

# 2011 Strategic Review – May 2011

## Children's Disability Services in Medway



### Introduction



Important changes are happening all over the country for children with disabilities and their families.



With all of the big changes affecting disabled children and their families, both Medway Council with Medway PCT decided to review its disability services to children in Medway.



3 big changes are

### 1. Changing expectations



Families want more choice, control and independence over their lives.



As expectations change, families want to have their support in many more different ways than before.

### 2. Changing Government policy



The Government is

- Changing the way the NHS is run
- Introducing personal budgets for children (by 2014)
- Introducing a single health and education plan for all young disabled people (up to 25 years)
- Changing the way education and support for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) is met.



### 3. Making sure all services are value for money and deliver what children and families want



Local Authorities and Primary Care Trusts (who buy health services) are checking that the services are:

- What people want
- Able to meet the changing expectations and needs of families.
- Giving families more choice, control and independence over their lives.

### How did the Strategic Review take place?



The review spoke to:

- People whose job it is to provide and support children with disabilities and their families in Medway.
- Families from the Medway Parent and Carers Forum

### What did the review find out (conclusions)?



#### Conclusion 1 - Planning and buying services



- Medway is a small area where people know each other so there are good informal links between agencies
- People know what a service can do for children with disabilities and their families - rather than what children, young people and their families want



- Traditional ways of planning and buying health services for children with disabilities in Medway are not child-centred.



- There is no single big, clear plan across Medway for buying services for children with disabilities.



## Conclusion 2 - Information



- Sharing of information about children with disabilities between agencies is, with some exceptions, not as good as it should be.



- People in Medway do not know the 'Aiming High for Disabled Children Core offer'



## Conclusion 3- Parents



- The amount and quality of information that parents get in Medway varies a lot.



- The support that parents are given to 'speak up' for themselves varies in a lot.



## Overall conclusion

There needs to be a radical (very big) change in the way Disabled Children's services are planned, bought and carried out in Medway.

The review recommended that lots of things happen in Medway to improve the lives of disabled children and their families.

The recommendations from the review now follow.



**Recommendation 1 – Services need to change how they work to focus more on the need of the individual child, young person and family**



**Actions to make this happen?**



1. Introduce personal budgets for children.



2. Introduce national minimum standards for information for children with disabilities and their families



3. Review and improve the current 'short breaks scheme'.



4. Restart the Early Support Programme.



**Recommendation 2 - People that work directly with children with disabilities and their families need to work together more (integrated front-line working)**



**Actions to make this happen?**



1. Services will be supported to change to meet the needs of individual disabled children – rather than the needs and wishes of what a service can do.



2. The new Medway Child Development Centre will not just be a base for one service but will be a place where



people and organisations supporting disabled children and their families can work together

- Centres having one agency using it will be reviewed



### Recommendation 3 - There needs to be more working together between services (integrated process systems)



#### Actions to make this happen?



- The ways services share information will be reviewed and improvements made.



- A big workforce plan will show how Medway will have a skilled workforce supporting disabled children and their families to live as independently as possible.



### Recommendation 4 - There needs to be a big plan that co-ordinates how services and support for disabled children and their families is planned and bought (Integrated strategy)



#### Actions to make this happen?



- A single, big commissioning plan will be made to co-ordinate the way that services for disabled children and their families are planned and bought in Medway.

The big plan will cover:



- Education
- Health
- Social care
- How to make the best use of resources (such as buildings, money, time)



## Recommendation 5 - Better systems are needed to check how well Medway is doing to support disabled children and their families (Interagency governance)



### Actions to make this happen?



1. The way that Medway checks how well (performance) services are working for children with disabilities and their families will be reviewed and improved.



2. A Board for Disabled Children will be set up – this will replace the Aiming High for Disabled Children Partnership Board,

## For more information



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