

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Cabinet	
MEETING DATE:	13 July 2011	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2260
TITLE:	Every Disabled Child Matters Charter	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1 – Copy of the Local Authority Charter Appendix 2 – Review of progress against objectives 2010		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Every Disabled Child Matters (EDCM) is a campaign by the Council for Disabled Children to promote rights and get justice for every disabled child. Part of this campaign has been to ask Primary Care Trusts and Local Authorities to sign up to a charter. The Disabled Children's Strategy Group has reviewed our achievements against the charter objectives and is now recommending that both the PCT and Local Authority should sign up to the charter.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet agrees that:

- 2.1 The Lead Member should sign the Every Disabled Child Matters Charter on behalf of the Local Authority.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no additional financial costs from signing this charter. This is part of normal business factored into service budgets.

4 CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 4.1 Signing the Every Disabled Children's Charter will provide the residents of Bath & North East Somerset with increased confidence that services for vulnerable disabled children and young people are being appropriately provided. This meets the Council's priority to improve the life chances of disadvantaged teenagers and young people.

5 THE REPORT

5.1 The Disabled Children's Strategy Group which takes the multi-agency lead in developing services for disabled children reviewed the Every Disabled Child Matters Charter when it was originally promoted by the Council for Disabled Children and concluded there were some aspects we could not honestly say that we had in place. Many PCT's and Local Authorities however signed up aspiring to achieve the charter and the council for disabled children subsequently changed the wording slightly to make it easier for people to do so.

5.2 In the autumn 2010 the Disabled Children's Strategy Group reviewed our services in Bath & North East Somerset against the EDCN Charter objectives. This review showed that although there is always room for improvement we were performing well against the objectives set. The Disabled Children's Strategy Group proposed that both the PCT and Local Authority sign up to the Charter.

5.3 A report was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel in March 2011 and in the same month NHS Bath & North East Somerset Board received a report and signed up to the Charter. The local elections prevented the Charter being subsequently signed off for the Council by the lead member. In April 2011 the Council for Disabled Children announced they were updating the Charter and have produced a new set of objectives to which they want the Local Authority to sign up (see appendix 1)

5.4 We have now reviewed the EDCM Charter revised objectives and can confirm that by October 2011 when we publish our short breaks statement we will have met all the objectives old and new. The review in Appendix 2 gives information about our performance in relation to the new objectives.

5.5 If the recommendation is accepted a signed copy of the charter will be registered with the Council for Disabled Children and published on our websites.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 The report author and Lead Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment is not appropriate for this report.

8 RATIONALE

8.1 We will meet all the objectives in the EDCM Charter by October 2011 so signing up to say we do so is appropriate.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 The review of the Every Disabled Child Matters Charter has been shared with services through the disabled children's strategy group and with representatives of

our forum for parent carers of disabled children and they are supportive of the PCT and Local Authority signing the charter.

11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

11.1 No additional issues to be considered

12 ADVICE SOUGHT

12.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	Liz Price 01225 477930
Sponsoring Cabinet Member	Councillor Nathan Hartley
Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	



Local Authority Charter

Bath & North East Somerset ensures that in our local authority:

- We know how many disabled children live in our area and all agencies in our area are working together to plan services based on this knowledge.
- We have an identified lead with specific responsibility for services for disabled children and families.
- We are providing clear information to support choice and control for parents that explains how we provide specialist services and also make all universal services accessible.
- Parents and carers in our area have access to transparent information on decisions made about their child, and have access to mechanisms for providing feedback
- Disabled children and their families are involved in the planning, commissioning and monitoring of services in our area, including both specialist and universal services.
- Our Parent Carer Forum is instrumental in developing and reviewing services in our area and promoting choice and control for parents.
- We actively include disabled children and young people in any decisions made about them and the services that they access, that might affect them.
- Parents in our area benefit from our Parent Partnership Service, which is able to provide impartial advice and support to parents of disabled children and young people
- Our staff receive both disability equality training and training to ensure that they have core competencies to work with disabled children.
- We have produced a short break services statement that has been drawn up in partnership with disabled children and their parents and have made it widely available.
- We have regard to the provision of services suitable for disabled children, when assessing the sufficiency and supply of childcare in their area
- We are working together with disabled young people and adult service providers in our area to ensure a smooth transition to adult services for disabled young people preparing for adulthood.

Signed: Councillor Nathan Hartley
Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children & Youth and Deputy Leader of Council
Bath & North East Somerset
October 2010





Bath & North East Somerset Review of Progress Against Every Disabled Child Objectives May 2011

Objective	Current Position
1. We know how many disabled children live in our area and agencies are planning services on the basis of this knowledge.	Establishing exact numbers of disabled children has been challenging due to the application of varying definitions influenced by eligibility criteria. The Disabled Children's Strategy Group has agreed our definition should be wide and based on the 'social model of disability'. The Disabled Children's Strategy Group is committed to continue developing integration of service delivery to disabled children and sharing data, we therefore have a more accurate record of the number of children accessing services. Prevalence rates based on national studies vary from 3%-16%. 7% is often used in practice to explain prevalence and applying this to our 0-19 population gives a figure of around 2800 disabled children and young people in B&NES. Our current Children & Young People's Plan needs analysis suggests we are actively providing services to 1500 disabled children & young people through social care, special needs education and some health services. There are a further group of children identified through School Action Plus (3000) each year who may have some level of disability. The information from the needs analysis, the Special Needs Link (our disabled children's register), and from service reporting is used to plan services and target specific groups. The data is shared through the Disabled Children's Strategy Group.
2. We have an identified children's lead with specific responsibilities for disabled children and families.	Liz Price, Acting Divisional Director in the People & Communities Department is the lead commissioner for disabled children's services.
3. We are providing clear	Parents and carers are able to access information about services for disabled children in a

