



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE MEETING Date 17th July 2007

Report of the Corporate Director for Children & Young People

Every Disabled Child Matters.
An analysis of Derby Children's Trust's ability to achieve the charter objectives.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 The Cabinet Member for Children and Young people is asked to approve that Derby City sign up to the "Every Disabled Child Matters" charter.
- 1.2 The Disabled Children's Strategic Planning Group recommends that the partnership signal its commitment to disabled children and their parents and carers by becoming signatories to the Charter.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Council for Disabled Children (CDC), an influential government supported lobby group, have developed a Local Authority / Children's Trust Charter for disabled children, their families and carers. The charter was launched at the Local Government Association & the Association of Directors of Social Services Conference in October 2006.

The Charter was developed as a response to a CDC analysis of national Local Authority Children's Plans in 2006.

The CDC found that priority for childcare services for disabled children in national plans were lacking. The CDC believes that national children plans fail to reflect important new duties on local authorities created by the Childcare Act 2006. The Charter is an attempt by the CDC to ensure that disabled children are on local Children's Trusts 'radars'.

- 2.2 There are risks to the children's partnership both in becoming a signatory or remaining outside the group of Authorities who have already committed.

Derby is justifiably proud of its achievements in relation to services for disabled children. We have received national recognition from peers for our work. Many of the 26 Local Authorities / partnership which are already signatories have not developed their services for this group of children to the extent that Derby has.

What the group of signatories appear to have in common that Derby does not yet have is a Register / database which meets both of the future planning and timely

information requirements as expressed in items 1 and 2 of the Charter.

Most local authorities, who have key worker services developed, have projects which have restrictions to a specific number of children worked with. Some have invested in two or three specific keyworker or co-ordinator posts. Whilst this would be a welcome development it still does not meet the requirement for a 'keyworker' for every child with more than one specialist service.

The Disabled Children's Strategic Planning Group, a multi agency /disciplinary partnership group, considered issues related to the Charter at the last meeting. The group discussed the likelihood in achieving each objective and the risks entailed in signing up. The group consensus was to support Derby becoming signatory to the Charter. The group have agreed that the work plan for the group for 2007/8 should be to draw up an implementation plan to steer and monitor achievement of the objectives within the Charter.

It has also asked that consideration is given to utilise LAA funding for the shortfall in our provision to ensure that objective 1 is achieved.

There is the potential for negative publicity should Derby fail to achieve all the objectives in the Charter. Conversely we may receive negative publicity for claiming to be a trailblazer in our services for disabled children but failing to sign up. There is the potential for a local parent to access the EDCM CDC website and take up the advice and guidance offered by their media pack.

The Local Authorities and Partnerships who have signed up have taken the opportunity to publicise it on Council web sites and publications. They have made a commitment to disabled children and their families in their locality that the partnership intends to work to improve partnership services for this group of children. The Derby Children's Trust may sign up to the Charter in the spirit of commitment to parent carers, recognising that we may not achieve all the requirements by January 2008 but that we will ensure that we know where if any our shortfall will occur and that we are committed to working with parents towards achieving the objectives in full.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.0 There are nine specific commitments contained within the Charter. The Charter itself is attached as Appendix 2 to this report. An assessment of our position against the nine commitments is shown in the following paragraphs.

3.1 **1) We know how many disabled children live in our area and that all agencies in our area are planning services on the basis of this knowledge.**

Currently there is a special needs database in the CYP department which provides some information on children with a statement of educational needs; Derby City PCT maintains a database on health needs of children. Neither can talk to each other and there are information sharing difficulties. Neither the PCT nor CYPD are able to provide useful qualitative intelligence data to enable

planning of services.

This is the objective, which provides Derby's Children's Trust with the highest risk of non-compliance with the standards for January 2008. The LA's/ Trusts which will achieve this objective are those with a 'Disabled Children's Register' a 'Children Act '89' requirement (typically called an Index with parent carer stakeholder take-up) run by a co-ordinator and admin support providing up-to-date information about services and resources to parent members.

Derby cannot achieve the requirement without recurrent revenue funding for a similar post and an enhancement of the parent information requirement.
Detailed in financial section below.

3.2 2) There is a key worker service in our authority providing support to families who are accessing more than one specialist service.

Currently the Integrated Disabled Children's Service is engaged in work with the Specialist Teaching and Educational Psychology Service and the Children's Hospital to consider how a specialist Lead Professional for the most complex disabled children can be progressed further. It is a priority area of work and will be a significant central government objective in future PAF targets. We will be able to make some progress in this area prior to January 2008.

