

Disabled Children's Project Board

Purpose of Group: To develop and deliver an integrated strategy to maximise the life opportunities for disabled children, young people and their families.

Strategy 2011-2014: "A full part in community life"

Objectives

1. To give families greater control in meeting the needs of their children and young people
2. To create greater choice for families of disabled children and young people
3. Secure quality information services for families
4. Enable timely access to appropriate support, especially at transitions
5. Strengthen capability and confidence of services to meet the needs of disabled children and young people, to promote their independence and to raise their aspirations

Action Plan: September 2011- March 2013: Integrated plan structured around the 5 objectives with goals, tactics, impact measures, lead officers and timeline.

Key areas/ issues of activity for the next 12 months:

1. Development of Personal Budgets

Local Authorities are expected to give parents the opportunity for direct control over support for their family, including the option of 'personal budgets' by 2014. Two pilots using personalised budgets are currently being trialled and an evaluation of these pilots will be published in December. A Personal Budgets Project is being created to deliver the commissioning, operational and cultural changes required to make personal budgeting sustainable.

2. Short Breaks

Local Authorities are required to publish a short breaks statement by October 1st 2011 setting out what services are available for families. There are still issues about what is available and who is eligible for short breaks and these will be dealt with over the next 9 months.

3. Transition

The action plan focuses in particular on the transition to adulthood for disabled young people, preparing them for adult life, work and independence. We will be completing a first 'destination report' for young people leaving statutory education; increase local work related education and training provision and further develop established provision in local colleges and voluntary organisations.

4. Assessment and Care Planning

The Government plans to introduce a single assessment process and 'Education, Health and Care Plan'. Solihull Council has applied to be a pathfinder but regardless of whether this is successful will be working with partners and parents to further develop assessment and care planning.