



Beams

Supporting disabled children & families

Short Breaks and Dragons Retreat

IMPACT REPORT 2019



produced by **absolutely**
MARKETING

Short Breaks

We Are Beams Short Breaks Service offers a range of leisure activities for disabled children and young people up to the age of 25 years.

We offer:

- Kidscamp Holiday Playscheme (1-1 service)
- Inclusive Play Schemes
- Day trips
- After school clubs
- Fun family events
- Sibling clubs
- Family Support – a commissioned service
- Family workshops
- Theatre Trips
- Celebratory parties

In addition to the playschemes in Hextable Beams also ran a Medway playscheme for 13 children at Demelza House which was funded by BBC Children in Need.

For 2019 Beams Summer Holiday breaks included:

- 153 places for inclusive playschemes
- 170 places for Kidscamp
- 13 places for Medway playscheme
- 50 places for the family outing to Colchester Zoo
- 46 places for the theatre - The Tiger who came to Tea
- 365 hours of 1-1 care for family support

We provide appropriate activities focused on the young person's needs. Above all we ensure the children and young people are safe and have a lot of fun during their time with us.

"Both my boys do so much better when they get to try new things but they have such different needs that it's impossible for me to keep both of them happy at the same time. There are very few activities we can do during the holidays. Kidscamp gives us the opportunities we would otherwise miss. While Rowan is having terrific fun with the amazing people at Beams, his brother and I can have some very much-needed one-to-one time and go to places that Rowan can't manage.

Thank you Beams, you make school holidays fun, like they're supposed to be "

We are Beams Parent 2019

Impact of our Short Break Service

94% of respondents were happy with the quality of the services offered at Beams playschemes

100% of parents were happy with the communication of the staff during the playschemes

94% of respondents were happy with the standard of support provided

62% of families said the playschemes reduced social isolation for their children

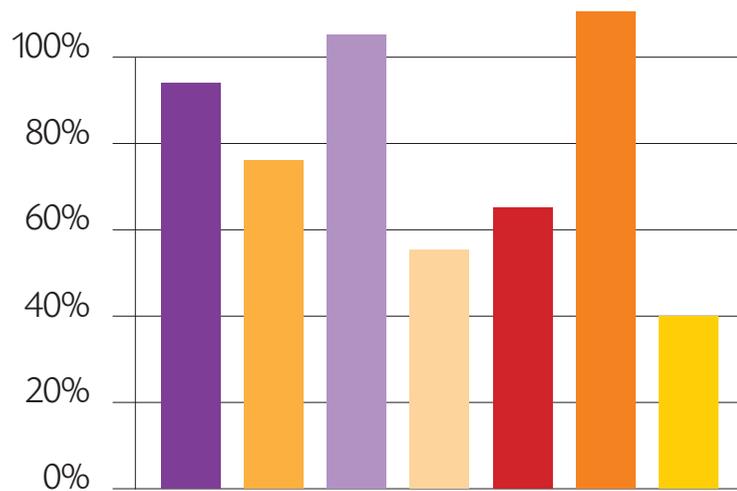
100% of respondents said that the playschemes give their child something to look forward to in the holidays

100% of the children surveyed said they liked coming to the after school clubs

Can you tell us a little about the impact of Short Breaks Services for your family?



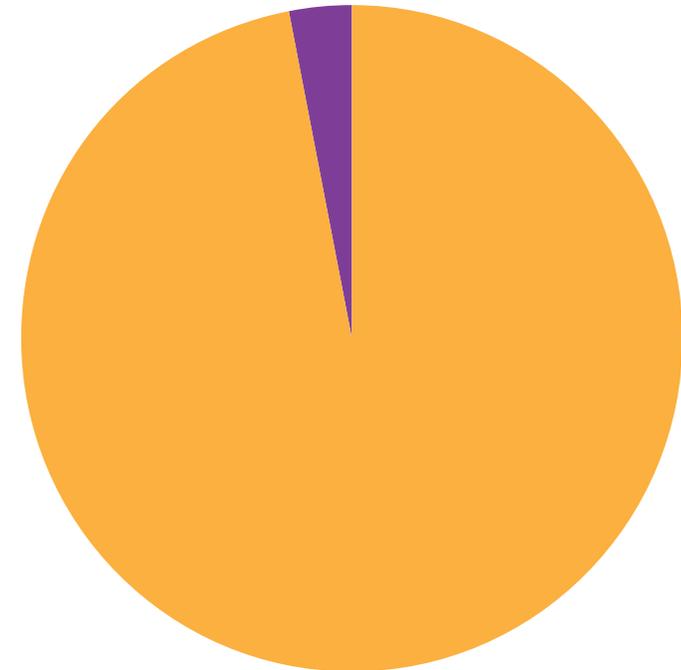
When we secured the funding for Kids Camp we said we would deliver the following outcomes for your child. Is this true?



