

**Wiltshire Council**

**Health and Wellbeing Board**

**25 September 2014**

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**Subject: Disabled Children's Charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards**

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**Executive Summary**

This paper provides an update on the progress in meeting the commitments the Health and Wellbeing Board made by signing the Disabled Children's Charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards in October 2013.

**Proposal(s)**

It is recommended that the Board note progress.

**Reason for Proposal**

N/A

**Julia Cramp**

**Associate Director (Joint with CCG) Commissioning, Performance and School Effectiveness, Children's Services, Wiltshire Council**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. This paper lists the seven commitments made by the Health and Wellbeing Board by signing the Disabled Children's Charter and provides an update on progress in meeting each commitment. A copy of the Charter is available [online](#).

**Background**

2. Nationally, children and young people with disabilities access services across multiple agencies, and often experience poor integration across health, social care and education services and a lack of coordinated commissioning. This results in poor outcomes, significant inequalities and considerable distress for children and families.
3. The Disabled Children's Charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards has been created by Every Disabled Child Matters (EDCM) and The Children's Trust, Tadworth and was developed to support Health and Wellbeing Boards meet their responsibilities towards children and young people with disabilities, specialist educational needs (SEN), and health needs.
4. Health and Wellbeing Boards were encouraged to sign the Charter. The Charter sets out a public vision for improving the outcomes experienced by children and young people with SEN and disabilities.
5. The Charter is aligned with current SEND legislation changes. The Children and Families Act contains clauses for promoting integration between special educational provision, health and social care provision, developing joint commissioning arrangements, keeping education and care provision under review, and producing a Local Offer for children and young people with SEN and disabilities.
6. These new duties on local authorities have a clear relevance to the functions of the Health and Wellbeing Board to encourage integrated working, promote close working and undertake a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) to inform the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS). This is particularly important as Clinical Commissioning Groups will be under a new duty to secure specific health services included within Education, Health and Care Plans for children and young people with SEN and Disabilities.

7. The Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board signed the Charter on 14 October 2013.

### **Progress against the commitments made by the Health and Wellbeing Board**

#### **Commitment 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**

8. Detailed and accurate information on the disabled children and young people living in our area is held by the SEND Service and is reflected in the Joint Strategic Assessment.
9. In accordance with the new statutory duty, on 1 September 2014, Wiltshire Council launched its Local Offer website. The Local Offer is a comprehensive resource for the public and professionals about what is on offer for children and young people with SEND in Wiltshire. Unlike many other local authorities that have produced a directory of services, Wiltshire's Local Offer is needs led so information relevant to the user is displayed based on their choices.
10. Linked to the Local Offer, the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPCC) website provides detailed information on services available including short breaks and leisure activities and the Short Breaks Statement provides details of how Wiltshire Council, working with partners, plans to meet the needs for short breaks.

#### **Commitment 2: We engage directly with disabled children and young people and their participation is embedded in the work of our Health and Wellbeing Board**

11. Disabled children and young people are routinely consulted with and their participation influences service development and redesign. For example, the Council's new SEND Service was developed based on feedback from children and young people with SEND and also feedback from parent carers. The new service has more front line staff to support children and young people and their families. The participation and engagement of disabled children and young people is supported by a dedicated worker in the Council's Voice and Influence Team.

#### **Commitment 3: We engage directly with parent carers and their participation is embedded in the work of our Health and Wellbeing Board**

12. Parent carers are involved in all of Wiltshire Council's strategic groups, reviews and projects relating to services for children and young people with SEND via Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPCC). In addition WPCC, in collaboration with Wiltshire Council and other partners holds regular consultation, participation and information sharing events for parent carers. The partnership working between WPCC and Wiltshire Council has been recognised nationally as best practice.

**Commitment 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**

13. All Wiltshire Council contracts for services for children and young people with SEND have clear outcomes identified and these are reported on and reviewed regularly to monitor progress and ensure services are continually improving. WPCC are involved in the service design, tender evaluation and monitoring of all these contracts. Service providers have a contractual commitment to seek feedback from children and young people and their families and demonstrate how this is used to develop the service. E.g. Children and young people with SEND were involved in setting questions and interviewing candidates for the Parent Partnership Service provided by Action for Children.

**Commitment 5: We promote early intervention and support smooth transitions between children and adult services for disabled children and young people**

14. Working with children and young people and parent carers, Wiltshire Council has developed a 'My Support Plan' which sits below the statutory Education, Health and Carer Plan. This provides a framework for early help for children and young people with SEND.
15. Wiltshire Council has invested in SEND Lead Workers who coordinate support for children and young people. From January 2014 the service is moving to providing a greater emphasis on holistic service provision including support to settings to provide early intervention rather than escalation to specialist services.
16. Wiltshire Council has re-structured operational services for children and young people with a disability. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 onwards young people will transition to an adult service when they have reached a point of stability rather than because of their date of birth. It is anticipated that transition should happen by a young adult's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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

17. The development of the SEND service in 2014 has brought together the Children and Young People's Disability Teams (social care) and the SEN team into one team. The Associate Director for Commissioning, Performance and School Effectiveness for Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire NHS CCG is a joint post and officers from both organisations routinely work together in multi-agency groups. E.g. Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire NHS CCG officers are currently working together on the joint re-commissioning of Children's Health Services from five providers to a single contract. The new service will be closely aligned to the SEND Service ensuring families receive seamless support.

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

18. Wiltshire Council and the CCG work closely with a range of key partners and have a joint governance structure for overseeing services for children and young people with SEND. This includes a multi-agency Disability and SEN Group which is a sub group of the Children's Trust Commissioning Executive. The Disability and SEN Group meets quarterly and involves parent carer representatives and a representative from the Children and Families Voluntary Sector Forum.

**Conclusion**

19. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the progress made against the commitments within the Disabled Children's Charter.

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Report Author: Susan Tanner, Head of Commissioning and Joint Planning,  
Children's Services, Wiltshire Council

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