

Addendum January 2010

CYP Scrutiny Briefing Paper **Integrated Services – Children with Disabilities**

Short Breaks, Pooled Budgets and Independent Living

Short Breaks – further update and information

A summary of the short break provision is set out in the report to Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel date 19th November 2009. At the meeting on this date further information was requested regarding the short break opportunities available to disabled children and their families.

With Plymouth we have a core provision of specialist short break provision available to families whose children have complex and significant disability. This core provision has continued for families. In addition to this support, Aiming High for Disabled Children (2007) has challenged us to broaden the scope of short break opportunities by increasing access to mainstream play and leisure opportunities through inclusion workers, training for staff and the provision of advice and equipment. As a result, more disabled children, young people and their families have been able to benefit from a short break.

Examples of new short break developments are provided below:

Inclusion Works (previously called PICCS)

Inclusion Works is providing support to families by enabling children and young people to attend short break and leisure activities. Families are able to refer themselves directly to the service and staff will work with the family to find out what type of activity the young people would like to join and identify the additional support that will be needed.

Generally families receive 10-15 days a year (or equivalent) and the support that is provided varies according to the individual. For many young people, an inclusion worker is identified to work with the young person to enable them to join in with the activity. Young people are attending football, Brownies, dancing groups, kayaking, as well as holiday clubs.

Importantly, Inclusion Work also works with the activities providers to increase their ability to meet the needs of disabled children and young people within their own organisation. Training, advice and support is provided to staff within the organisations. As a result, some of the young people have been able to successfully continue attending their activities without additional staff as the organisations have been able to allocate the right support from their own volunteers or workers.

93 children and their families have accessed short breaks through Inclusion Works this year.

No Limits Youth Club

The aim of the project is to develop a Youth Service provision on the Wood View Campus that will be accessed by up to 12 disabled young people from across the city. This is a joint venture between the Youth Service and Children's Integrated Disability Service. It will provide disabled young people an opportunity for social interaction and to have fun in a safe environment. In addition, it is supporting the Youth Service staff to develop skills and confidence in meeting the needs of disabled young people.

The project has been running since the end of October and there are currently 6 young people regularly accessing the service.

Short Breaks Small Grants

The Short Break grant has enabled us to develop a small grant scheme (in partnership with the Parent Reference Group). This allows small voluntary organisations the opportunity to have start up funding to develop short break activities. A number of grants have been made including support for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder conditions. Some examples are:

- Welcome to Wednesdays ASD after school club
- National Autistic Society ASD youth club
- Cool Blue Swimming for young people with ASD
- Parents Again: grandparents support group

Pooled budgets

There are no pooled budget arrangements within Children's Integrated Disability Service. The framework for considering a pooled budget (Section 75 or Section 31) has been reviewed by the Aiming High Strategic Oversight Group and this may be an approach to consider in the future.

We have a range of joint funding agreements between Children's Services and Health for disabled children. These include:

- Support packages for children with complex health needs or complex learning disabilities.
- Provision of Communication Aids.
- Specialist Therapy role within schools
- Children's Equipment Store.

Independent Living

The choices available for disabled young people to live independently are considered as part of their transition planning from 14 years old into adulthood. Many young people will be considered for Supported Living as a positive way of maximising independence. There are a range of providers available who provide supported living services to disabled young people in Plymouth. These currently include:

- Michael Batt Foundation
- Yourway
- Regard
- The Dove Project
- Lifeways Community Care
- Colebrook Society
- Durnford Society
- Pilgrim House
- Emtill Project
- Candle
- Havencare
- Mencap
- Plymouth Independent Living

Further work will be required to consider the independent living support needs of young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder in the future.

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