

*Welcome to the second SEND Pathfinder newsletter. The aim of this letter is to provide an update on the SEND pathfinder programme for the pathfinder community and other stakeholders. We hope you find the information useful and do contact us if you have ideas for articles or case studies.*

## **Policy updates**

### **From the Department for Education:**

'Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability: Progress and next steps', the Government's response to the SEN and Disability Green Paper, has been published and is available on the DfE website:

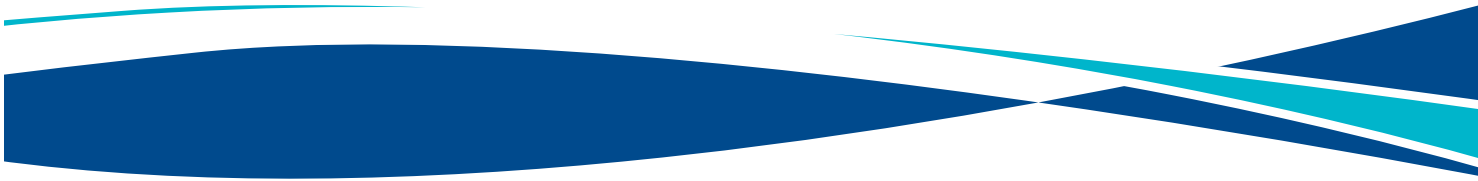
<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/sen/a0075339/sengreenpaper>. The document sets out the progress made and the next steps in taking forward the Green Paper reforms. It follows the announcement in the Queen's speech that we intend to bring forward legislation so that from 2014:

- Parents will know what they can reasonably expect from their school, college, authority and services to provide through a clear, easy to understand local offer of support;
- Children and young people with statements or learning difficulty assessments in the current system will have a quicker, better integrated assessment and a single Education, Health and Care Plan setting out all the services they will receive for their support;
- Statutory protections comparable to those currently associated with a statement of SEN will be provided for 16-25 year olds in further education so that young people will get the support they need wherever they are taught; and
- Parents will have greater control over the services they and their family use. Those whose children have an Education, Health and Care Plan will be able to express a preference for any state funded school and have the right to a personal budget for their support.

The Minister of State for Children and Families, Sarah Teather MP, visited the Bromley and Bexley pathfinder teams at the Phoenix Children's Resource Centre to launch the Next Steps document. A video of the Minister's visit is available on the DfE website and Youtube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WnI3oe5r2Aw&list=UU4NkS\\_w8o50U6jw2oksEMxQ&index=3&feature=plcp](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WnI3oe5r2Aw&list=UU4NkS_w8o50U6jw2oksEMxQ&index=3&feature=plcp).

Next Steps describes the significant progress both in individual pathfinder areas and across the programme as a whole – thank you to everyone for their hard work. The evaluators, SQW, are starting to collect information from pathfinders to help us measure the impact the Green Paper reforms are having. Their first report will be published in June.

Next Steps set out a plan to legislate through the proposed Children and Families Bill to ensure that services for disabled children and young people, and those with special educational needs are planned and commissioned jointly between local authorities and NHS Commissioners. . In addition, DH will consider, subject to consultation, how the Mandate to the NHS Commissioning Board can ensure that the NHS commissioning system and, in particular, clinical commissioning groups, are focused on improving outcomes for disabled children and those with special educational needs.



Next Steps outlines some of the other exciting steps which have already been taken in implementing the Green Paper reforms:

- In April, the Department announced the opening of the SEN Support Staff scholarship scheme to fund specialist training and study for talented support staff working with disabled pupils and those with SEN. Further details can be found at: <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/careers/traininganddevelopment/funding/b00208137/sen-support-scholarship>.
- We are funding a further 1000 places for the national SENCO qualification in 2012/13, and up to 9000 SENCOs will complete mandatory postgraduate training by the end of 2011/12. In addition we have increased the number of special school placements for those in Initial Teacher Training in 2011-12.
- Over 750 schools have signed up to the Achievement for All programme, to access support from a school leader on improving outcomes in English and mathematics for pupils with SEN. Established following a successful pilot (in which several cohorts of pupils with SEN make greater progress in English and maths than their non-SEN peers nationally) Achievement for All is being delivered by a charity supported by the business expertise of PWC. The contract novated from PWC to the AfA (3As) charity on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012.
- Good progress has been made in setting up clusters of FE colleges, independent specialist providers and special schools across England, which will share practice, knowledge and skills in supporting young disabled people and those who have SEN.
- Finally, DfE published its school funding reform document 'Next steps towards a fairer system' late in March, which includes details on how high needs funding will work from 2012-13.

