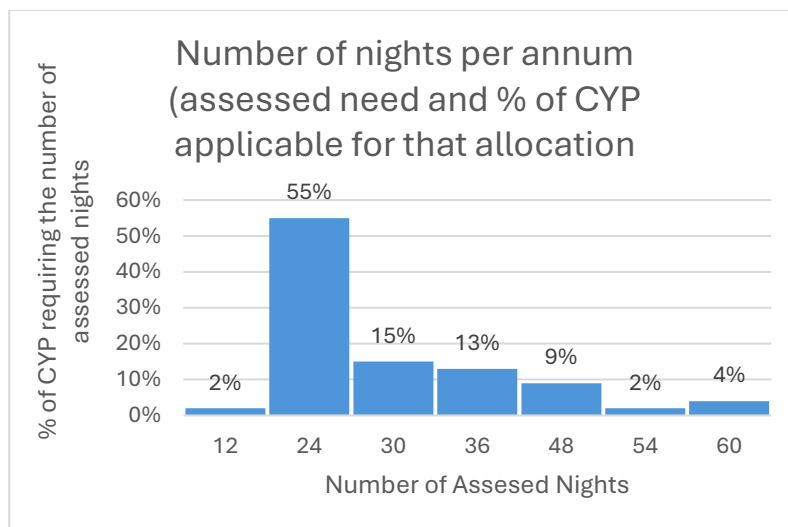
We have data identifying current challenge associated with overnight Short Breaks insofar as we have a number of children who have not received their allocated nights and as a result of this the family situation is accelerating in terms of need.

- Currently we have identified 4 CYP who would benefit from overnight foster care short breaks immediately in order to relieve the situation at home and these CYP would be our priority for a foster care short break.

- 2 of these children are siblings and we would be keen to find a suitable placement for them together in order to give the family a break, however, one of them requires a greater level of support (2:1)
- In addition – we have identified 24 CYP who would benefit from “Family Based Shared Care” (Foster care)
- 2 of these CYP identified above will require wheelchair access and other mobility/disability aids.

### Overall Need for Overnight Short Breaks:

The following diagram illustrates the percentage of CYP and their annual allocation of overnight short break nights



Shropshire Council currently commission overnight short breaks in a residential unit, however, capacity is limited and this service (Overnight Short Breaks – Foster Care) will provide additionality to our offer and provide greater choice to parent carers.

This service specification was developed taking into account the following:

- [Council Plan and priorities](#)
- [Understanding Telford and Wrekin](#)
- [Telford and Wrekin Council's Children's Commissioning Strategy 2024-2029](#)
- [SEND & Alternative Provision Strategy](#)
- [Short Breaks Statement](#)

### Strategic Context

The Council's mission is for all our children to feel safe, loved and supported to achieve their full potential. Our vision is to support children to be the best they can be, and the care and support services we use will share these values and aspirations for our children and young people.

Children's Services priorities 2022 onwards:

1. To create conditions so that every child is safe and feels that they belong in their home and educational setting
2. To promote access to a quality education offer for all children and young people across the borough
3. To focus on the best start in life and work with children, young people and their families as early as possible to avoid issues escalating
4. To develop a system wide approach with key partners to deliver our aspirations for children and young people
5. To ensure the workforce is skilled and develop a professional curiosity to adapt to changing service need
6. Every person has access to opportunities to engage in stimulating activity which will improve their sense of wellbeing
7. To prepare our children and young people for independent, successful adulthood

### Service Demand as at February 2025

Total Children with Disabilities caseload - 170

Of which, require overnight respite support - 56 or 33% of current caseload

Equating to a total no. of nights per year 1526

No. of children who are on a waiting list for overnight respite - 30

The average no. of nights per year for an individual is 24 nights. A typical overnight respite stay is 2 nights per month and possibly more during school holidays.

Total Overnight Respite need Profile:

Of the CYP that need Overnight Respite:					
Age	No.	No. Nights	Age	No	No. Nights
4 years	2	168			
5 years	0	0	12 years	6	124
6 years	2	48	13 years	4	110
7 years	2	48	14 years	3	78
8 years	4	88	15 years	6	217
9 years	5	171	16 years	7	150
10 years	5	132	17 years	5	92
11 years	5	100		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1526</b>

Need Profile:	Wheelchair users	No Health Needs		Has Health Needs	
		No. CYP	No. Nights	No. CYP	No. Nights
Moderate	3	14	341	2	38
Complex	15	21	509	19	638
<b>TOTAL CYP</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>676</b>

Profile of all need types:

Need type (many children have multiple needs)	No. of CYP
Complex health needs	17
Global Developmental Delay	24
Autism	35
Learning Disability	23
ADHD	6

### **UNMET OVERNIGHT RESPITE NEED @ February 2025**

30 CYP are on the waiting list for an overnight respite service, equating to 736 nights per annum.

Of these:

- 10 CYP are at a 'moderate' level support equating to 258 nights per year.
- 20 CYP are at a 'complex' level support equating to 478 nights per year.