

CABINET	Paper No. 7(2)(b)
Meeting date: 5th May 2009	
From: Corporate Director – Children’s Services	

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The report outlines the recommendations of a task and finish review of the development of a strategy for children with disabilities in Cumbria.
- 1.2 The review notes the good work being carried out to transform short breaks for children with disabilities and that through working in partnership with NHS Cumbria and engaging the third sector, resources are being used effectively to help drive and deliver this project.
- 1.3 The report makes a number of recommendations that would ensure success of the project.

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 The strategy for children with disabilities has the potential to transform the lives of disabled children, their parents and their families, and will thus contribute to a number of the Council’s strategic objectives.
- 2.2 Additional funding has been agreed by the DCSF from April 2009 – March 2011, to increase the volume and quality of short breaks for severely disabled children, and the DOH is also allocating additional funds to PCTs to increase the number of short breaks to children and young people with complex health needs.
- 2.3 The DCSF and DOH have made no commitment to continue funding after March 2011, and this has to be taken into consideration in planning.
- 2.4 Aiming High for Disabled Children, and in particular Transforming Short Breaks emphasises the importance of all services meeting their responsibilities under the DDA, and ensuring that all children are welcomed and supported in community and universal settings. This will be a key element of implementation.

3.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

That Cabinet:

- 3.1 Note the report of the Scrutiny review
- 3.2 Accept the recommendations of the review.

4.0 **BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Each of the Scrutiny Panel's recommendations is addressed in turn in the following paragraphs.

4.2 Recommendation 1

That Cumbria County Council and NHS Cumbria ensure that parental involvement is a feature of all stages of the process of transforming short breaks in Cumbria.

Response

This recommendation is accepted. Children's Services see parental and young people's involvement in all stages as essential to the successful delivery of this project. Parent groups will be established in each locality to ensure that local priorities are identified, and a children and young people's 'vision, will be developed with them as part of the implementation of the project.

4.3 Recommendation 2

That Cumbria County Council and NHS Cumbria develop a strong focus on publicity, both when developing and implementing transforming short breaks in Cumbria, and that this should be done in a number of different ways using a variety of mediums.

A communications team, comprising staff from the county council and NHS Cumbria has been established as part of the project team to ensure that all possible methods of information sharing are identified and used. A dedicated website page has now been established on the County Council website to hold up to date information.

4.4. Recommendation 3

That information regarding the quality of the services provided by Cumbria County Council and NHS Cumbria is gathered and collated, and is then used to help inform services improvements and changes as part of the process.

Information about the quality of all commissioned services including those provided by the County Council, NHS Cumbria, and the Third Sector, will be collected as part of the evaluation and monitoring process, and will support discussions with providers around any improvements needed. This

information will be gathered from a range of sources, including children, young people and parents.

4.5 Recommendation 4

That an update on the progress of this work be brought back to Scrutiny in 6 months, to enable the Panel to decide whether it is appropriate to conduct a further review into the progress that has been made.

This recommendation is accepted and an update will be scheduled for September 2009.

5.0 **OPTIONS**

5.1 Cabinet is able to accept or amend the recommendations made by the Task and Finish group of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel.

6.0 **CONCLUSION**

6.1 The Scrutiny Panel makes some helpful recommendations that will be represented in the implementation plan to Transform Short Breaks.

Moira Swann
Corporate Director, Children's Services

20 April 2009

APPENDICES

No Appendices

Electoral Division(s):

**** Please remove whichever option is not applicable***

Executive Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny?
If so, give details below.

Yes*	
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Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?

	No*	
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Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?

	No*	
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N.B. If an executive decision is made, then a decision cannot be implemented until the expiry of the eighth working day after the date of the meeting – unless the decision is urgent and exempt from call-in and the Head of Member Services and Scrutiny has obtained the necessary approvals.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS ***[including Local Committees]***

No previous relevant decisions

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

This report is in direct response to a Report from the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel March 2009

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers

RESPONSIBLE CABINET MEMBER

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