### ***From the Department of Health:***

#### ***Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum.***

- The Department of Health launched an engagement process to develop a health outcomes strategy for children and young people at the end of January 2012. The strategy will be published by the summer 2012. The strategy will be informed by an independent Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum, led by Christine Lenehan, Director at the Council for Disabled Children and Professor Ian Lewis, Medical Director at the Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust. The strategy will ensure that the outcomes measured are the ones that matter most to children, young people and their families and the professionals that support them and set out how different parts of the system will contribute to delivery of these outcomes.
- Children with long term conditions, disabled children and palliative end of life needs are one of four thematic groups, supported by officials from both DH and DfE.
- Christine Lenehan presented some of the early work of the forum to a group of pathfinders in Birmingham earlier this week and highlighted the importance of linking the reforms set out in *Support and Aspiration* with the work of the forum.
- In particular she highlighted the importance of pathfinders engaging with the emerging Health and Wellbeing Boards in their local authority. You can see a copy of a prompt sheet on Health and Wellbeing Boards attached to this newsletter.

- The Government will be considering recommendations from the forum in developing proposals around joint commissioning as part of the Children and Families Bill. We will also be working with pathfinder areas.

### ***SEND Pathfinder programme***

The SEND Pathfinder programme has continued to gather momentum since we last published a newsletter. Development of the single plan and assessment process has progressed well with pathfinders developing their processes and beginning to test with families. Working groups and ALN meetings provide an opportunity to discuss emerging themes and work through any challenges with colleagues from the department, pathfinders and delivery partners.

Mott MacDonald is working with pathfinders and the Departments to agree priorities over the next 5 months and second round of support plans are being finalised.

### ***SEND Pathfinder website – new page.***

A new 'Food for thought' page has been added to the SEND Pathfinder website, <http://www.sendpathfinder.co.uk/foodforthought/>. This page contains useful and thought-provoking information from pathfinders, test documents, previous issues of this newsletter and event write-ups. The page also features case studies on work of particular interest being done by the pathfinders, produced by the SEND pathfinder support team and pathfinders. We are keen to hear your feedback on the website and for you to provide documents/guidance/ideas/suggestions of case studies. Please email us at [pathfinder@mottmac.com](mailto:pathfinder@mottmac.com).

### ***CDC's Bulletin - Special Edition***

The Council for Disabled Children yesterday launched a special edition bulletin providing an excellent resource for pathfinders and the wider sector which can be downloaded from the CDC website link included below.

'CDC is delighted to bring you this special bulletin on the Queen's Speech, Next Steps and the Children and Families Bill. This bulletin has been developed as a partnership between CDC, Mott MacDonald, Department for Education and Department of Health'.

The bulletin is available on the CDC website:

[http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/media/201267/cdc\\_special\\_bulletin.pdf](http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/media/201267/cdc_special_bulletin.pdf)

It covers the proposed SEN and Disability reforms including:

A message from Sarah Teather, Minister for Children and Families, on the reforms

- An answer from the Minister to the questions proposed to her by the sector
- Information on the Queen's Speech
- An overview of Support and Aspiration: Next Steps and progress document
- Information on the Children and Families Bill



## **Pathfinders Events**

The SEND pathfinder support team, in conjunction with the Department for Education, the Department of Health, the DfE's strategic partner the Council for Disabled Children and delivery partners, including Preparing for Adulthood, have been running a variety of events covering subjects such as Single Assessment and Plan, Personal Budgets and Banded Funding, Health Outcomes, the Local Offer and Preparing for Adulthood. We have also run two successful delivery partner events. Write ups from these will be published on the internal portal and via the 'Food for thought' page. Forthcoming events include Project Management and the next phase of personal budgets/banded funding events. An action learning network event on the single assessment and plan is taking place on 31 May and is open to all pathfinders. For more information, please contact [pathfinder@mottmac.com](mailto:pathfinder@mottmac.com). Agenda and registration information for all these events will be circulated soon. If you have any ideas for events or would like to share your experiences by speaking at an event, please email us at [pathfinder@mottmac.com](mailto:pathfinder@mottmac.com).

