

Disabled Children's Charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards

Health and Well Being Board

8 October 2014

Author:	Integrated Service Manager / Acting Director of Public Health
Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To notify the Health and Wellbeing Board of the new Disabled Children's Charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards. The Charter was created by Every Disabled Child Matters (EDCM) and The Children's Trust, Tadworth.
- 1.2 This report outlines the commitments within the Charter and some key areas in which we are currently meeting the needs of disabled children, young people and their families in Swindon.

2. Recommendations

The Board is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note and comment on the Disabled Children's Charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards (attached at Appendix 1).
- 2.2 Sign up to the Disabled Children's Charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards.
- 2.3 Receive a report from the Children's Trust Board demonstrating compliance with the Charter in twelve months' time.

3. Detail

Background:

- 3.1 The new Disabled Children's Charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards has been developed to support Health and Wellbeing Boards to meet their responsibilities towards children and young people who have disabilities and their families, including those with special educational needs and health conditions. It highlights the need for Health and Wellbeing Boards to give a high level of early priority to joint planning and commissioning for disabled children and young people.
- 3.2 Every Disabled Child Matters (EDCM) is the national campaign to get rights and justice for every disabled child. It is run by four leading organisations working with disabled children and their families. The Children's Trust, Tadworth is the leading UK charity for children with acquired brain injury, multiple disabilities and complex health needs.

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- 3.3 The Charter builds upon earlier EDCM Charters for Local Authorities and Primary Care Trusts, which Swindon Borough Council and Swindon Primary Care Trust have previously signed.
- 3.4 Signatories to the Charter pledge to meet 7 specific commitments within one year of signing. The Charter is included at Appendix 1. A significant amount of work has already taken place in Swindon across the areas outlined in the Charter. Key areas of development include:
- **Integrated Service for Disabled Children and Young People:** The majority of specialist services for disabled children in Swindon have been co-located at the Salt Way Centre since 2008. The Centre acts as a coordinated, accessible and integrated service; providing a central point of referral, information, assessment and delivery of services with a focus on improving outcomes for disabled children, young people and their families.
 - **Early Support Pathway:** Established in 2009 in order to achieve better coordination of services for children who have additional needs aged 0-5. The service provides efficient assessment and access to services across health, education and social care.
 - **Participation:** Swindon has a well-established participation forum for parents and carers of disabled children and young people, Swindon Parents & Carers Group (PAC). This sits alongside Chatterboxes, Swindon's dedicated participation group for disabled young people.
 - **Short breaks:** Short break services in Swindon have been transformed in recent years, following 'Aiming High for Disabled Children' (2008-2011) the government programme to transform services for disabled children, young people and their families.
 - **Children and Families Special Education Needs (SEN) Bill:** Swindon has met the 1st September 2014 deadline to implement the Special Educational Needs and Disability reforms in the Children and Families Act 2014 for children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs and disabilities.
 - **Disabled children have been given priority for the consideration of their needs in the Children and Young People Joint Strategic Needs Assessment currently under development.**
- 3.5 There are different estimates about the number of disabled children and young people depending on, for example, the definition used. The mean percentage of disabled children in English local authorities has been estimated to be between 3% and 5.4% (source: Children and Maternal Health Intelligence Network). This would equate to between 1,396 and 2,512 children experiencing some form of
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disability in Swindon (based on the 2011 census estimate of 46,523 children and young people aged 0-18th birthday).

Why sign the Disabled Children's Charter?

- 3.6 Disabled children, young people and their families are often disproportionately affected by poor integration between health, social care and education services and a lack of coordinated commissioning. This results in additional financial costs, poor outcomes and distress for children and families.
- 3.7 The Disabled Children's Charter campaign highlights the risk that disabled children, young people and their families fall into gaps between services commissioned by new health bodies in the transition to a new system.
- 3.8 EDCM and the Tadworth Children's Trust state that the benefits of signing the Charter include:
- Publicly articulating a vision for improving the quality of life and outcomes for disabled children, young people and their families
 - Understanding the true needs of disabled children, young people and their families in your local area and how to meet them
 - Having greater confidence in targeting integrated commissioning on the needs of disabled children, young people and their families
 - Supporting a local focus on cost-effective and child-centred interventions to deliver long-term impacts
 - Building on local partnerships to deliver improvements to the quality of life and outcomes for disabled children, young people and their families
 - Developing a shared local focus on measuring and improving the outcomes experienced by disabled children, young people and their families
 - Demonstrating how your area will deliver the shared ambitions of the health system set out by the Government in 'Better Health Outcomes For Children and Young People: Our Pledge' for a key group of children and young people

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 Swindon Health and Wellbeing Board could decide not to sign the Charter.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial or procurement implications arising from this report.
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- 5.2 Where further work has been identified in order to meet the commitments of the Charter this will be undertaken within existing staff resource.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.3 There are no direct legal or human rights implications arising directly from this report.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.4 There are positive implications for improving health and wellbeing for disabled children, young people and their families as a result of implementing the requirements of the Charter.

- 5.5 There should be no significant staffing or other implications arising from this report.

Links to One Swindon, Strategic Objectives, Plans and Policies

- 5.6 The Charter commitments are compatible with the priorities set out in One Swindon, 'Living independently, protected from harm, leading healthy lives and making a positive contribution' and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Outcome 1 Every child and young person in Swindon has a healthy start in life

Risk Management

- 5.7 There is a risk that Swindon signs the Charter and is subsequently unable to evidence that it is meeting the commitments. This risk can be mitigated by agreeing a finalised Implementation Plan with agreed accountability and timeframes.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director – Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1: Disabled Children's Charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards.