



Young Inspectors and Participation 2014- 2015 on the Isle of Wight



Contents	Page 2
About Short breaks	Page 3
What is the Young Inspectors Programme?	Page 4
Who are Young Inspectors?	Page 5
Communication	Page 8
Inspection reports and accomplishments 2014/2015	Page 9
Plan for 2015	Page 10
Appendices	Page 11



Short Breaks

Short breaks are a service that aims to increase opportunities for children and young people with disabilities and/or additional needs to participate in positive activities.

Short breaks providers offer a range of after school clubs, evening and weekend activities and overnight stays for children and young people.

Short breaks also possess an accessible caravan, lodge and beach hut available for families to rent out.

Within the Short breaks service there is also the Young Inspectors scheme has also been developed. Piloted in 2013 it is now an established project that successfully engages young people in the improvement of provisions.



What is the Young Inspectors programme?

The young inspectors programme is a scheme run to encourage young people's voice and to strengthen the participation and involvement of young people when making provisions for children with disabilities and/or additional needs.

The programme is constantly growing and currently involves fifteen young inspectors whom vary in both age and abilities. Young Inspectors were nominated by Schools and professionals. They were then invited to an afternoon tea to learn more about the programme and had time to think about if they wanted to sign up or not.

How it works

Based on feedback from Young Inspectors', providers are approached and offered the opportunity to be assessed/inspected by young people. Young Inspectors are rewarded for their views and time by paying them with a reward card. They get paid £5 for each inspection they do this then go towards a voucher they are saving up for. They receive this along with a certificate and report from the involvement officer, at our annual party.

The Isle of Wight Council next year are hoping to give added recognition by awarding Young inspectors with a GCSE in participation for taking part in young inspectors.

Short breaks also host a party in September to congratulate and thank all young people on their efforts. This is then when they are awarded their vouchers and certificates.

More information can be obtained on our website
www.iwight.com/shortbreaks



Who are the Young Inspectors?

Within the programme there are two young inspectors' leaders who come to all the inspections and are there to make others feel welcome and show them what to do. They are experienced and confident inspectors who aim to make sure that when reports are written it captures their voice and how they felt.

The others are young inspectors who go to different activities, Places, events and inspect documents if needed.

All young people have an additional need and are off different abilities.



My Name is Anna,

I am a Young Inspectors Leader, this means that I go to all of the inspections and help with the reports.

I am 15 years old.

My favourite activities are; playing computer games; horse riding and watching Dr Who DVD's

I don't like; being ill at school, walking too far, strong smells like perfume and bullying.

What I like about being a young inspectors leader is;

You get to do really cool stuff and meeting lots of new people. It makes me feel important. It's nice to think I am helping in some way. I don't mind saying what I think and will always be honest.

What I like about young inspectors;

You get to try out all kinds of different activities and say if you think they are good or not. At the end of an inspection we fill out a form and answer questions about what we thought was good or not. We look at things like, if the people are friendly, or, could somebody in a wheelchair be able to do the activity and if they have toilets and things like that.

Written by Anna





My Name is James

I am 14 years old.

I am a Young Inspectors leader. This means that I go to all of the inspections and help with the reports.

My favorite activity is: Sailing

I like being a young inspector's leader because:

I like to help represent young people on the island for the better.

I like making a difference with young inspectors.

Written by James

James met with the Department of Education and took questions from the board. He also explained about his views on the Local Offer and embraced the voices of other Young Inspectors.



Communication

All of our Young Inspectors are different with variable abilities. This helps our data to be inclusive and make sure we get a diverse range of views and opinions. Young Inspectors were involved in the design of how we get our feedback. They designed appropriate communication styles to allow more people to feel comfortable to get involved.

This is done in a multitude of different ways.

For some young people who are young or have more additional needs we use our simpler question and answer forms. Young people could have the choice to either to stick a happy face or a sad face. If they prefer they can also use a tick or a cross.

There is a more detailed form where young inspectors can add comments and think about broader ideas of what they liked and didn't like.

For young people who cannot communicate verbally there are different methods that are used. By using these methods we can obtain the most reliable information and express that young person's voice.

We can do this by:

- Holding up happy and sad faces the young person will then use eye gazing to make their decision when asked.
- We have a choice of using Makaton to gain yes or no answers
- Using different coloured balls for children with sensory needs can also obtain information.
- Use of an iPad with communication symbols
- Throwing balls into baskets of their choice to gain the views of that young person.



Inspection Reports and accomplishments in 2014/2015

Reports-

Reports are all written in simple English and are always child friendly. Young Inspectors are consulted with the reports after and make sure their voice is clear with what they wanted to say within the report.

Young Inspectors reviewed the Local Offer and the educational health care plan.

From the views of young people the EHCP has been adapted to be more user friendly and wording has been changed so young people could understand the context more.

When viewing the Local Offer website for the Isle of Wight young people said they would like a website just for them, also for a list of activities that they could access. From this the Shortbreaks team have meet with health who have funded an app for young people to use this will involve all activities they can access, hospitals and Doctor's surgeries and information about Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators and there schools. This will be followed closely with consultations from young inspectors to make sure it is what they require.

This app is called 'Check it out' and will be available after consultation with Young Inspectors, in April.

Young Inspectors have also completed assessments on multiple short breaks activity advising providers on aspects such as safety, staffing, accessibility and fun and enjoyment. As well as scoring and giving feedback they also offer recommendations to providers. Please see appendix 1 for examples of this.

All providers have changed aspects of what Young Inspectors have said and have made activities more accessible and appropriate for young people.



Plan for 2015

In 2015 Young Inspectors aim to expand the scheme further. So that people can purchase a session with Young Inspectors, this will be spread out across the Isle of Wight as well as businesses, attractions and facilities will be encouraged to have a visit to create a more inclusive setting from the voices of young people. This will also coincide with the disability card which is a new project Short Breaks are currently looking to introduce.

Each summer the Short Breaks team host a 'fun day'. A chance for families and young people with disabilities to see what is available to them. Young inspectors will be in the planning phase for the day, so we can make improvements for more young people to attend.

Young Inspectors will also be involved in the 'Have Your Say Days' that we have on the Isle of Wight. This is a chance for all young people involved in children services to have their say on the services they use. With the help of young Inspectors and Short Breaks team the 'Have Your Say Days' will be more inclusive and encourage so more young people with disabilities to be involved.

The young inspectors will continue to be heavily involved and influence The Local offer and the Education Health Care Plan. A new review has been booked in for March.

The creation of the 'check it out' app will also be largely influenced by the Young Inspectors views and opinions.

Young Inspectors were mentioned in the Ofsted report quoting

Inspectors met with Young Inspectors who have disabilities. They carry out inspections of short break provision and provided positive examples of where their work has improved services. For example, they visited a short break holiday park and, as a result, access for wheelchair users has improved. They also secured additional resources to enable a football team for disabled children to be based within a local leisure centre.

Young Inspectors aim to carry on their good work to achieve more acknowledgments of their work.





Appendices