

# Briefing Paper for the Health and Wellbeing Board

## June 2013

### A summary of the links between the Disabled Children's Charter and ongoing work around Special Educational Needs within Blackpool

The proposed legislation in the Children and Families Bill only relates to Special Educational Needs (SEN). However, locally we have a commitment to also include disability wherever possible, for instance in the Local Offer.

It is important to note that the SEN and disabled populations are separate, but many children/ young people with a disability also have SEN (the government estimate it is 75%). Examples of the overlap include those with significant learning needs, autism, and significant physical disabilities. Young people with a disability and no SEN would include those with no learning needs who are diabetic, severely asthmatic or who have had cancer at some stage in their lives. A student with SEN but possibly not a disability would include those with mild dyslexia.

The 7 commitments in the Charter are being covered by ongoing work around SEN in the following ways. There will be need for some other work in some areas.

- 1. We have detailed and accurate information on the disabled children, young people and their families living in our area, and provide public information on how we plan to meet their needs*

It is difficult to identify every disabled young person because the definition is self defined (e.g. for some disabilities schools will only know if the parent/ child tells them). However, there will be close links between services in terms of the new legislation and this will help define the population. The Local Offer will give clear indications to parents and young people regarding how their needs will be met by statutory services.
- 2. We engage directly with disabled children and young people and their participation is embedded in the work of our Health and Wellbeing Board.*

Currently work is ongoing to input children and young peoples' views into the Local Offer via a series of videotaped focus groups. This will be an ongoing process because the offer is being viewed as a dynamic process and not a static document.
- 3. We engage directly with parent carers and their participation is embedded in the work of our Health and Wellbeing Board*

Likewise, work is ongoing with parents regarding the Local Offer (a major conference, focus groups and Forum meetings) and this will continue
- 4. We set clear strategic outcomes for our partners to meet in relation to disabled children, young people and their families, monitor progress towards achieving them and hold each other to account*

In part this will be achieved via joint commissioning but more robust procedures will also need to be built in. The joint commissioning may not include those with a disability, but no SEN (to be decided) so improved processes will be required to meet this commitment.
- 5. We promote early intervention and support smooth transitions between children and adult services for disabled children and young people*

There is ongoing work on transitions as part of the planning around the SEN changes. It is unlikely that cross professional planning will be required for those children and young people with a disability but no SEN.

6. *We work with key partners to strengthen integration between health, social care and education services, and with services provided by wider partners*

This will be part of the work around more unified service delivery / joint commissioning. Once again those who are disabled, but have no SEN will need to also be considered.

7. *We provide cohesive governance and leadership across the disabled children and young people's agenda by linking effectively with key partners*

This will be a key part of the duties for the local authority and CCG around SEN under the Children and Families Bill. The Health and Wellbeing Board could be a key part of these arrangements as they develop, if this is the decision of the Board.