

Adult Short Break Consultation

Adult Social Care

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are adult short breaks?

Short breaks or respite care, are services that enable a carer to take a break from their caring role. A respite care service is provided to the person being cared for, to temporarily replace the care the carer would otherwise give them. Respite care can come in many forms. What works best will depend on a carer's circumstances and those of the person being cared for. It might be a home care service for the person being cared for, for example to allow the carer to go out in the evening, or a temporary stay in a care setting to enable the carer to take a longer break, such as a holiday.

2. How long is the consultation and how do I get involved?

The community adult short break consultation commenced on Monday October 9 and runs until Tuesday January 6 2024.

3. What is Orient Street and what type of short breaks does it accept?

Orient Street is a council run specialist overnight short break residential care unit. It provides specialist overnight short breaks to eligible Southwark residents who have a learning disability and/or Autism who live at home with their carer or family. Orient Street accepts urgent referrals as well as planned short break bookings.

4. How many adults does Orient Street Support?

Orient Street has five adult beds. The unit has supported 65 people who have accessed an overnight short break from Orient Street in the 12 months preceding August 2023. This have been a mixture of one off and regular stays.

5. What would the impact be on service users who currently access Orient Street if it closes? If an individual is receiving respite nights at Orient Street will they still get a short break?

Everyone who uses Orient Street will be offered an individual review. This is an opportunity to review and think about what a short break means to those eligible for the service. The range of alternative services available may be more suited to the individual needs of the person or their carers and where appropriate offer overnight provision.

6. Will everyone who needs an overnight short break be able to access one if Orient Street closes?

Short breaks are assessed on an individual basis. They can be booked in advance, on a regular basis, and at short notice. Not everyone will be eligible for an overnight short break; these will be based on individual needs for a service user, as well as needs of the carer. The council has relationships with independent providers and will continue to develop these and provide overnight short breaks where required.

7. The Council is already saying Orient Street is too expensive, so has this decision been made to close Orient Street already?

The council has not made any decision regarding the future of Orient Street. It is the council's preferred position that Orient Street be closed to adult short breaks with the existing budget utilised to deliver a more personalised offer that provides better value for money. We want to hear the thoughts and opinions of those who use Orient Street, access short breaks in borough or elsewhere using their direct payment, and/or has an interest. The consultation period is for 3 months (09.10.23 - 6.01.24). Once the consultation closes, the Council will evaluate all feedback and suggestions, before a decision will be made. Residents are encouraged to visit the website <https://consultations.southwark.gov.uk/children2019s-and-adults-services/adults-short-breaks-2023/> and/or email us-shortbreakshaveyoursay@southwark.gov.uk

8. Why doesn't the Council run Orient Street more efficiently?

Orient Street is a well-managed service that is run 'in-house' by the Council. Orient Street costs are higher than other non-in-house services, as external providers are able to flex staffing levels and as a result, manage a varying levels of complexity and need.

9. How are the Council reaching out to engaging all stakeholders?

The Council wrote to families that have accessed an adult short break at Orient Street in the 12 months prior to August 2023. The project team has called all families to check if they have received the information, and to ask for email addresses so that they can be updated directly via email if needed. We have also sent alerts to all people signed up to the local offer, and have

uploaded all documentation on to the consultation hub at <https://consultations.southwark.gov.uk/children2019s-and-adults-services/adults-short-breaks-2023/> . Those that have accessed Orient Street in the last 12 months will be offered a 1:1 review to assess needs and gather feedback. The Council has also advertised and is hosting a range of events across October, November and December as part of the consultation that runs from 09.10.2023-06.01.2024.

10. What examples are there of alternative offers?

Orient Street usage and costs are shared in the community consultation report, as are some potential alternative options. It is the council's preferred position that Orient Street be closed to adult short breaks with the existing budget utilised to deliver a more personalised offer that provides better value for money.

We want to hear the thoughts and opinions of those who use Orient Street, access short breaks (in borough and elsewhere using their direct payment), and/or has an interest. The consultation period is for 3 months (09.10.23 - 6.01.24). The Council's current short break model supports a small number of our cohort, if Orient Street is kept this will impact budgets for other options.

11. How does the Council propose to repurpose the money?

We are consulting to understand what parents, carers and individuals want in a short break so that it can inform the Council's decision-making. No decisions have been made yet. Direct payments work well for some families as it offers flexibility to use their own networks and deliver the support that they may want at the times that work best for their individual circumstances. Each individual will have their own review to look at what alternative provisions are available to support their eligible needs.

More information about the Adults Short Break consultation:
<https://consultations.southwark.gov.uk/children2019s-and-adults-services/adults-short-breaks-2023/>

12. What's the difference between short breaks and respite?

'Short breaks' and 'respite' are interchangeable terms with 'short breaks' being the newer, nationally recognised terminology for a break of any length.

13. What is the comparative nightly cost of Shared Lives against Orient Street?

The cost of a Shared Lives placement will depend upon the level of need but it is comparatively cheaper than a placement at Orient Street. However, there is recognition that Shared Lives would not be suitable for all clients.

14. What will happen to the small number of people with very complex needs/ behaviours that challenge, if Orient Street closes?

Individuals that are assessed as needing overnight breaks will continue to receive them. Please see question 6 for more information.

Adults Short Break consultation team:

Rob Skipwith, Service Development Manager

Email: shortbreakshaveyoursay@southwark.gov.uk