Answer choices	Responses	Count
Reduced social isolation	86.49%	32
Improved health and wellbeing for my child	78.38%	29
My child has had fun	91.89%	34
My child has made friends	56.76%	21
Improved my child's mental health	64.86%	24
Given the family a much needed break	97.30%	36
Saved the family from crisis	40.54%	15

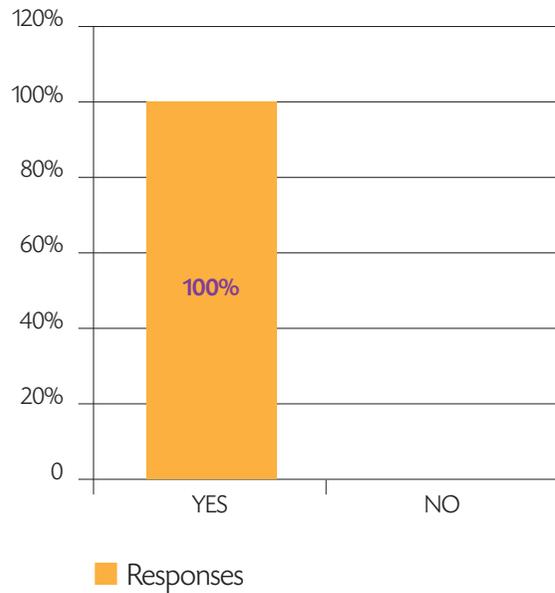
Total Respondents: 37

What difference does this service make to you and your family?

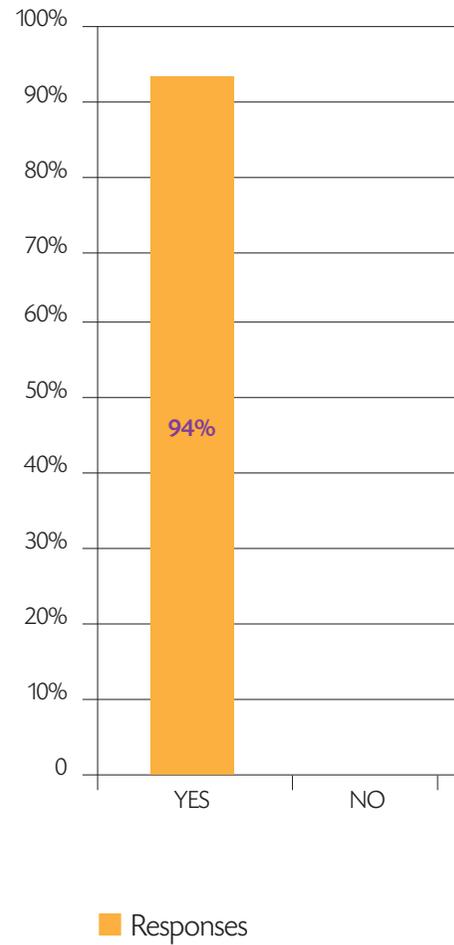


- A huge difference 97%
- A small difference 3%

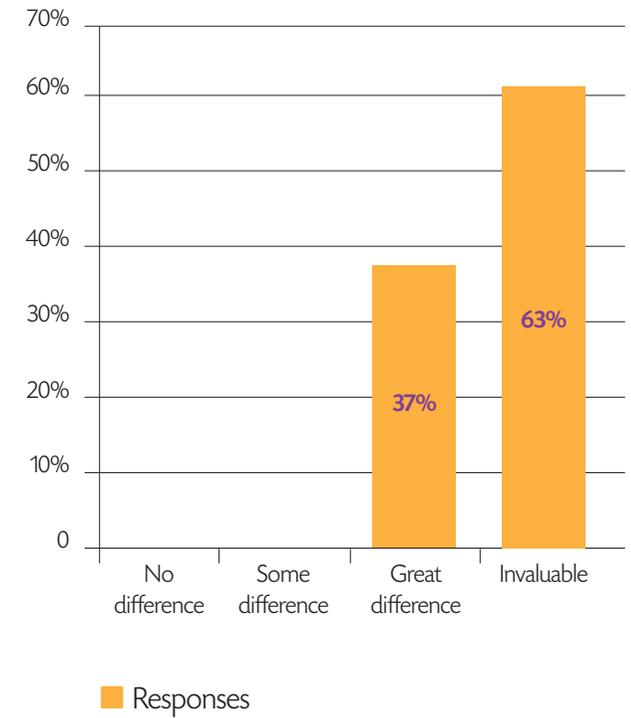
Would you use Beams for this service again next year?



