

Disabled Children and Young Peoples Strategy 2012-14



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1. Introduction

The vision of Warrington's Children and Young People's Partnership is to:

'Ensure that every child and young person in Warrington has the opportunity to reach their potential'.

The aim of the Partnership is to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people in Warrington, through the delivery of services and interventions focussed around the core themes and priorities identified in the Children and Young People's Plan. The Plan cannot cover all priorities, so it focuses on those where partnership working is key in addressing the issues and making progress.

A core theme identified in the Plan is disabled children and young people and their families. The plan identifies five key areas for the partnership to address:

- Transition to adulthood
- Short breaks and play and leisure
- Complex health needs
- Emotional health and well-being
- Education, employment and training opportunities.

The priority areas are underpinned by the need to ensure disabled children, young people and their families have access to opportunities and choices that help them to achieve their potential and that services are more personalised to meet their needs.

The purpose of this strategy is to pull together the work underway in relation to the above priorities, and also to summarise the current progress and priorities in relation to all services and support for disabled children and young people and their families.

The Strategy has been developed by the Disabled Children and Young People's Strategic Group, involving the following partners:

- Warrington Borough Council, Children and Young People's Services.
- Warrington Clinical Commissioning Group (Health Commissioning)
- Bridgewater Trust (Community Health Provider)
- Warrington Parents and Carers Forum
- Special Schools
- 5 Borough's Partnership (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services)
- Voluntary Sector Representative.

The group is a sub-group of the Children and Young People's Partnership. They meet every eight weeks and will maintain an overview of the progress made in delivering the priorities. The work of the group is closely informed by partnership working with families and parents through the representatives from Warrington Parents and Carers Forum.

2. Disabled Children and Young People in Warrington – A profile

Over recent years, significant progress has been made in understanding the profile of disabled children and young people in Warrington. The definition of disability is so broad, that quantifying numbers of children can be very challenging. Work in relation to data has recently been collated into a chapter within the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

The JSNA chapter identifies the various different sources of information, including claimants of Disability Living Allowance, Children and Young People supported through SEN statements, and those identified on a dataset maintained by the Local Authority. The document also identifies those who are in receipt of targeted support from the local authority.

A summary of the data is provided below, however more detailed information can be obtained from the JSNA.

Families in receipt of Disability Living Allowance for children aged 0-18

As at November 2011, **1,120** children and young people in Warrington under the age of 18 were in receipt of DLA. Almost 40% (430 individuals) are in receipt of the benefit as a result of learning difficulties. The second highest category of need (13% 140 individuals) is Hyperkinetic Syndromes, which includes ADD and ADHD.

Children with a Statement of Educational Needs

As at December 2011, **957** children and young people were supported by SEN statements. 70% were male and 30% female. The number of children with SEN statements has reduced slightly over the past two years. The majority (57%) were aged between 11 and 15 years.

A primary need is identified for each individual. Moderate learning difficulties, speech language and communication, and Autistic Spectrum Disorder accounted for 56% of the primary needs. Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD) accounted for 13% of primary needs.

The majority (54%) of children and young people with statements attend a mainstream school. A further 15% attend designated/enhanced provision attached to a mainstream school. 245 (25%) attend one of the three local authority special schools.

Children and young people receiving targeted short breaks

In March 2012, **243** disabled children and young people and their families received a targeted short break from the local authority. Short breaks allow the main carers to take a break from their caring responsibilities.

Children and young people with complex health and continuing care needs

Some of the children receiving a targeted short break will also be receiving help and assistance from the Community Nursing Team. The Continuing Care Framework for Children (Department of Health) sets out the framework through which the needs of the

children with the most complex health needs are planned for and provided. At the end of March 2012, **21** children and young people in Warrington have been identified as having continuing care needs.

A profile of disabled children and young people in Warrington will continue to be maintained through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Chapter. For further information, visit the JSNA online at: www.doriconline.org.uk

3. Safeguarding Disabled Children and Young People

'Disabled Children and Young People have exactly the same human rights to be safe from abuse and neglect, to be protected from harm and to achieve the 'Every Child Matters' Outcomes as non-disabled children. Disabled Children do however require additional action. This is because they experience greater and created vulnerability as a result of negative attitudes about disabled children and unequal access to services and resources, and because they may have additional needs relating to physical, sensory, cognitive and/or communication impairments.'

