



Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC)

Final Programme Report

May 2011



London Borough
of Hounslow

NHS
Hounslow



Final report

The Programme

Launched in May 2007 Aiming High for Disabled Children was the then Government's transformation programme for disabled children and their families. The programme focused on a number of service areas for disabled children, these included Transition, Palliative Care, Wheelchair services and Short Breaks and included dedicated funding for Local Authorities and additional funding for Primary Care Trusts to develop services. This report focuses on the development of Short Breaks in Hounslow.

A short break is described as "additional services required to support disabled children and their families; in other words, short breaks are services over and above the universal services expected and available to all families". A short break can be for just a few hours to overnight care or longer, e.g. a holiday and could be within a variety of settings, including the child's home. Childcare, e.g. care when a

parent/carer is working, is not a short break. Whilst all children should be able to access youth clubs, extended schools activities, community and leisure facilities – however, if additional support is required (e.g. the child requires support through a sessional worker service) – this may then constitute a short break.

Together for Disabled Children (TDC) was commissioned on behalf of the then DSCF to work with Local Authorities in developing sustainable short breaks for disabled children and their families, which were additional to any short breaks the Local Authority was previously providing.

The programme was charged to deliver a 'full service offer' to families, which was that:

- Short Break Services were based on a needs assessment of the local disabled child population and took into account the voice of disabled children, young people and their families



Luke went on a four day residential trip to help improve his communication skills and self-confidence.

- Offered a significantly greater volume of Short Break provision against a 2007-08 baseline, and was reflective of the additional funding levels available
- Used fair, understandable and transparent eligibility criteria that enabled Short Breaks to be used as a preventative service and which did not restrict provision to those threatened by family breakdown or other points of crisis.
- Offered a wide range of local Short Breaks provision, tailored to families needs and included support for disabled children and young people in accessing activities in universal settings, delivered through the following:
 - i) The support of a befriending, sitting or sessional service;
 - ii) built the skills of universal service providers;
 - iii) Undertook measures specific to severely disabled children to meet their physical access requirements in universal settings (DDA plus) Overnight breaks, with care available in both the child's own home and elsewhere.



Mubin and Zena having fun in the sea at Bracklesham Bay.

Significant breaks during the day, with care available in the child's own home and elsewhere

- Provided positive experiences for children by promoting friendships and encouraging social activities, new experiences and supportive relationships with carers.
 - Culturally appropriate short breaks provision which met the racial, cultural, linguistic and religious needs of disabled children and their families
 - Ensured provision available was on a planned and regular basis and at the times when families and young people, needed breaks - this had to include evenings, weekends and holiday provision,
- and have the capacity to respond to urgent care requirements.
 - Provided age appropriate provision which ensured disabled children/young people in groups A and B* were not disadvantaged in accessing Short Breaks
 - Utilised service providers that offered the best possible combination of skills and experience to deliver services of the highest possible quality to meet individual needs at the most efficient cost.
 - Promoted information about available provision to the public, including details of eligibility - including threshold criteria - and routes to accessing services.

Hounslow received the following grant funding for the development of Short Breaks

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Revenue	£40k	£234.6k	£756.8k
Capital	£N/A	£118.2k	£275.9



* Groups A & B was used for monitoring purposes and broadly referred to disabled Children with either Complex Health needs or a disability and challenging behaviour.

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Managing the programme

Getting Started

Established in July 2008, and chaired by the Assistant Director, Specialist Services, the Steering Group met on a quarterly basis and oversaw the strategic development of Aiming High initiatives in Hounslow, promoted partnership working, linked to other projects and steering groups and provided management feedback over the period of Aiming High. The Steering Group membership was made up from a wide range of stakeholders including parents/carers and professionals from social care, health, education and the voluntary sector.

Throughout the Aiming High programme, it has been recognised that consultation and communication, with both parents/carers and the young people themselves, has been key to providing either a service or process that enables and enhances short break activities. Whether it has been shaping the activity schedule or discussions about the adventure playground, the consultation process has meant that services delivered were as near to parent expectation as possible.

The Parents Forum was established in September 2008, and chaired by a parent, met monthly, first at Hounslow Education Centre, and later at Da Spot which allowed greater

accessibility and the provision of a crèche for parents/carers wishing to attend. Initially the parent forums were attended by a small group of approximately six parents; however this number has greatly increased over time and in the last year of Aiming High the parent's forum regularly had approximately 20 parents/carers attending. The monthly meetings became the focus for parent/carer feedback and discussion which shaped the programme as it developed. In particular the parents 'wish list', which had been compiled by parents/carers following consultation, of short break activities that they would like to see increased or developed. The 'wish list' became the cornerstone to shaping the 2010/11 activity programme, and resulted in Hounslow commissioning new providers, who had been "tried and tested" by parents/carers previously. Although the Aiming High project finished at the end of March 2011, the Forum is set to continue throughout 2011 and beyond and is now seen as a focal point for the local authority and service providers to receive feedback and consult with parents of disabled children and young people as in the recent consultation regarding the updated Children and Young People's Plan and the Helping Handz Network.