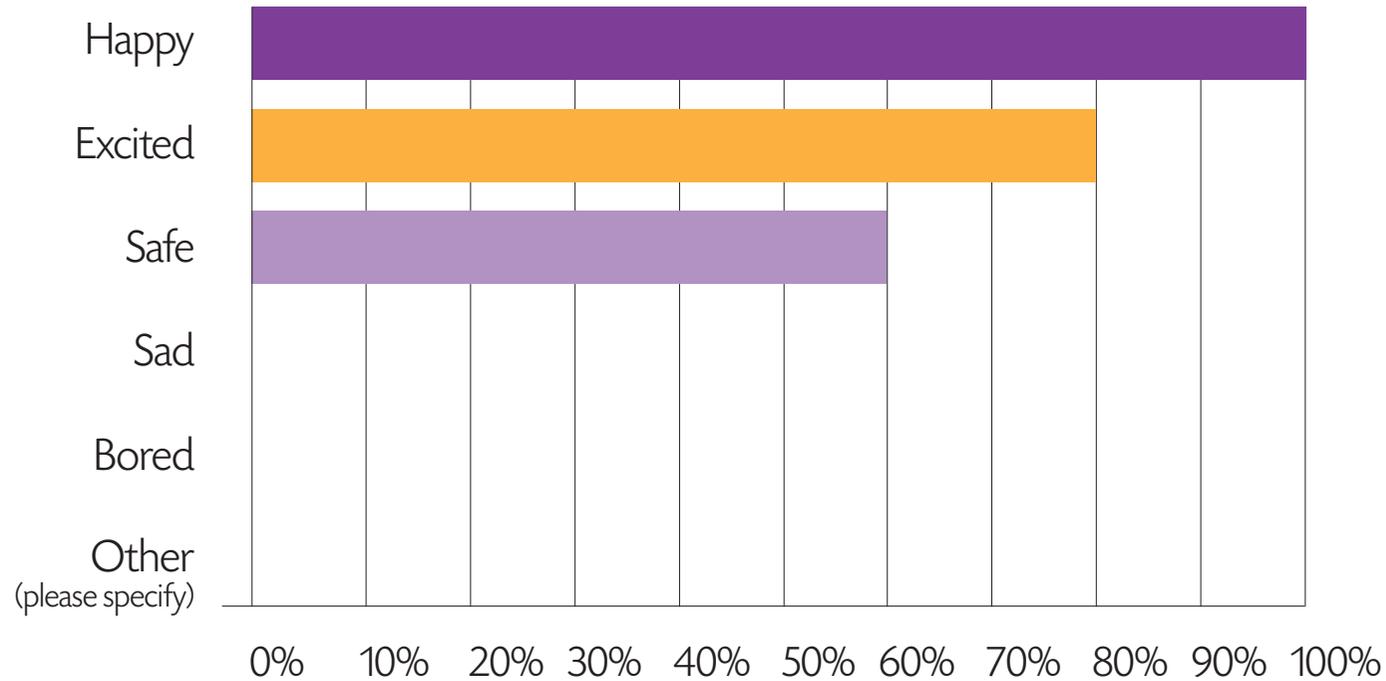
Were you happy with the variety of activities offered?



How much of a difference did these activities make to you and your family?



How does club make you feel?



Answer choices

- Happy
- Excited
- Safe
- Sad
- Bored
- Other (please specify)

Impact report Dragons Retreat

Dragon's Retreat is an Independent Short Break Restbite Unit in Kent. It is a registered children's home providing overnight care for children and young people with a range of severe and complex needs which may include a learning and/or physical disability.

The children and young people who access Dragons Retreat may require personal care, medication, behavioural management and support to attain independence skills. We provide an enriching experience, promote independent living skills and ensure the child or young person has some fun whilst staying with us.

We also work closely with professionals such as social workers, schools and doctors to ensure a consistent approach to the young person's care. Dragon's Retreat is Ofsted Registered.

Our ethos within Dragons Retreat is to make a positive difference to the personal, social and learning opportunities of the children and young people who stay with us. We aim to create a positive environment where children and young people are offered experiences and opportunities to assist them in achieving their individual potential, personal aspirations and goals in life. Dragons Retreat adopts a holistic, person centred approach to the care and development of children and young people and supports them to overcome barriers they may face.