'Safeguarding Disabled Children Practice Guidance' 2009

Safeguarding children and young people is everyone's business and every organisation has a part to play in making this happen. The local children's safeguarding board in Warrington is the group that ensure there is joint working and planning to keep children and young people safe.

The Warrington Safeguarding Children Board provides specific training on Safeguarding Disabled Children. This training is available to all staff working with children and young people in Warrington.

The local authority and health commissioners, monitor the provision of services to ensure they follow good practice and take account of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people. Examples of this include:

- Annual safeguarding statements completed by all providers of short break services
- Compliance visits to providers of services, including all overnight and residential provision, with a specific section of the review relating to safeguarding
- Safeguarding Assurance Groups with health providers for the review of safeguarding practice.

The above mechanisms include review of areas such as; safe recruitment and selection, induction and training of staff, policies and procedures, listening to children and responding to comments/complaints.

Many families recruit and employ their own personal assistants to provide support for their disabled son/daughter. The local authority has strengthened its policy in this area to require all personal assistants to have a current CRB check.

'Safeguards for disabled children are essentially the same as for non-disabled children. Particular attention should be paid to promoting high standards of practice and a high level of awareness of the risks of harm, and strengthening the capacity of children and families to help themselves.

'Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2010'

If any professionals have concerns about the safety of a child (including a disabled child or young person), they should follow their own agency policy and procedures for making

a safeguarding referral to children's social care. Concerns should be shared at the earliest opportunity with an appropriate manager or with the designated member of staff who has a responsibility for safeguarding.

Further information:

Warrington Safeguarding Children Board:
www.safeguardingwarringtonchildren.org

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010:
<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/00305-2010DOM-EN-v3.pdf>

Safeguarding Disabled Children, Practice Guidance 2009
<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DCSF-00374-2009>

4. Working in partnership to provide services and support

Background

Partnership working is key to providing effective support to disabled children and young people and their families. Partnership working extends not only to those organisations assessing needs and providing a wide range of services and support, but also working in partnership with families to plan, review and evaluate service provision.

There are many forums through which agencies come together, both at a strategic and operational level. Strategic Forums, such as the Disabled Children and Young People's Strategy Group and the Transition Strategic Group, play key roles in developing the strategic vision and identifying priorities. Parent representatives play an active role in these forums and make a valuable contribution.

At an operational level, multi-agency groups meet both at a service/thematic level and individual case level. This takes place in relation to health services and therapies provision, learning/SEN, and family support/short breaks. A project was established in 2012 to explore the integration of disabled children's services in order to provide a more seamless service for families.

For children with very complex health needs who meet the Continuing Care Framework, a new role of continuing care health needs assessor for children is ensuring good co-ordination in relation to the holistic assessment of need and provision of an appropriate package of support to meet the needs identified.

The Government are currently proposing significant changes to the SEN system, as outlined in the Green Paper 'Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability' March 2011. A number of pathfinder areas are testing out elements of the approach which are likely to involve:

- Single health, education and social care plans
- Personal budgets for those with the above plans
- Local authorities being required to publish a 'local offer' of services and support available.

Progress made

Partnership working in relation to disabled children and young people in Warrington is a key strength and has enabled significant progress to be made. In addition to the strong governance arrangements through the Disabled Children and Young People's Strategy Group, key highlights include:

- Developing stronger governance and partnership working in relation to Transition and Short Breaks
- Role of the continuing health care needs assessor and the development of clear pathways
- Strengthening and maintaining partnership with parents

Our key priorities over the next two years

Our priorities over the next two years are related to both the national legislative changes in relation to SEN and disability support, and also a local priority to deliver a more integrated service for families:

1. To plan for and respond to the emerging requirements of the Children and Families Bill, particularly in relation to the single plan for health, education and social care and personal budgets.
2. To complete the Integrated Services Project to 'deliver integrated services that results in improved outcomes for children and young people with disabilities, their families and their carers'.
3. Maximise opportunities for joint commissioning activity, particularly in relation to children with very complex needs and services commissioned from the same providers.

Further Information:

'Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability' Green Paper March 2011'. Department for Education, www.dfe.gov.uk

'Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability - Progress and next steps, May 2012'. Department for Education, www.dfe.gov.uk

5. Participation of parents, families and children and young people

Background

The aim of participation is to enable parents, families and disabled young people to influence the planning, decision making, design and delivery of council services so that services appropriately meet their needs.