Objective	Current Position
information to support choice and control for parents that explains how we provide specialist services and also make all universal services accessible.	<p>variety of ways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Family Information Service provides information and advice about all services for children and young people including access to inclusive universal and specialist services via the phone or on line and has a dedicated post of Developmental Worker to provide specialist information to families with disabled children. • A Directory of Services for disabled children & their families is published and up dated on a regular basis (last one in six months) This directory is being moved to a dedicated on line portal for parents which will be launched in September . • A Link newsletter is sent directly to parents of disabled children three times per year. • Regular outreach advice work is undertaken to key locations, such as special schools, parent support groups, Children’s Centres and family events.
4. Parents and carers in our area have access to transparent information on decisions made about their child, and have access to mechanisms for providing feedback	<p>Parents and carers of disabled children are provided with clear and transparent information about their child and any decisions made about them. This is reflected across the schools and education statementing processes as well as when the child and family are involved with social care. Key decisions about school and care placements are always confirmed in writing with a named officer to contact. Parents and carers use the Parent Partnership Service, The Black Families Support Group as well as the complaints procedures to give feedback.</p>
5. Disabled children and their families are involved in the planning, commissioning and monitoring of services in our area, including both specialist and universal services.	<p>Our Parent Carers Forum is involved in the strategic planning and commissioning for disabled children’s services and has provided feedback for monitoring. They were consulted about the Children & Young People’s Plan priorities and how these should be taken forward. So far they have been included in the evaluation of commissions only for specialist services for disabled children due to their time constraints. Consultation with children and young people has been wide around the CYPP, including children at special schools and those young people involved with YAGA (see item 7)</p>
6. Our Parent Carer Forum is instrumental in developing and reviewing services in our area and promoting choice and control for parents.	<p>Our Parent Carers Forum has developed into a strong independent body supported by the Care Network. They have representatives who are members of the Disabled Children’s Strategy Group and have been represented on task groups such as for implementing Aiming High for Disabled Children. They are trying to widen their membership by making regular contact with other parents groups in the area. They have taken part in service reviews such as for the wheelchair service and occupational therapy.</p>
7. We actively include disabled children and young people in any	<p>Our participation strategy includes investing in work with primary and secondary school to involve them in service development. This has included a group of disabled young people</p>

Objective	Current Position
<p>decisions made about them and the services that they access, that might affect them.</p>	<p>presenting their ideas to the Secondary Parliament along with other groups of young people. A group for disabled young people to contribute to service planning and review has been supported called YAGA (Youth Action to Gain Access). A group of young people has been formed to review Equality Impact Assessments and other services.</p> <p>In relation to individual decisions about disabled children's lives they are always included in discussions/decisions e.g. through the review process for children in care.</p>
<p>8. Parents in our area benefit from our Parent Partnership Service, which is able to provide impartial advice and support to parents of disabled children and young people</p>	<p>We have a Parent Partnership service which provides advice and information to parents of children with special needs. This service has recently been moved to be managed with the Family Information Service.</p>
<p>9. Our staff receive both disability equality training and training to ensure that they have core competencies to work with disabled children.</p>	<p>Equalities training is available to all staff via the corporate training programme and promoted to all new staff as part of their induction programme.</p> <p>An audit of training needs was undertaken in 2009 at the beginning of the Aiming High for Disabled Children campaign. Core Competency training for staff working with disabled children is now available through Children's Services.</p> <p>The council also provides a range of 'Bite-size' specialist training for staff working with disabled children.</p> <p>Specialist training to support children with complex health needs is undertaken by Lifetime.</p> <p>Providers of short breaks are responsible for ensuring that their staff are in receipt of adequate training and evidence a commitment to developing their skills & Knowledge. There are robust commissioning & monitoring processes in place to ensure that providers of short breaks provide adequate training for their staff.</p>

Objective	Current Position
<p>10. We have produced a short break services statement that has been drawn up in partnership with disabled children and their parents and have made it widely available.</p>	<p>We have to produce a short break services statement that has been drawn up in partnership with disabled children and their parents for September 2011. We are on target to achieve this. We have consulted with parents about the process and are undertaking a further consultation with parents and children to inform our needs analysis for the commissioning of short break services from April 2012.</p>
<p>11. We have regard to the provision of services suitable for disabled children, when assessing the sufficiency and supply of childcare in their area</p>	<p>We published our 3 yearly Child Care Sufficiency Report this year (on website). In producing the needs analysis for this report we specifically targeted parents of disabled children e.g. those we knew received Disabled Living Allowance to receive the questionnaire. These parents found it significantly more difficult to find child care and an action plan has been drawn up to improve the options available to them.</p>
<p>12. We are working together with disabled young people and adult service providers in our area to ensure a smooth transition to adult services for disabled young people preparing for adulthood.</p>	<p>Our Transitions Board which is a multi-agency partnership provides effective leadership to promote smooth transitions from children's to adults services. Protocols are in place and working well in most areas. Information packs about transitions are available for disabled young people and their parents. Young People have been involved in making a DVD for other young people going through transition.</p>