

Aiming High for Disabled Children in Nottingham City

April 2009 Newsletter

Dear Reader

This month has been a very exciting and busy time for Nottingham City and the Aiming High Team.

Great News

- I am very pleased to inform you all that on the 31st March 2009, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, informed Nottingham City Council that we had met all nine of the short breaks readiness criteria.
- This now means, subject to continued progress towards achieving the Full Service Offer and as set out in the Short Breaks Implementation Guidance in Aiming High; that we will receive the substantial grant funding to transform our short breaks.
- The Department of Health has also provided NHS Nottingham City with money as well and has allocated this to fund short breaks, community equipment and wheelchair services, and palliative care and end of life services for disabled children and young people.

Parent and Providers Event

- We held an Aiming High Parent and Providers Event on Wednesday 29th April 2009 at Trent Vineyards. This event was an opportunity for parents/carers to share their views and priorities with local and national providers of short breaks services.
- We had about 73 people attend, including 19 parents and 27 potential service providers.



- The event was also an opportunity to hear what we learnt from our stakeholders on the Launch day and show case provider services during the market place sessions.



Useful contacts

Aiming High Short Breaks

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City Parents Forum

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Aiming High Youth Group

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Commissioning New Services

Following the providers event it is proposed that the existing short breaks services commissioned by Nottingham City Council will be decommissioned and services that meet the Full Service Offer (FSO) will be commissioned.

The NHS will also be revising any of their contracts to ensure that health provider's who provide short breaks will also meet the FSO.

- All Providers will now have an opportunity to express an interest in becoming an approved short break provider and details of this process will be released in an advertisement in due course.
- Parents will be asked to assist Nottingham City Council and NHS Nottingham City in developing a short breaks specification and in becoming involved in our commissioning of any new services.

Aiming High Developments and how we are utilising and spending some of the money

- It is proposed that in phase 2 of Nottingham City AHDC programme we will undertake developments in the following areas.
- A revenue and capital finance programme will be developed.

Infrastructure

- We will set out to improve the management infrastructure of our service to take forward the significant increase required in short breaks services.
- This involves employing a new Team Manager post in to the Disabled Children Team to manage the intake of all new referrals.
- Employing a new Team Manager in the Home From Home service to transform this short breaks service.
- We are working on developing a joint commissioning strategy with the NHS and further work is required on this to agree shared funding and pooled or aligned budgets.

- This commissioning process will be managed by a new Disabled Children's Commissioning Manager.
- A Disabled Childrens Direct Payments Officer will also be employed, who will be developing the extension of the existing Direct Payments Scheme.
- We will look to pilot a Individualised budgets project for a small number of children in the Transitions process.

Workforce

- A review of the workforce, in relation to Disabled Children Short Breaks provision shows us that we need to develop our staff skills in a number of health and social care related areas.
- Local partners will be agreeing their wider strategic planning for short break services including those relating to play and youth facilities, as set out in the Nottingham City Children's Plan.
- We are looking to develop our in house short breaks to contribute to meeting the Full Service Offer and improve the quality and flexibility of breaks.
- This will include; an in depth review of overnight residential short breaks provision provided by the City Council (Crocus Fields) and NHS, the Childrens Development Centre short breaks unit (formally known as the Villas).
- There will be a review of our in house Linking services.
- There will be a review of the Home From Home service and developments of 2 new Contract Carers.
- Adaption's will be made to short breaks carer's homes.
- A Transport Task Group will be set up to ensure that transport will feature strongly in all of these plans.

Eligibility / Care Pathway

- The Access to social care services for disabled children and their families' document will be reviewed in phase two with the aim of creating a clear joint Health and Social care access document.

- We will be revising our eligibility / care pathway document, a single assessment pathway and process for the allocation of short breaks.
- We will develop the concept of a short breaks partnership and credit card system, to facilitate greater flexibility for parents and young people in the choice of short breaks from a range of providers.

Core Offer

- We will develop a Local Core Offer of services to our customers for Universal, Targeted and Specialist service provision.
- A task group is in place to manage this development and will now report back to the children and young people's partnership via the Additional needs themed group.
- Youth and Play services will need to develop its workforce and capacity to meet the needs of the 4000 disabled children requiring access to suitable universal and targeted services in Nottingham City.
- The development of extended special school provision will be explored further in partnership with the County Council and Extended Schools service to consider the expansion of the provision of holiday breaks.
- Following feedback from consultation a pilot project will be explored to provide day care for Asian families in partnership with children's centres.
- We will continue to feed back any further developments to you as they occur.

Thank you for your continued support

Yours truly,

Toby Beck