Effective participation happens when parents, families and disabled young people have conversations with and work alongside professionals in order to develop and improve services.

Working with professionals helps parents, families and disabled young people to understand the complexity involved and the challenges faced by professionals who have to bring about change.

There are three essential ingredients for successful participation.

- Good information
- Honest consultation
- Effective participation

Warrington currently works with the Warrington Parents and Carers Forum (parents and families) and Oi Listen (disabled young people) to achieve these aims.

Progress made

Over the past 5 years through the Government's Aiming High Agenda (2009- 2011) it has been mandatory for local council's to provide parents and carers with timely, accessible information, to consult with them about local services and to enable participation at a strategic level.

During this time Warrington set up and supported a parents forum which as time went on became the Warrington Parents and Carers (WarrPac) and an independent body in its own right. To enable this to happen a parent Rep programme was developed which nurtured and trained a number of parents to take on additional responsibilities and to sit on working groups and at meetings at a strategic level.

Since 2011 this pattern of working has continued and in addition WarrPac continued to gather information on the key issues concerning families through their annual conferences.

A major success of WarrPac over the last year is increasing involvement at a strategic level of decision making. This has led to a number of outcomes, including:

- Parents' views about local SEN issues were fed into, and influenced a major review of the local special schools and services available for statemented children.
- A review of the domiciliary care contract included a Parent Rep who ensured that the needs of disabled children were considered.
- A pilot of sensory integration was proposed for 2012/13 based on consultation with parents

- All documentation for parents by the new Health Consortium has parent representation during its design stage, and is published for comment by the wider parent community before agreement
- Parents are feeding directly into the strategy plans for Emotional Health and Wellbeing.
- WarrPac were an essential partner in the development and opening of the new Warrington Play and Sensory Centre in Woolston

WarrPac also organise Parents Forums three times a year and now meet weekly at the Warrington Play and Sensory Centre for coffee mornings and 'stay and play' sessions during the holidays.

Consultation with children and young people has been facilitated through Oi Listen (a self advocacy group for disabled young people supported by the consultancy Changingtogether) and a number of themes have been explored in special schools as well as small group activities with members of Oi Listen. Issues considered included transition, library services, the sensory centre and the SEN review.

Our key priorities over the next two years

1. To continue to develop partnership working and participation between WarrPac , Warrington Children and Young Peoples' Services and other partner agencies
2. To further develop consultation with disabled children and young people in particular collecting views and ideas for the co-location of the special schools.
3. To work together with partners to find solutions in the on-going difficult financial climate

6. Information, advice and support

Background

As part of the Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme there was a need to review and co-ordinate information and support for families. There were a number of individual support groups and charities within the Town; however they operated quite independently and had no strong links with the Authority or other agencies. There was little information for families on the council's webpage and families felt that they relied on 'word of mouth' to find out about the services and support available.

Over the last few years there have been significant improvements; however there is further work to be done to ensure the availability of information in a wide range of formats.

Progress Made

- The information and signposting booklet has been finalised and is available on the Warrington Parents and Carers website. A range of factsheets have been produced to provide information about the range and type of short breaks. The Transition Guide: 'Travelling to the Future' has also been completed.
- A multi-agency 'Inclusive Play and Leisure Forum' maintain a 'What's On' listing of regular activities which is circulated to families as and when requested or is available on line.
- Warrington Play and Sensory Centre is now open and provides a wide range of information and support for families through notice boards, coffee mornings and pre-school sessions.

Our key priorities over the next two years

1. The information and signposting booklet is to be printed and distributed. The booklet will be maintained by Families Information Service.
2. The Inclusive Play and Leisure Forum will continue to maintain the What's On guide.
3. The Play and Sensory Centre will continue to enhance the provision of information and support through notice boards etc and parents being able to meet.
4. Continue to ensure Parent Representatives are kept informed of services developments and proposals so that Warrington Parents and Carers Forum and other support groups can provide up to date information and advice.

7. Special Educational Needs (SEN) - Provision and Learning

Background

There are currently 957 children in Warrington who have a statement of special educational needs. All children who attend a special school or specialised provision have a statement of special educational needs (the exception being very young children whose needs are still being fully assessed). Most children with a statement of special educational needs attend a mainstream school.

