

## **Grant Prospectus**

### **Innovation Grant Short Breaks for Children aged 5 – 8 Years**

#### **Innovation Grant: Short Breaks 5 – 8 Years 2022-2023** **One Year Grant Agreement + One Year Extension Option**

#### **Introduction:**

This Innovation grant opportunity is released by Kent County Council (KCC) as part of its on-going commitment to the provision of short breaks for disabled children, young people, and their families/representatives in Kent. We are seeking grant bids from short break providers that will stimulate and enhance the availability of short breaks activities for children aged 5 – 8 years of age with special educational needs and disabilities.

Short breaks provide children and young people with an opportunity to spend time away from their parents or carers, having fun with their friends, experiencing the same range of activities, challenges and environments as non-disabled children and young people. In addition, short breaks provide parents/carers with a necessary and valuable break from their caring responsibilities and have regard to the needs of different types of carers. Short breaks can include day, evening, weekend, and school holiday activities. Overnight stays are not part of this grant opportunity.

The focus of this Innovation grant programme is to commission imaginative and creative projects which aim to support families in building positive, challenging, engaging and developmental experiences for their child while also allowing parents/carers to take a break to pursue other activities or simply a break. Successful providers are trained and able to respond to a range of needs via their assessment process that will be in line with Disabled children and young people eligibility criteria. The criteria are available within the short break grant application form. We will also require a copy of the providers' assessment criteria as part of the application.

#### **Name of grant pot:**

Disabled Children and Young People's Short Break Activity Grants: School holidays, afterschool, weekends.

Grants are not provided to fund holidays for individuals.

With due regard to the Children Act 1989 and Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children Regulations 2011, KCC need to make available short break activities for disabled children across the county.

For the purpose of these grants the definition of disability is taken from section 20 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

This will include the following:

- Learning disabilities or/ and Physical impairment
- Sensory impairments

- Neurodiversity both with and without a learning disability.
- Life limiting or life-threatening conditions.

The individual needs of the children and young people may include:

- personal care
- medication
- communication
- mobility
- sensory needs
- behaviours that challenge.

### **What KCC outcomes does the grant support?**

The grants will be awarded to support the KCC strategic outcome of:

Children and young people in Kent get the best start in life.

To achieve this, the activity supported by these grants will:

- Have regard to the needs of those parent carers who would be unable to continue to care, or care more effectively, unless breaks from caring were available to them.
- Ensure that disabled children and young people are supported to optimise their physical and emotional wellbeing whilst having fun, being safe; having opportunities to develop new skills to support independence, within their local community.
- Children and young people have better physical and mental health.
- Kent young people are confident and ambitious with choices and access to work, education, and training opportunities.

### **Who can apply for this grant pot?**

The grant is for activity providers who support disabled children who:

- have a disability and/or additional needs that mean they require support to participate in leisure and recreation activities
- are aged 5 - 8 years
- live in the Kent County Council area.

### **Level of need:**

Children and young people who access short breaks will have a range of needs from mild to severe and including personal care requirements. This is in line with Disabled children and young people eligibility criteria. Providers will be asked to provide a copy of their referral criteria as part of the application.

KCC would like to see a programme of activity that offers regular short breaks across the year including regular Saturday clubs, after school clubs, school holiday activities, family days and in all districts.

Within this age range we will be looking how you support individual's taking into consideration their age and level of need.

The short break activity will take referrals directly from families and Disabled Children and Young People services. It is important that there is clear information available to social workers, parents, children, and young people about how they can access the activity.

If the project/activity is open to disabled and non-disabled children and young people, then any funding secured through this grant process must be used to provide the additional support required to enable disabled children and young people attending to be included in that environment and not for any universal or mainstream element of the service.

### **What we expect successful projects to achieve:**

Parents/carers, children and young people have told us that they would like the short break to provide the following:

- have readily available short break places to book
- be affordable
- be available during school holidays, weekends and after school
- have services in the right place at the right time and can meet a range of needs, including services for complex needs
- cover a variety of activities that both engage and challenge.

### **Projects should aim to achieve some of the following:**

- enable children to feel safe and have workers they can trust
- enable children to build their confidence and strengthen their independence
- enable children to try out new things
- support to make connections through social interaction
- support children's well-being, health, and development
- enable children to develop life skills, e.g., learn about using money, working in a team, communication, feeling good about themselves, managing stress and feelings
- enable children to go to places and enjoy activities with their family
- enabled children to be involved in planning and deciding what the activity is
- help to improve support and information to families
- help to promote self- supporting groups and empowerment of families
- help to support families' well-being, knowledge and understanding, and capacity
- support families' access to professional advice and support.

