



# Aiming High in Nottinghamshire

## DCATCH - Disabled Children's Access to Childcare

**BULLETIN - JANUARY 2010**

Nottinghamshire County Council has been awarded Aiming High Pathfinder status by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, (DCSF), and funding until March 2011 to support working parents of disabled children, and those attending a vocational training course or returning to work.

Working with disabled children and their parents, the DCATCH project provides a fantastic opportunity for the Local Authority to work with families to develop new and innovative ways of improving childcare services for disabled children and young people.

### The Brokerage Role

Ruth Manterfield, Brokerage Manager, has already set up several childcare packages and is supporting many other families with their childcare requirements. She initially meets with families to discuss their childcare needs and then arranges individual childcare packages on their behalf. She also completes all project paperwork and remains as a link with the family throughout the project.

### New look DCATCH section on PPS Speak-Up Website

We have been working with the web designers to improve the DCATCH section of the Speak-Up Website. We hope that this is now clearer, easier to get around and better for users. There is a new facility where people can look at our documents and leave comments about them. The site can be found at [www.pps-speakup.org.uk](http://www.pps-speakup.org.uk)

### Joint with Short Breaks

We have been working with the Aiming High Short Breaks Pathfinder team on a joint tendering process to get new approved providers who can support both short breaks and childcare for disabled children, in response to families' requests for consistency of workers.

For further information on DCATCH please contact:-

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### What we've done so far...

- Finalised the Eligibility Criteria
- 68 families (as of 6/1/10) involved in the project for help with their childcare needs
- Consulted with childcare providers about the training they need to better support disabled children
- Attended events and parent groups throughout the county to tell them about our service
- Met with disabled children and young people to gather their views on childcare
- Agreed the hourly rate that parents supported by DCATCH will contribute towards the cost of their childcare (£3.50 per hour)

### Next Steps...

- **Training** - we have commissioned training (which begins January 2010) to support childcare practitioners to increase their understanding of the needs of disabled children
- **Feedback** – we are continuing to gather feedback from parents/carers and children/young people within the DCATCH Project about their childcare packages
- **Awareness** - we aim to make more families and professionals aware of the support available through DCATCH
- **Personal Organisers** – we are developing these for children & young people to use as a record of their day and to plan activities whilst being supported by DCATCH
- **Brokerage** – we will extend the Brokerage role within the Families Information Service (FIS)