Across 2018 we provided 1212 beds and were open for 81% of the year

100% of parents rated the services at Dragons Retreat as Good or Outstanding

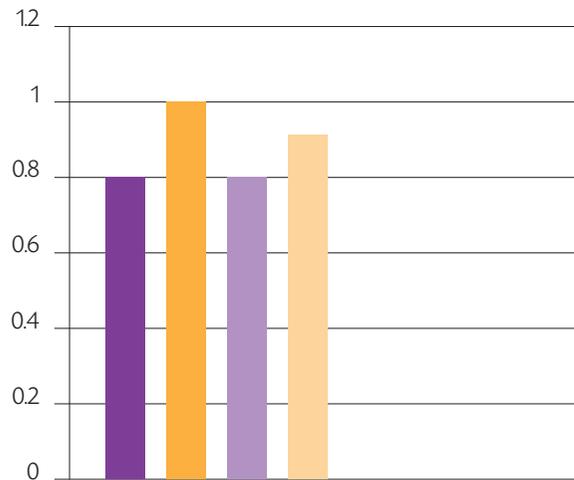
100% of respondents said that they feel their children enjoy attending Dragons Retreat

95% of parents said Dragons retreat is extremely valuable to them

"Dragons Retreat provides a life line and helps us gain some well earned respite knowing that our child is in a happy, safe environment"

Parent Survey 2019

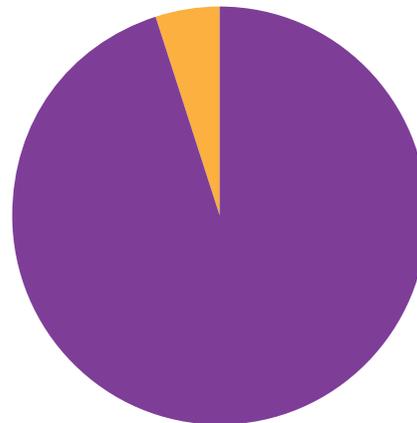
What characteristics do our staff show at Dragons Retreat?



- Professional - 80%
- Warm and Welcoming - 100%
- Knowledgeable - 80%
- Enthusiastic - 90%
- Unprofessional - 0%
- Unfriendly and disinterested - 0%
- Lacking required Knowledge - 0%

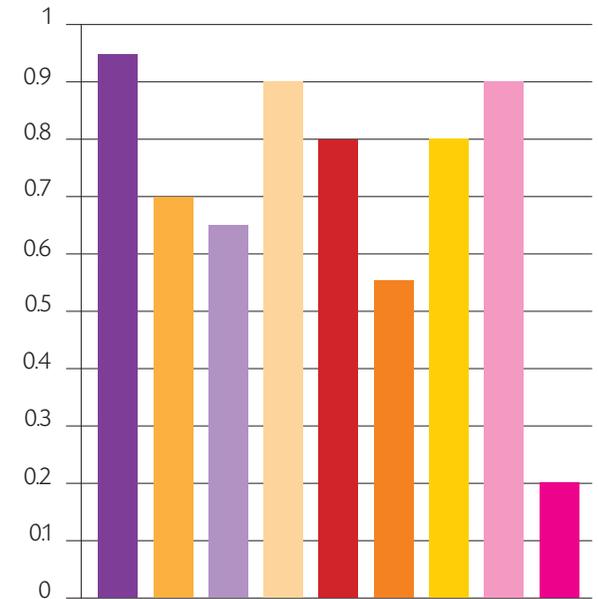
100% of parents said our staff were warm and welcoming

Do you feel that the communication is adequate with Beams during and following your child's overnight stay with us?



- Yes 95%
- No 5%

What do you feel your child achieves from attending Dragons Retreat?



- Has a break from the rest of the family 95%
- Gets to make friends 70%
- Experience activities they would not often get to do 65%
- Have fun 90%
- Learn independent life skills for later in life 80%
- Attends a service that provides specialist equipment they do not often have access to (sensory and Soft play) 55%
- Stay somewhere they feel safe and secure in 80%
- Build confidence and social skills 90%
- Other (please leave a comment) 20%

90% of parents said that we build their child's confidence and social skills

Parent Quotes

"We have two children with disabilities, our daughter severely so, and we only get 8 hours a week PA time for her during the school holidays. This is the only playscheme in Kent that allows us to leave our disabled children and get some much needed respite - our daughter doesn't sleep, and by the end of the holidays we are totally exhausted. Our son also loses out as there is so little that we can do as a family as she struggles to cope when out and about. We travelled 45 minutes just to access this service as we so desperately needed the respite as she requires 24-hour care, and the hours provided through direct payments simply aren't enough."