Further opportunities to enhance our key worker service will be provided when the new central government funds are announced in autumn 2007 as this is one of the government's target areas. *We can indicate improvement and indicate that a key worker (LP) service is offered.*

This is likely to be an area that the announced new funds for disabled children expected to be available 2008/9 will target. New funding will be required to achieve the level required in the objective.

3.3 3) Our parent partnership service is sufficiently resourced to provide advice, information and support to parents of disabled children and young people who have been excluded from school.

Whilst Derby's parent partnership Service Manager would state that he would make good use of new funding, the service provided is of good quality and supports parents well.

This objective will be achieved.

3.4 4) Parents and carers in our area are getting accurate and timely information and advice on the full range of services available to them and their families.

Work is being carried out by the IDCS to provide information, which is accessible in document, electronic, newsletter and CD formats. This information is accessible to parents and learning disabled children. The information bank will include provision for disabled children across the three sectors in Derby.

The Children's Information Service will provide information on universal services in Derby.

This objective will be achieved

Enhanced information provision e.g. information packs; regular mailings of new opportunities; contact point by 'phone for parents to ring for advice and information, will be offered through the achievement of objective 1.

- 3.5 **5) All staff have received both disability equality training and training to ensure that they have core competencies to work with disabled children; relevant staff have received specialist training and other staff know how to contact them for information.**

The majority if not all specialist staff who work with disabled children have training in work with disabled children. Many of the in-house training courses for social care staff include work with disabled children.

A conference or one- day workshop style course could meet the requirements for non-specialist staff members training needs.

This objective can be achieved fully if commissioned from the Children's social care Training Section at a relatively small cost.

- 3.6 **6) Disabled children are involved in drawing up our Disability Equality Scheme and also in monitoring its effectiveness in eliminating discrimination.**

The PCT has an Assistant Director in post with this requirement in his brief and he has linked with the strategic group. This is a strategic commissioning objective and can be met by the Partnership and the CYPD within current commissioning division resources.

This objective can be achieved

- 3.7 **7) Our Children and Young People's Plan explains how we will provide specialist services and also make all universal services including extended schools and children's centres accessible to disabled children.**

The review of the CYP's Plan includes reference to provision and needs of disabled children. The partnership has recognised that the next plan, due to be written in spring 2008, should be more inclusive of disabled children. The new Disabled Children's Strategic Planning Group will commission a short life-working group to ensure that the plan reflects this objective.

This objective will be achieved in the new CYPP timescales.

- 3.8 **8) Our Local Area Agreement includes targets for the level of service to be delivered to families with a disabled child.**

Again this is an objective which can be achieved with departmental commitment. Any LAA under spends in the current year could give a possible solution for the shortfall in requirements to achieve the Charter objectives.

3.9 **9) Disabled children and families are involved in the planning, commissioning and monitoring of services in our area, including both specialist and universal services.**

Disabled children and their families have been involved in planning and design of the IDCS and the Light House building. Parent carers and a representative from Umbrella are members of the IDCS Partnership Management Board. Representation from the voluntary sector including Umbrella, are members of the following groups:

Disabled Children's Strategic Planning Group
Disabled Children's reference group
Play Strategy
Children's Fund

Disabled children are involved in various CYPD groups in which children participate including the Children's Forum.
Disabled young people are involved in the 'Total Respect' training for staff.
Disabled children have taken part in interviews for school nurses in Ivy House School.

Involvement of disabled children and their families in Universal service commissioning and planning is an area in which the children's partnership and locality management board can address to achieve this objective.

This objective can be achieved.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 To create an action plan based on the charter for implementation by the Disabled Children's Strategic Planning Group and await achievement prior to signing.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 **Objective 1**
Information budget & stationery £ 1000
Co-ordinator 0.5 wte scale 4 admin post £ 12500
£15,500 p.a.
in addition,
Set up costs, including IT and recruitment £ 2000
With the proviso that the post is managed within an existing structure and no management costs are incurred.
- 1.2 **Objective 5**
Workshop / conference on disability awareness and safeguarding of disabled children
£3500

Legal

- 2.1 There are no direct legal implications although the adoption of the Charter in derby will assist the Children's Trust in meeting its responsibilities for disabled children, their families and carers.

Personnel

- 3.1 The recruitment of co-ordinator post will be required to fully meet the requirement of objective 1.

Equalities impact

- 4.1 The Charter and subsequent implementation of objectives will enhance equality of opportunities and life choices for this disadvantaged group of children and their parent carers.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 Disabled children and disabled children from BME communities are a priority group in the CYP Plan.
LPSA improved access to activities for disabled children
'Aiming Higher' may 07 outlines the intended performance indicators from 2008: the plans outlined in response to the objectives in this charter will assist CYP partnership to reach the required targets.

(Charter to be added)