### **A fundable project outline will evidence the following:**

- how models of support will be developed and delivered
- how co-production with young people and their families will inform project design and delivery
- a creative approach to projects considering the ever-changing world of COVID 19
- a robust approach to Quality Assurance including the assessment of risk
- a clear plan for evaluation, continuous improvement, and evidence of impact.

### **Evaluation and reporting:**

Successful applicants will be required to monitor the outcomes that they are expected to deliver.

- projects will be required to give monthly updates via a platform communicated via email
- projects will be required to produce a short final report at the end of each funding year, on a template supplied by KCC.

### **Short Break Service Promotion:**

Successful applicants will be required to develop and share promotional material for both professionals and potential service users. Service details and outlines of programs available will be included within the SEND Local offer within Kent.gov and will be the service providers responsibility to be kept up to date.

### **Funding:**

#### **We will fund:**

- Registered charities
- Voluntary or community organisations
- Companies limited by guarantee
- Community Interest Companies
- Social enterprises
- Parent Teacher Friends Association

#### **Funding available:**

Kent County Council has up to £68,000 funding available for this Innovation Grant. Bids will be in the range of £500 - £10,000 per district. Providers can apply for multiple districts or a countywide offer. A service is considered county-wide if it is available to disabled children and their families across Kent rather than being based in a particular district.

Short break providers will charge a parental/representative contribution in line with local market rates and apply a concessions policy. To establish equity across the county it is advised a parental contribution of at least £2.50 per child, per hour and must be levied by the provider for the service.

It is expected that the level of the contribution to be charged is clearly advertised on the provider referral form, along with the payment methods to be used and concessions guidance.

Funding will be allocated to ensure activities are fairly distributed across the county of Kent to ensure that as many children and young people with disabilities from Kent will benefit including those with complex needs.

Additional funding from the Reconnect Programme may also be available for successful projects that are able to deliver additional capacity up to August 2023. Bidders will have the opportunity to submit a request for Reconnect funding and demonstrate what additionality this brings on the Short Breaks application form.

Reconnect funding must meet the following criteria:

- All initiatives, activities or opportunities must meet at least one of the aims and priorities of the programme.
- All activities must provide additionality. Applications will need to demonstrate this and confirm that the activity is not already funded. This grant funding is to provide additionality and not to meet existing budget pressures.
- All activities must take place before the end of August 2023. The provider is responsible for ensuring that suitable contingency delivery arrangements are in place, should any further COVID-19 restrictions that impact direct delivery be enforced. Any grant funded provision that does not take place before the end of August 2023 will need to be reimbursed to Kent County Council
- The organisation or service must not receive funding from other sources to fund the activity in the application where this would create double funding. If the applicant is seeking to add funding to that received from another source to enable them to deliver more opportunities, their application must make this clear and explain how they will account for the additional activity (e.g., a specific number of additional sessions or operating for a longer timeframe). We reserve the right to request a copy of any funding agreement or application specifying the commitment and obligations made by the applicant to a third party in this respect.

Providers may also apply for additional funding from other sources such as trusts, district/borough councils, businesses, sponsorship, or charities to further develop short break opportunities. The bid must demonstrate the activity levels the short breaks grant will provide.

## Timescales

The grants are offered for the financial period 1 October 2022 - 31 March 2023 with an option to extend for a further year 31 March 2024.

## How to apply:

Bids will be considered by a small panel from Kent County Council. This panel will include representation from Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), Children's Social Work Teams, and where possible individuals with lived experience of disabilities.

## What happens next?

When we receive your application, we will acknowledge receipt. Applications will be assessed by an appraisal panel. Based on your application, and any further information you may have been asked to supply, the panel will make its recommendations to the Corporate Director for Children Young People and Education to inform a final decision. We will advise you of the decision to either:

- offer a grant; or
- offer a grant with some specific conditions; or
- reject the application with reasons why.

This timeframe is indicative only. The Council reserves the right to change it at its discretion.

## Timeline:

Stage	Date(s)/time
Issue of bid opportunity	22/08/22
Deadline for submission of bids	16/09/22 Noon
Evaluation of bids	Monday 19 – Friday 23 Sept 2022
Evaluation Outcomes agreed	26/27 September
Outcomes of bid evaluation notification via email	30 September 2022
Expected date of award of Grant	October 2022

## FAQ's

**Any questions regarding these grants should be emailed to [commissioningfordisabledchildren@kent.gov.uk](mailto:commissioningfordisabledchildren@kent.gov.uk)**