The local authority has an inclusive approach to the education of children with special and additional needs and seeks to educate children in their local schools where possible. There is also a recognition that some young people are more vulnerable and there is a continuum of provision to meet a continuum of need.

The continuum of specialist provision includes Designated Provision attached to mainstream schools for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Cognition and Learning difficulties or Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties. For Key Stage 1 children, the Designated Provisions include children with a variety of needs. For younger children, the Designated Provision is at Sandy Lane Nursery.

There are also special schools in Warrington: Fox Wood, Green Lane and Grappenhall Hall, for children and young people with complex learning needs, ASD and Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties.

In 2011 the Green Paper 'Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability' was published. The vision expressed in this document has implications for the provision available to children and young people in Warrington and work has started within the local authority and with partner agencies to plan for the expected changes.

Progress made

In 2011 a review of SEN provision was undertaken. The purpose of the review was to consider the range of specialist provision available within the local authority and determine whether the continuum of support available was still appropriate to meet the needs of children and young people.

The review board involved representatives from the local authority, health representatives, school and governor representatives and parent representatives. All aspects of specialist provision were considered, including post-16.

The recommendations were agreed by the Executive Board and, following the statutory consultation, implementation of the recommendations began in September 2012.

The SEN review indicated that the following progress has been made in recent years:

- The introduction of Designated Provision into mainstream schools had been a successful addition to the range of provision available for a number of children and young people. It had enabled more young people to remain within the umbrella of a mainstream school.

- Grappenhall Hall School had been established as a 90 place provision for secondary age boys with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. Yet the school had never been full, indicating that more young people with these needs are being maintained in mainstream schools.
- Green Lane Schools had continued to be successful at meeting the needs of young people with complex children and parents often wanted them to be able to provide an educational experience for young people up to the age of 19.
- Provision for children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder had increased and this provision had proved to be successful in maintaining these young people within Warrington.

Our key priorities over the next three years

Key priorities over the next three years are to:

1. Develop a more seamless continuum of support for pupils with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties to include New Horizons (the PRU), Grappenhall Hall School, Bridgewater Trust, designated provision, the Behaviour Support Team, Sandy Lane/CDC and staff within the local authority.
2. To develop Green Lane School to be a 4 -19 school with entry criteria to the 16 – 19 provision to support those with ASD and pupils following the Vulnerable groups pathway in Key Stage 4.
3. To co-locate both Fox Wood and Green Lane schools on a single site in the Woolston area in order to develop a specialist learning village and to seek opportunities to develop additional ASD provision on the site.
4. To establish the new Designated Provisions.
5. To implement the necessary changes to policy and practice as a result of future legislation on 'Reform of provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs'.

8. Health Services

Background

Paediatric Health Services aim to diagnose and provide early intervention for children who present with complex health needs, including Neuro developmental difficulties, problems of movement, functional living, communication and hearing problems amongst others. Services aim to assist Children, Young People and their Families to achieve the optimum level of functionality by providing the care, advice, therapy and support for their disability or illness. Early intervention permits maximum outcomes in terms of quality of life. Working in close partnership with all other professionals and agencies facilitates a joined up approach to maximise outcomes for children and young people.

The services are guided by the following:

- National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Guidance (relating to specific diseases or procedures)
- British Association of Occupational Therapists
- Chartered Society of Physiotherapy,
- British Society of Audiology Guidelines
- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
- British Association of Community Child Health Guidelines
- Royal College of General Practitioners and Nursing and Midwifery Council Guidelines
- Royal college of Speech and Language Therapists
- National Newborn Hearing Screening Guidelines
- National Service Framework Guidelines
- National Patient Safety Agency
- Warrington Children and Young Peoples Plan 2012

In addition Patient Experience surveys have been introduced and carried out in all services. As a result of this feedback gaps in service provision have been highlighted and funding sourced from the Clinical Commissioning Group to implement needs analysis projects for these areas.

Progress made

With the restructure of Children's Health Services into a Specialist Children's Team in 2011 Services for Children and Young People with Disabilities have been working closely together to improve joined up working and to also to identify and address gaps in services, especially areas where parental feedback has identified gaps in provision.

As a result a number of new initiatives have started or are in the process of being piloted. These are:

1. Establishment of an ADHD nurse role working alongside Community Paediatricians to support families post diagnosis with medical management and advice on behaviour management.
2. Establishment of a needs analysis project using Commissioning for Quality and Innovation payments (Cquin) to determine outcomes and accuracy of pathway for Sensori-integration approach in Paediatric Occupational Therapy.