Parents Survey 2019

"We are so grateful to Beams as our daughter gets so much socially from the Kidscamp playscheme and we are confident that she is in safe hands and well cared for whilst she is having fun with her peers. It gives us the chance to recharge and also to take our son somewhere that may not be accessible for Lauren or tolerated by her."

Parents Survey 2019

"We have become stronger as a family because of beams and all the hard work and commitment they have put in."

Parents Survey 2019

"Kidscamps were a life line for us and both my children loved every minute of them. I felt that they had had some high quality experiences and I was able to get a much needed break from the 24/7 caring during the summer holidays."

Parents Survey 2019

"Massive difference. We would be lost without Beams support"

Parents Survey 2019

"Andrew and Daniel have been coming to Dragons for nearly a year. I am confident that the boys thoroughly enjoy their time at Dragons as they are so excited about coming and it's all they talk about the days leading up to their stay. All the staff are friendly and supportive. I did try another support service, but I was not comfortable in leaving the boys there. I have no concerns whatsoever in Dragons and couldn't be happier. It's had such a positive impact on the boys, but has also enabled me to spend some time with my husband. It's so important to take a break from the boys occasionally, but also for the boys to have a break too. They feel like Dragons is a holiday!"

Parents Survey 2019

"The staff are fantastic! Everyone is so kind and friendly, Jacob loves going to Beams!"

Parents Survey 2019

"My son really enjoys all the different activities that Beams provide. He loves the staff and interacting with the other young people. Thank you Beams!"

Parents Survey 2019

"We are currently struggling at the moment with Mercedes behaviour as she has got worse. And having the much needed break allows me to recharge not only my batteries but my sanity as well."

Parents Survey 2019

Parent Quotes

"We have had, to date, a great experience with Dragons Retreat. The staff do an amazing job and Max always comes home with a big smile on his face!"
Parents Survey 2019

"A wonderful and positive environment for our son which allows him to have a bit of independence away from his parents. We know that he is happy, safe, being cared for and given opportunities to socialise"
Parents Survey 2019

"We have had, to date, a great experience with Dragons Retreat. The staff do an amazing job and Max always comes home with a big smile on his face!"
Parents Survey 2019

"I am very happy and always feel listened to"
Parents Survey 2019

"I feel very confident and trusting of Dragons Retreat. Staff meet Mitchell's needs, physical, emotional and medical needs. Mitchell gets very excited and is always asking when does he have Dragons next. Staff are lovely."
Parents Survey 2019

Having these 3 sessions in the summer holiday gave us chance to spend valuable time with my other son who often can't do what he wants to do as isn't always suitable for his Autistic brother or he simply won't comply. It also gave the grandparents who I rely on for childcare a little break as not having to entertain / care for 2 children. It really has made our summer so much easier and has given my Autistic son an 'exclusive' club go go to
Parents Survey 2019

We are very pleased, Dragons Retreat has played an important role in Dev's development and progress
Parents Survey 2019

A massive difference. Allowing Elliot to go and be himself where it doesn't matter if he has a meltdown or doesn't want to participate in an activity. Allowing us to put our other son first for a change
Parents Survey 2019

Our son really enjoys Beams and the play schemes. It's a very valuable service to us as a family. Keep up the good work!"
Parents Survey 2019

Dragons Retreat Case Study

One of the many children who benefit from the services at Beams is Scarlet. She is 14 and has Phelan McDermid Syndrome a rare genetic condition which means she has severe learning difficulties and restricted speech.

Scarlet attends Beams once a week in term time, enjoys the holiday clubs and also stays at Dragons Retreat twice a month.

Mum Sharon is so thankful to all the staff at Beams, "When Scarlet attends Beams, it not only provides me with a chance to spend quality time with my other daughter, Sienna but I also know that Scarlet is in safe hands and she is having a great time. We see Beams as our second home, so much so, that often after school Scarlet asks to go to Beams as she enjoys it so much!

It really has been a lifeline for us as I am not lucky enough to have much other support. The whole team are fantastic with Scarlet and her needs and she really thrives on the friendly and fun environment"

Scarlet is just one of the children that benefits from Beams services.

Scarlets mum also needed help from our Family Advice Service and her EHCP and is a regular at our Parent's Support Group.

