

## Children and Families Advisory Panel

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012

### Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability

*Fliss Dickinson*

## Vision – Green Paper

A radically different system that:

The Green Paper proposes:

supports better life outcomes  
for young people

a new approach to identifying SEN

a single assessment process and  
'Education, Health and Care Plan'

gives parents more  
confidence by giving them  
control

a local offer of all services  
available

parents to have the option of a  
personal budget by 2014

transfers power to front-line  
professionals and to local  
communities

giving parents a real choice of  
school

greater independence to the  
assessment of children's needs

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## 1. Early identification and assessment

- robust system of **early checks** for children involving education, health and social care
- reform of the statutory SEN assessment and statement system to create a **single assessment process and an 'Education, Health and Care Plan'**
- **local pathfinders** to test the assessment and plan proposals exploring whether the voluntary and community sector could coordinate assessment and bring greater independence to the process

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## 2. Giving parents control

- **make services more transparent for families**, with local services publishing a 'local offer' of what is available
- strengthen the choice and control given to parents, with the option of **personal budgets** by 2014 for those with Education, Health and Care Plans
- **support families through the system**, with trained key workers to help parents navigate services

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### 3. Learning and achieving

- **address over-identification** of SEN with a new single early years-setting and school-based SEN category to replace School Action and School Action Plus and **sharpen accountability** on progress for the lowest attainers, introducing a new measure into school performance tables
- better equip teachers and support staff to address SEN and poor behaviour through **training & CPD where schools support each other** – including Achievement for All
- ensure that all maintained special schools will in due course have the opportunity to become **Academies and** enable parents and members of local communities to establish **new special Free schools**

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### 4. Preparing for adulthood

- increase the range and quality of **learning opportunities and** provide effective help for young people to move into **employment**;
- **improve joint working** across paediatric and adult health services, with GPs providing annual health checks for disabled young people over 16
- help young people to **live independently** by working across government to reflect this in the forthcoming disability strategy
- **early and well-integrated support** as part of the proposed 'Education, Health and Care Plan

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### 5. Services working together for families

- explore a **national framework for funding high cost provision** and aligning the different **funding arrangements for special provision** pre-16 and post-16
- explore with **GP consortia pathfinders** how best to commission healthcare services
- provide targeted funding to **voluntary and community sector** organisations

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### Responses to consultation – from DfE

- Overall support for analysis of issues and vision for change
- Acknowledgement of the challenges of achieving vision at a time of financial restraint and significant health reforms
- Desire to know how single assessment process and Education, Health and Care Plan will work – in particular accountability of how health services will be achieved
- Concern about "removing the bias towards inclusion"

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## Pathfinders

DfE and DH have appointed 20 pathfinders representing 31 local authorities and PCT partners with three common objectives:

- To develop a new birth to 25 assessment process and single plan incorporating education, health and social care assessments, bringing together the range of support on which children, young people and their parents and families rely;
- To explore how the voluntary and community sector could improve access to specialist expertise and to introduce more independence to the process; and
- To ensure the full engagement of children, young people, and their parents and families.

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## Pathfinder activity

All pathfinders will work within existing statutory frameworks to test core elements, including:

- A multi-agency approach, with clear lines of accountability
- Links between support planning and strategic commissioning, particularly through health and well-being boards
- Use of personal funding
- Pooled and aligned budgets
- Focus on outcomes in a single plan
- Transferability of social care support across area boundaries
- VFM and cost
- Mediation for parents

Some pathfinders will test optional elements of banded funding, age range, support to parents and support to vulnerable groups

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## Pathfinder activity

### Note on statutory frameworks:

- Pathfinders have been set up to test how to reform the system including statements and statutory framework – but there will be no suspension of any part of the existing framework in pathfinder areas during this period of testing
- Pathfinders are encouraged to work creatively in partnership with parents, schools/ colleges, voluntary sector partners etc to find new and better ways to meet the needs of disabled children and those with SEN – but parents will retain their right to request an assessment and the LA will retain their duties in relation to assessments and statements

### Note on direct payments:

- Government has introduced an amendment to the Education Bill to enable the pathfinders to test the use of education direct payments within the existing statutory framework

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## Pathfinder options in SE7

	Brighton and Hove	East Sussex	Hants	Kent	Medway	Surrey	West Sussex	Total
Personal Budgets	√	√			√		√*	4
Banded Funding models	√		√*					2
Age range and employment					√*	√*		2
Support to parents and carers	√*		√	√			√	4
Support to vulnerable children				√*	√	√*		3
TOTAL	3	1 TBC	2	2	3	2	2	

## Support for pathfinders and wider learning

DfE have appointed Mott MacDonald as the support team for the pathfinders

- Core part of their role is to share learning widely – both within the pathfinder community and widely across all local authorities/ PCTs
- Pathfinder support team will broker communications between pathfinders and other organisations (VCS/ local authority/delivery partners etc) – so that good use is made of wide range of expertise and experience
- Arrangements are being developed to support wide sharing of learning across the SEN and Disability sector – building on previous experience and practice, such as from Early Support and Aiming High for Disabled Children programmes

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## Support for pathfinders and wider learning

SEND Strategic Partner	The Council for Disabled Children
Pathfinder Evaluation	SQW
Parent Participation	Contact a Family
Short Breaks	IMPACT (Serco and the Short Breaks Network)
Preparation for Adulthood	National Development Team for Inclusion (with CDC and Helen Sanderson Associates)
Parent Partnership Support	Council for Disabled Children
Early Support and key working	ES Trust and the National Children's Bureau
Building the capacity of VCS to deliver early intervention mental health support	Consortium led by Young Minds
Early Language Development Programme	The Early Language Consortium, led by ICAN

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## Influences

### NHS reforms and changes:

- Equality and Excellence: Liberating the NHS describes a system with:
  - Patients at the heart of everything
  - Outcomes among the best in the world
  - Clinicians empowered to deliver results
- To achieve this, the Government proposes:
  - Clinical commissioning groups;
  - An autonomous NHS Commissioning Board;
  - A new role for local authorities; and
  - All NHS Trusts will become foundation trusts (FT), or be part of an FT

## Influences

### Focus on Integrated working:

- **Health and wellbeing boards** to drive the commissioning process at the local level
- **Directors of Children's Services** core members
- **Joint Strategic Needs Assessments & Joint Health and Well-being Strategies**
- **New legal duties** to encourage and consider joint commissioning and joint working arrangements
- Aligned **outcomes frameworks** for NHS, public health and adult social care
- Establishing **HealthWatch** to champion the voice of people – including children and young people – those using services and their carers

## **Influences**

### **Disabled Children and Young People – Other Key policy initiatives**

- Children's Palliative Care
- AQP – Continence and Children's Wheelchairs
- Children's Community Nursing
- Continuing Care Framework
- Mental Health Strategy
- Carers Strategy

## **Influences**

### **Also, learning from:-**

- Early Years Support Programme
- Adult Services – personalisation agenda
- Personal Health Budgets piloted in NHS

## **Influences**

### **Key themes:-**

- Choice and control
- Outcomes
- Integrated Services
- Using existing money in different ways
- Value for money