3. Establishment of a needs analysis project (Cquin) to determine benefit of and outcomes from establishment of a Tier 2 support level for children with Autism with emotional health and well being needs.
4. Establishment of a needs analysis project (Cquin) to determine benefit and outcomes from communication support for teaching staff and students with Autism in Secondary school specialist educational provision.
5. Development of a training package for teaching staff in the area of motor co-ordination.
6. Extension of Paediatric Community Nursing providing more care in the community.
7. Language screening and universal whole class language support for reception and junior aged children for schools involved in language link project.

Our key priorities over the next two years

The key priorities for Health Services for children with disabilities over the next two years are to:

1. To ensure NICE guidance for Autism is embedded into service provision
2. To ensure recommendations from Cquin projects are realised
3. To shorten time from referral to diagnosis for Children and Young People requiring multiple health service involvement
4. To continue to work with families to ensure services provided offer the support required
5. To develop an enhanced Paediatric Community Nursing team to enable all children to be cared for by appropriately trained staff in community reducing hospital admission.

Further Information:

NICE Clinical Guidelines 128: Autism: recognition, referral and diagnosis of children and young people on the autistic spectrum, September 2011. www.nice.org.uk

9. Short Breaks and family support

Background

Short breaks (also sometimes referred to as respite) have two principal aims:

- To provide opportunities for disabled children and young people to spend positive time away from their main carer/s. A short break may include an activity or a stay, either during the day, evening, overnight or at a weekend and could take place at home, at an approved carer's home, in a residential or at a community/group based activity or setting.
- To provide parents/carers and their families with a break from their caring responsibilities. Short breaks should as far as possible be tailored to meet the needs of children, young people and their families. Fundamentally for families to benefit from a short break, they need to be assured that the needs of their child are being met.

Short breaks can be provided through access to universal services, for example attending a youth group or club/activity. Or in some cases, a more targeted short break service is required, which will require an assessment of need and a more specific short break service funded by the local authority. For the purposes of this statement, these are referred to as 'Universal Short Break Opportunities' and 'Targeted Short Break Services'.

The **Short Break Services Statement** sets out the range of short break services and support available in Warrington to meet the needs of carers of disabled children and young people and their families. The statement is updated annually and published at the end of September each year.

At the 31st March 2012, 243 disabled children and young people were accessing short break services.

Progress made

Since the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme, the local authority has worked in partnership with parents and carers and the voluntary and community sector to increase the amount of play and leisure opportunities available. These opportunities help to ensure children and young people can spend 'positive' time away from their main carers, taking part in activities that they enjoy. Further information is available in the 'Play and Leisure' section.

In addition, we continue to work in partnership through the 'Workforce Group' to ensure that all those working with disabled children and young people in either a paid or voluntary capacity have the skills and experience to provide quality care and support.

In relation to 'targeted' short breaks, the following progress has been made in recent years:

- The council reshaped its overnight short break provision to enhance provision, this included a new build two-bedded bungalow to meet the needs of those with more complex physical needs.

- Agency support services were re-tendered to improve the quality of provision
- New group based activities in the holidays for children on the ‘high-functioning’ end of the Autistic Spectrum have been commissioned
- New decision making arrangements have been well established to ensure consistency and equity concerning the decisions regarding short breaks.
- Better information has been provided to parents through the Short Breaks Factsheets, available on the website and for professionals to share with families.

All of the above progress has been made through working closely in partnership with parents and carers. Further information is available in the Participation section. In addition to the ongoing involvement of parents, a specific survey is being carried out in Summer 2012 to inform the authority and partners about parents satisfaction with short breaks services and to understand any barriers/gaps in provision. The findings will be reported in the Short Breaks Services Statement 2012.

Our key priorities over the next two years

Our key priorities for each year are set out in the Short Breaks Services Statement. In summary, our key priorities over the next two years are to:

1. Develop more short break/play and leisure options for children with very complex medical needs.
2. Ensure families using Direct Payments can recruit the right personal assistant for them as quickly and efficiently as possible and support parents to ensure that Direct Payments provide effective short breaks.
3. Continue to improve the effectiveness and quality of agency support services.
4. Continue to engage with families and reflect their views annually in the Short Breaks Services Statement, in order to inform future priorities.

