

Aiming High for Disabled Children: better support for families

Consultation with parents, carers and children on the future of short breaks: process and outcomes.

February 2009

Some quotes from parents, carers and children and young people:

'The system needs to enable the chance for every parent to be involved in decisions about their child.'

'There is discrimination between special schools and mainstream pupils at the moment.'

'Provision should not be geographically restricted (i.e. around N17)'

'Where will my son go when he leaves school? Make sure there are activity places for him.'

'Resources are currently targeted at those with high needs – but what about others?'

'Our children need Work Experience in valid jobs, well paid and look to the future.'

'Horse Riding, dance classes, cheerleading, make-overs, singing lessons, gym, art classes, acting classes, trips to the seaside, party / discos.'

What you told usand what we are doing.....

- **Parents said that they wanted more opportunities to meet each other** so we will be having another parent consultation day on 18th July where we will feedback the outcomes of questionnaire and consult on our more detailed plans.
- **Parents said that they wanted better information on short breaks** so we have started to make information about short breaks available to parents via the website, frequently used locations and by raising short break provision at Team around the child meetings, newsletters, review of statements and CIC reviews
- **Parents said that they wanted holiday schemes for their children** so we have commissioned summer breaks which will result in an increase in summer provision from 300 to 350 children.
- **Parents said that they wanted a range of provision to be available and which takes account of their child's individual needs** so we
 - plan to increase overnight provision at Haslemere by offering a night midweek and increased stays through Family Link

- increase the befriending service to enable children to be safely accompanied to a wide range of leisure, extended school and specialist services.
 - Increase the capacity of universal services to cater for a wide range of needs
 - are going to increase the numbers of special school after school provision, in particular for children with autism and complex health needs.
 - will commission services that demonstrate a statutory voluntary service partnership for the delivery of services
 - We have booked 6 places at Pendarren out door pursuit Centre in Wales for one week in the summer
 - continue to increase the use of direct payments
- **Parents said that provision should not be geographically restricted** so we aim to ensure that there is a wide range of service provision in each of the Children's networks
 - **Parents said that they wanted staff to have appropriate training** so we are looking at what training providers need and will use autism and complex health professionals to provide training and advice to universal and specialist services.
 - **Parents said that they wanted less assessments** so we are considering how other practitioners and key workers can identify need for services through the existing assessment and review procedures including the Common Assessment Framework (CAF)
 - **Parents said that they wanted support through transition** so we will pilot individualised budgets
 - **Children and young people told us that they wanted to be more involved in the development of their services** so we are selecting a group of children to participate in future development of services. They will be trained as consultants so that they will be equipped to enable a wider range of other young disabled people to participate. They will also be able to audit short break provision to guide future service development. It is anticipated that their training will be formally accredited which will support them into further education, training and employment
 - **Parents told us that they wanted to be more involved in the development of their services** so we are going to establish a pool of parents who will be available to support and challenge the development of the short break programme, join procurement and recruitment panels, contribute to training and consult more widely with parent groups. Funding will be available to pay for parents time and involvement in these activities