

## Appendix A

RECOMMENDATIONS	PROGRESS UPDATE AS AT OCTOBER 2010
<p>1.1 Review signposting of services to ensure clear and consistent information is available via both our own information services including the contact centre, schools and via our partner agencies including the PCT</p>	<p>There have been improvements in communication, for example, regular newsletters and a parents/carers website, but greater consistency is still needed. A first draft of an information plan based on the key trigger points where parents/carers require information (including consultation with parents/carers) has been completed using input from professionals. A parent panel to review and finalise this will take place by November 10.</p> <p>In addition the requirements from Together for Disabled Children for robust monitoring and evaluation of all short breaks activity is in place, including completion of reports (LAIMP etc), the incremental release of funding has been dependent on this process. As a result of efficient and approved activity, LBH has been assessed as requiring “low support” from Together for Disabled Children on behalf of the Department for Education.</p>
<p>1.2 The demand of extra services within the Extended Schools programme to be assessed. Provision of inclusive services with mainstream settings to be reviewed together with the expansion of specialist provision via the special schools</p>	<p>A broad range of breaks has taken place in 4 schools/SRPs during Summer holidays 2010 with numbers much higher than previous years. 100 children attended, in addition 20 young people were supported individually to attend the Fiesta Programme who previously have not had the opportunity to.</p> <p>Consolidate and expand disabled children’s multi sports club activities in Hillingdon 2 week long courses were delivered as part of the Fiesta scheme. 9 young people age 11+ attended the Botwell Leisure complex, the same 9 attended Hillingdon Leisure complex (Uxbridge) A multi sports club is continuing at Queensmead Sports Centre and the aim is to start a similar session at Botwell Grn Leisure Centre in Hayes from October 10.</p> <p>Ensure successful delivery of Summer FIESTA programme sports and leisure activities for disabled young people: The FIESTA programme provided a range of activities for young people with disabilities including targeted provision. 140 individual young people with additional needs attended various Fiesta programmes this summer.</p> <p>In addition to the standard programmes on offer to all, the following specialist programmes were available.</p> <p><b>Summer Action Sparks</b></p> <p>13 young people age 12 + attended the programme at Harlington. 15 young people age 12 + attended the programme at Northwood.</p> <p><b>Disability Multi Sport</b></p> <p>9 young people age 11 + attended the programme at Botwell Leisure Complex, the same 9 young people also attended the programme at Hillingdon Leisure Complex (Uxbridge).</p>

	<p>SPARKS provision has been reviewed with a new model of provision being tested. The new Northwood Young People's Centre is piloting age specific provision and Harlington Young People is piloting provision, partnership with the Hillingdon Autistic Carers Association targeted at young people with autism. The model intends to develop 'hub and spoke' style provision with Fountains Mill being the hub facility.</p> <p>Charville Young People's Centre successfully opened in March 2010. Northwood Young People's Centre successfully opened in July 2010. Northwood facilitated Summer Sparks. Both facilities offer services to young people with disabilities with Northwood providing specific and targeted work as part of the SPARKS review pilot.</p>
<p>1.3 To expand the current flexible payment arrangements ensuring that parents/carers can access the types of provision that best suits their needs</p>	<p>The use of direct payments has increased by over 30% in the last 2 years. There have been initial meetings with Adult Social Care, who administer direct payments on behalf of Children's Services. They are currently implementing a range of improved controls around how direct payments are processed as a priority; analysis of the current usage of direct payments will follow once these additional controls have been put in place. In the interim, an exercise will take place analysing which other services (schools activities, residential provision day-time sessions etc) children receiving direct payments are also using.</p> <p>Eligibility criteria, now known as short breaks pathways, have been developed following extensive consultation.</p> <p>Services under development for parent to purchase include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced short breaks in the home service, the new contract with Allied HealthCare to deliver Short Breaks in the Home is in operation, but the numbers of families using the service is disappointing at this stage and remedial actions (for example, an enhanced marketing plan) are in place to address this.</li> <li>• short breaks in the community have been commissioned for delivery by the Hillingdon Play Association, HACS and the Star Club over the Summer holiday period. Initial feedback from parents has been very positive.</li> </ul> <p>childminding/childcare-based short breaks. A range of short breaks and associated support is being delivered through the Childcare and Early Years service amounting to approx 25 children</p>
<p>1.4 Ensure that suitable transport is available to enable all children to access extended school services:</p>	<p>Schools delivering the short break programmes have been provided with additional funding to consider parent's transport needs.</p>

1.5 Provide clear information to all users on appeal processes.	LBH is the commissioner rather than the provider of short breaks in most cases. However when writing up service level agreements all providers are asked to consider and publish their complaints procedures.
1.6 Review management of outreach services to ensure that cover is available when regular workers are absent. Methods of communication to parents to be reviewed	<p>Complete development of first floor of Merrifield Residential Unit : building work is currently underway, on time and on budget, due to be opened November 2010</p> <p>Implement new Disabled Children’s Resource Service to provide more flexible access to services: A manager for the new service has been appointed and an initial list of services to be delivered through the Disabled Children’s Resource service has been developed. Further planning is currently underway</p> <p><b>The outreach service will have an office base in the newly developed first floor of Merrifield House (the centre for the Disabled Children’s Resource Service) which, in turn, will help ensure that cover is available for outreach services when regular workers are absent.</b></p>
1.7 The Fiesta booking process to be reviewed to ensure ease of access for all users	The FIESTA booking process has been further developed to improve access. In addition to an on-line booking system a ‘drop-in’ booking facility was created in the Connexions One-stop Shop at the Civic Centre. The booking process for young people referred to the programme with additional support needs was also developed with a simplified referral tool introduced.
1.8 Further work to be undertaken to ensure that there is a smooth transition between child and adults services in particular for the most needy	Successful bid for funding achieved to commence transition advocacy and participation programme. This will begin autumn 2010 led by Merrifield team manager with newly appointed transition co-ordinator once in post.

## Sustainability

A paper on the sustainability of the Disabled Children’s Strategy after the current Aiming High for Disabled Children grant funding finishes in March 2011 was presented to the Hillingdon Children and Families Trust Board. The Trust Board endorsed the overall direction discussed at the previous meeting in May 10.

Any plans for how the Disabled Children’s Strategy’s sustainability will be maximised can only be firmed-up when the funding in this area for 2011/12 and beyond is known, and this, in turn, will be dependent on the outcomes from the government’s Comprehensive Spending Review and its local ramifications. We therefore anticipate being able to hold a more informed and conclusive discussion about this after October 20<sup>th</sup>

In the interim the Trust supports the recommendations that any available funding be focused on the continued rollout of direct payments, the operation of the Disabled Children’s Resource service from its base at the newly expanding Merrifield House and support to schools to run short breaks activities.

## **Summary**

The outcomes of the Aiming High for Disabled Children funding to provide short breaks for children, young people and their carers has been overwhelmingly positive. Recommendations from the POC report have been included in action plans and there is clear evidence of progress. Parents and young people remain actively involved in the developments and monitoring of the plans.

## **Further development**

Parental feedback from summer activities is still being collated but indicates a high level of satisfaction. Comments include easier access to and a wider range of mainstream activities, increased confidence in trying new experiences and improved relationships within the family. Some areas of development remain : workforce development in some universal services that were unprepared for meeting the needs of disabled children. Parents of children who are in out borough schools expressed concerns that places on the school schemes were taken up very quickly by children attending the school leaving no capacity for those not on roll.