Further Information:

Short Breaks Services Statement 2012 – available at www.warrington.go.uk

10. Promoting inclusion and play and leisure opportunities

Background

Access to play and leisure opportunities has always been a key priority for disabled children and young people and their families. Over recent years, considerable progress has been made in this area, primarily as a result of the Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme and grant funding.

At the start of the programme in 2009, play and leisure opportunities for disabled children and young people were limited. There were some activities available, however many parents didn't know about them and there was little co-ordination. At the early consultations, parents identified many barriers to accessing play and leisure opportunities and identified a key priority to promote opportunities for play and leisure for their children, either as a family, or with carers as part of a short break. A key development was the production of a 'What's On' listing to identify all inclusive activities available, this supplemented the information on the Family Services Directory.

Many new activities were developed through the programme and continue to thrive, for example the Thursday Trampolining Club operated by the Warrington branch of the National Autistic Society. A small number of activities were not sustained due to issues relating to funding or staff capacity.

Parents expressed a strong desire to have an accessible play space for their children. This was developed into a key project in partnership with families to refurbish a building and transform it into a play and sensory centre, providing a valuable venue for parents to meet up and access support, in addition to promoting and supporting accessible play and leisure.

The Inclusion Matters programme was launched which promoted inclusion in childcare and leisure settings, providing advice, training and guidance to ensure settings were as inclusive as possible. This provided a limited amount of funding available to children and young people encouraging them to try new leisure activities, enabling them to buy the right equipment.

Progress made

The Aiming High for Disabled Children programme made a significant contribution to the development of play and leisure activities. In a recent survey of needs in relation to short breaks, many families reported that they were accessing the opportunities available. The most significant developments over the last 12 months relate to:

- The development of Warrington Play and Sensory Centre, opened in June 2012 and providing a valuable venue for accessible play and leisure activities. Comments from visiting parents and carers show their enthusiasm and appreciation for the involvement the parent and carer forum have had in the design and development work.
- The continued production of the 'What's On' listing of inclusive activities, signposting families and carers to the range of activities available.

- Developing new group based activities for children with high-functioning autism and piloting a new group for children with very complex health needs.

Our key priorities over the next two years

The Play and Sensory Centre provides a key focus for the development of activities. Access to play and leisure activities provide opportunities for disabled children and young people to be active, develop social skills and to have fun. Families also develop support networks through such activities and as such they have a valuable role to play in the 'universal offer' for disabled children and young people and their families and, in some cases, may prevent the need for more targeted support.

Promoting inclusion in all settings is essential. The role of the Inclusion Matters Programme is significant in encouraging childcare and leisure providers to enhance their services and help them to develop skills within their workforce.

Our key priorities over the next two years are as follows:

1. To develop the role of the Play and Sensory Centre in providing a range of activities to meet local needs, including partnership working with other providers.
2. To re-establish a forum for developing inclusive play and leisure opportunities. Maintain the 'What's On' listing and utilise the Early Intervention Grant to help develop new activities.
3. To continue to promote Inclusion in a wide range of settings through the Inclusion Matters Scheme.

11. Developing our workforce

Background

The development of the disabled children's workforce was identified as a priority area for improvement through the Aiming High programme. The workforce includes not only those providing a specialist service to disabled children but also to those in universal provision for children to encourage the inclusion of disabled children in mainstream activities. The inclusion of parents and carers in the training offer was also acknowledged as an area for progress. Both in terms of the co-production and facilitation of courses but also as participants.

A multi agency group was set up to co-ordinate the delivery of training to the workforce, which has continued to meet following the end of the Aiming High programme. A number of courses were funded through Aiming High with the aim of increasing local capacity to offer training over a range of subject areas as a legacy of the Aiming High programme.

The training which is offered falls into four specific areas

- General awareness and introductions
- Specific modules on agreed topics
- Ad hoc training
- Training for specific groups / professionals

Training sessions have been opened up to parents and carers as well as personal assistants employed by families through the Direct payments scheme. This has the dual role of opening up opportunities to a wider range of individuals but also has the affect of enhancing the learning for all involved.

The **Training programme** outlines the training which is currently available and the that which is under development. The courses in green boxes are those currently on offer. Those in yellow boxes are in the development stage.

Progress made

The multi agency group is now well established and has been able to bring together the training offer across agencies and to identify gaps in the offer and plan sustainable local training. Funding has been set aside from the Early Intervention Grant to progress this work.