## **Pathfinder Advisory Group**

The Pathfinder Advisory Group, convened jointly by the Department for Education and Department of Health, met for the first time on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012. The Group provides:

- a mechanism for the joint DH and DfE pathfinder working group, which manages the pathfinder programme, to refer emerging findings, issues and good practice for expert advice to inform policy development; and
- a forum for voluntary and community sector organisations to feed in to the pathfinder programme through umbrella organisations. Pathfinders and delivery partners are also invited to attend Advisory Group meetings on a rota basis. For more information, including Stephen Kingdom's presentation to the Group and a note of the meeting, please visit <http://www.sendpathfinder.co.uk/foodforthought/>.

## **Contacts**

The Mott MacDonald Support Team can be contacted on:  
T: 0207 651 0308 or E: [pathfinder@mottmac.com](mailto:pathfinder@mottmac.com).

# Health and Wellbeing Boards and Children, Young People and Families

## Key Success Factors

- A local partnership dedicated to children and young people (linked into the Governance of Health and Wellbeing Boards) is essential
- Commissioning of NHS services for children and young people must sit alongside commissioning of all services for children (the concept of holistic commissioning)
- Health and Wellbeing Boards should prioritise interventions for children and young people which are proven to work
- Commissioning of services should be informed by views of children, young people and families
- Health and Wellbeing Boards should ensure a focus on early intervention

## Key Strategic Questions and Challenges for Boards

- Does the Health and Wellbeing Board link effectively with the local Children's Trust and Safeguarding Board to ensure cohesive governance and leadership across the children's agenda?
- Does the Health and Wellbeing Board have an agreed process to ensure children's issues receive sufficient focus?
- Has the Health and Wellbeing Board contributed to defining the early help offer, as recommended by Professor Munro?
- Is the Health and Wellbeing Board making appropriate use of local mechanisms to listen to the views of children, young people and families?
- Does the local Health and Wellbeing Strategy analyse and prioritise the health needs of children and describe success?
- Has the Health and Wellbeing Board agreed models of local integration which are proven to work?
- Has the Health and Wellbeing Board got an agreed method of engaging with schools?
- Has the Health and Wellbeing Board got a clear plan to maximise the use of public assets (children's centres, schools, youth services, health centres etc.) to improve health outcomes for children?
- Is the Health and Wellbeing Board satisfied that the Common Assessment Framework is sufficiently embedded in the local partnership?

## Vision

That Health and Well-Being Boards make an effective contribution to improving health and well-being outcomes for children and young people

## Signposts to Resources

- The Department of Health Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Strategy (due to be published in July 2012)
- A plethora of Local Government Association resources, collated by the LGA – [www.local.gov.uk/childrens-health](http://www.local.gov.uk/childrens-health)
- Local authority child health priorities (published by the Child and Maternal Health Observatory - ChiMat) – [www.chimat.org.uk/profiles](http://www.chimat.org.uk/profiles)
- The NHS Atlas of Variation in Healthcare for Children and Young People – [www.chimat.org.uk/variation](http://www.chimat.org.uk/variation)
- NHS Confederation review of policy documents on children and young people's health and wellbeing – [www.local.gov.uk/childrens-health](http://www.local.gov.uk/childrens-health)
- Assured Safeguarding – GP and Health Leader Edition (safeguarding advice for GP and health leaders developed by the East Midlands group of Directors of Children's Services) – [www.jriep.com](http://www.jriep.com)
- Commissioning Child Health and Wellbeing Services (information and guidance framework developed by the East of England Strategic Network for Child Health and Wellbeing Commissioning Champions) – [EOE Info and guidance framework](#)
- National Institute for health research (for health related research materials) – [www.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.nihr.ac.uk)

## The Spectrum of Children's Health Needs

Taken from the project scope of the Department of Health Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum

- Health promotion and improvement
- Primary Care
- Children with poor mental health
- Urgent Care for Children with acute illness
- Children with long term conditions
- Children with complex health needs
- Children with disabilities
- Looked after children
- Palliative care
- Ensuring the use of medicines for children optimises health outcomes
- The health sector's contribution to safeguarding children
- The health sector's contribution to support for troubled families

This poster was produced in April 2012 by the learning set for children and young people

Contact the Set Lead

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