The group have been able to identify priority areas for new training courses and over the past year three new courses have been added to the programme and a number of others are at the development stage.

Courses added to the programme

The Person Centred approaches courses consist of two half day sessions the first being an introduction to the concepts and the second an introduction to the tools. These courses were developed in partnership between members the statutory and voluntary sectors and parents and were delivered to a multi agency group and parents and carers.

The Supporting young people in transition course has been piloted to two groups and received positive feedback and is now part of the regular training offer.

The Early Intervention Grant funding has so far been used to fund specific training on working with children and young people with palliative care needs, moving and handling and British Sign Language. A plan is under development to provide Makaton sessions.

Courses in development

The Moving and handling course is currently on hold pending an update of the policy regarding the moving and handling of children and young people. Once this has been completed then trainers have been identified and a course outline is already available.

We are working with colleagues from Bridgewater trust to co-ordinate training offered around communication and sensory integration.

The introduction to autism course is temporarily on hold pending the identification of a new course leader.

The course on young people and relationships is under development as part of a wider working group on sexual health and relationships for disabled children.

A small working party including parents, council staff and representatives from Warrington Disability Partnership is to develop the courses related to Direct payments.

Our key priorities over the next two years

The Workforce development group will continue to meet on a quarterly basis to identify areas for development and to ensure the sustainability of the training offer

The current priority areas for training development are:

1. Managing behaviour
2. How to be a good personal assistant
3. How to be a good employer
4. Moving and handling

12. Promoting independence and effective transition to adulthood

Background

The Transition Support Programme, part of the Aiming High for Disabled Children initiative, has provided both a focus and support for developments to promote independence and effective transition to adulthood during the last three years. A Strategic Transition Group was established with representatives from the local authority, partner agencies and parents, and a transition protocol was written by this group.

Moving into adulthood is a challenging time for all young people. For those with additional needs, it presents further challenge and the changes they encounter are more significant.

Linked to the strategic group is the Transition Operational Group, this is a group of operational managers and staff who have a good understanding of the current position in relation to young people approaching and in transition. The group monitor the progress of young people through transition and identify any issues which may affect a seamless transition. The group provides regular updates to the Strategic Group.

A national programme commissioned by the DfE 'Preparing for Adulthood' is in place to support local areas in developing their transition arrangements.

In Warrington, there are currently 29 disabled young people aged 14+ identified as 'complex' for the purpose of tracking their progress through Transition. This category include those currently placed out of area, those with complex health needs, and those in the care of the local authority.

Whilst not identified as complex, there are approximately 90 young people with statements of SEN who are 17+ and approaching or going through transition.

Progress made

Over recent years the focus has been on ensuring robust governance arrangements in order to identify priorities for change and to oversee the delivery of them. This includes:

- The development of the Protocol to identify the key standards and principles underlying Transition Arrangements.
- The development of an annual Business Plan for the delivery of key priorities through the Transition Strategic Group.
- Improving information, advice and guidance through the production of Transition Guides, including an easy read version and a more comprehensive guide for parents/carers.
- Transition reviews for young people at the age of 14 have been developed to improve post-16 planning.
- Options for young people post-16 have been developed through the SEN review in 2011.

- A Transition Operational Group has been established which will monitor the transition of each disabled young people.
- There has been a 'transition workshop' at each of the annual conferences for parents. The workshops have provided information for parents and collected feedback from them.
- A training package has been developed and delivered to professionals.

Our key priorities over the next two years

The priorities in relation to Transition are set out in the Transition Strategic Group Business Plan. This identifies the key priorities and also the specific actions each year required to deliver the priorities:

1. Moving into adulthood with good health
 - *Ensure that young people who meet the continuing care criteria have an appropriate transition plan*
2. Developing post 16 options and the provider market so that young people have choice and control, paid jobs, independent living, and good health and community inclusion when they move into adulthood.
 - *Implement Pathways to employment project*
 - *Identify local opportunities to develop appropriate accommodation for disabled young people*
 - *All young people have a named key worker to support them through transition*
 - *Develop a programme of drop-in sessions for parents around themes of interest to parents*
3. Ensure that the experiences of young people and their families inform commissioning, local services and community developments
 - *More young people have person-centred reviews*
 - *Update the 'Protocol to support the transition of disabled young people in Warrington to Adulthood (July 2010)*
 - *Deliver training to professionals and parents about transition*
 - *Parents Conference and ongoing questionnaire will continue to inform the development of services*

13. Priorities for 2012-14

1. Working in partnership to provide services and support
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To plan for and respond to the emerging requirements of the Children and Families Bill, particularly in relation to the single plan for health, education and social care and personal budgets.2. To complete the Integrated Services Project to 'deliver integrated services that results in improved outcomes for children and young people with disabilities, their families and their carers'.3. Maximise opportunities for joint commissioning activity, particularly in relation to children with very complex needs and services commissioned from the same providers.
2. Participation of parents, families and children and young people
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To continue to develop partnership working and participation between WarrPac , Warrington Children and Young Peoples' services and other partner agencies2. To further develop consultation with disabled children and young people in particular collecting views and ideas for the co-location of the special schools.3. To work together with partners to find solutions in the on-going difficult financial climate
3. Information, advice and support
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The information and signposting booklet is to be printed and distributed. The booklet will be maintained by Families Information Service.2. The Inclusive Play and Leisure Forum will continue to maintain the What's On guide.3. The Play and Sensory Centre will continue to enhance the provision of information and support through notice boards etc and parents being able to meet.4. Continue to ensure Parent Representatives are kept informed of services developments and proposals so that Warrington Parents and Carers Forum and other support groups can provide up to date information and advice.

4. Special Educational Needs - Provision and Learning

1. Develop a more seamless continuum of support for pupils with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties to include New Horizons (the PRU), Grappenhall Hall School, Bridgewater Trust, designated provision, the Behaviour Support Team, Sandy Lane/CDC and staff within the local authority.
2. To develop Green Lane School to be a 4 -19 school with entry criteria to the 16 – 19 provision to support those with ASD and pupils following the Vulnerable groups pathway in Key Stage 4.
3. To co-locate both Fox Wood and Green Lane schools on a single site in the Woolston area in order to develop a specialist learning village and to seek opportunities to develop additional ASD provision on the site.
4. To establish the new Designated Provisions.
5. To implement the necessary changes to policy and practice as a result of future legislation on 'Reform of provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs'.

6. Health services

1. To ensure NICE guidance for Autism is embedded into service provision
2. To ensure recommendations from Cquin projects are realised
3. To shorten time from referral to diagnosis for Children and Young People requiring multiple health service involvement
4. To continue to work with families to ensure services provided offer the support required
5. To develop an enhanced extend the Paediatric Community Nursing team to enable all children to be cared for by appropriately trained staff in community reducing hospital admission.

7. Short breaks and family support

1. Develop more short break/play and leisure options for children with very complex medical needs.
2. Ensure families using Direct Payments can recruit the right personal assistant for them as quickly and efficiently as possible and support parents to ensure that Direct Payments provide effective short breaks.
3. Continue to improve the effectiveness and quality of agency support services.
4. Continue to engage with families and reflect their views annually in the Short Breaks Services Statement, in order to inform future priorities.

8. Promoting inclusion and play and leisure opportunities

1. To develop the role of the Play and Sensory Centre in providing a range of activities to meet local needs, including partnership working with other providers.
2. To re-establish a forum for developing inclusive play and leisure opportunities. Maintain the 'What's On' listing and utilise the Early Intervention Grant to help develop new activities.
3. To continue to promote Inclusion in a wide range of settings through the Inclusion Matters Scheme.

4. Developing our workforce

1. To continue to develop training and development in the following areas:
 - Managing behaviour
 - How to be a good personal assistant
 - How to be a good employer
 - Moving and handling

5. Promoting independence and effective transition to adulthood

1. Moving into adulthood with good health
 - Ensure that young people who meet the continuing care criteria have an appropriate transition plan
2. Developing post 16 options and the provider market so that young people have choice and control, paid jobs, independent living, and good health and community inclusion when they move into adulthood.
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 - Deliver training to professionals and parents about transition
 - Parents Conference and ongoing questionnaire will continue to inform the development of services

14. Action planning to achieve our priorities

A variety of plans exist to deliver the above Priorities. The Disabled Children and Young People's Strategy Group will undertake a formal review of progress on a quarterly basis.

For more information about the priorities within this Strategy, please contact the Commissioning Team, Children and Young People's Services, on 01925 443916 or email: cypscommissioning@warrington.gov.uk.