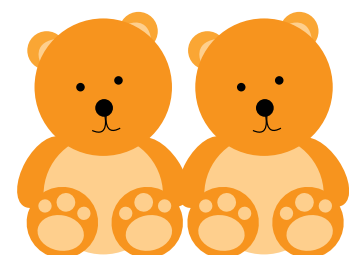
Fair Access

In accordance with the Full Service Offer and in order to provide clarity and transparency to parents and carers as to how short breaks were allocated for disabled children and young people within Hounslow, an Eligibility Criteria, called the Common Access Framework, was developed. The Common Access Framework aimed to explain the types of services families of disabled children and young people could access by developing, how these could be accessed and gave a framework of the criteria for accessing services.

The Common Access Framework had three levels of need, Pathways 1, 2, and 3, with Pathway 3 being the highest need in terms of disability and family support. The Pathways helped to ensure that the right services and activities were being targeted at the right group of children or young people. All the publicised information for short breaks clearly stated the Pathway the short break was designed for and the services/providers were briefed so that they were able to discuss with parents/carers as to whether it was an appropriate service for their son or daughter.



Kayaking sessions were provided by Brentford Sports with specially adapted katanus.



Some short breaks could be accessed directly by the family, self referring to the service/provider. Others required an assessment of need of the disabled child or young person and their family by a social worker or other professional. Referrals for these services were managed through the Resource Allocation Panel.

Some services were aimed at children or young people of a certain age in order to ensure their safety and welfare was paramount, e.g. travel training or rock climbing!

Going forward into 2011/12, the eligibility criteria will be used to help guide provision of services/activities as part of the Short Breaks Duty.

The Fun stuff

In the two years of Aiming High funding for additional short breaks, Hounslow has extended services previously available, as well as developing new short breaks. The short breaks programme was developed to incorporate activities that were age-appropriate and were advertised in accordance with the eligibility criteria published in June 2010. A number of providers were commissioned to provide services, other activities were spot-purchased.

Those services extended have included half term play schemes and drop-in sessions at Reflections

through Hounslow's Play Team, taster sessions at Hounslow Extra Club, youth provision at Phab and residential semi-independence nights at Westbrook. New short breaks were developed with the Three Wings Trust, Brentford Sports, Feltham Bees, Kids Cookery School, Sure Start, Otaker Kraus Music Therapy, Watermans and Interact.

Some of the activities were so popular that they were almost booked the minute the newsletters hit the family homes. Some, unfortunately, even with the best efforts of the providers and the Aiming High team, did not take off as hoped.



Creative workshops including a fashion workshop were held at the Watermans Arts Centre to develop creative and social skills.



Specially adapted bikes have been provided to some disabled children during the programme to help with their motor skills and general mobility as well being a useful means of exercise.

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Managing the programme

The most popular activities were the music therapy sessions at Otaker Kraus, the visits to the Thames Valley Adventure Playground, the extra play schemes organised by the LBH Play Team, Brentford Sports, Feltham Bees and the Kids Cookery School. Activities in which the whole family and/or siblings could take part also proved to be very popular such as the theatre productions and film screenings. Although not strictly short breaks as such, it proved that there is a need for family-based provision, ie. short breaks that can be enjoyed by the whole family in an environment that is sympathetic to the disabled child or young person. Testament to that, a very successful trip to Legoland was organised for July 2010 and over 70 children and their families enjoyed the day. To make the day even more memorable, each child was issued with a Merlin pass paid for through Aiming High which gave them a year's free access (with a parent/carer) to the Madame Tussauds Group of Attractions.

Least popular were the performing arts for the older young people,

namely the Watermans and Interact workshops. Both providers worked with the Aiming High team and Extended Services to encourage attendance – taster sessions took place, advertising beyond the Newsletters – but to no avail. Numbers were still relatively low. In addition, the travel training programme had a relatively low take-up. As these providers had been part of the parents 'wish list', the Aiming High team have reflected on this and will use the experience of the last year, in terms of the successful or not so successful, to inform the short breaks programme going forward, again, in conjunction with discussions with parents.

Capital Money

Over the last two years, the Aiming High capital allocation has meant that several key investments have been made within the borough. The 2009/10 funding bought a new mini-bus which is stationed at the Westbrook Respite Care Unit and three KataKanus (with trailer)

– adapted canoes for users with additional needs.



The 2010/11 capital funds were all directed towards the re-development of the Under 5's Centre at Redlees Park. Initially, the capital investment was £351,800 (£75,900 was carried over from 09/10) and plans were made to create an adventure playground for children and young people with disability. A design company, Design Build & Play, were retained to develop the designs and with the Aiming High team, carried out an extensive consultation process with parents, children and Councillors involved. Unfortunately, in October 2010, after the government change, the 09/10 money was clawed back and meant that the plans for the playground had to be revised. A log cabin built next to the existing structure was planned which would accommodate new changing facilities, and a soft play area and room for indoor play. As well as the log cabin, the 1 o'Clock Club building has been refurbished with a new kitchen and café area for social enterprise purposes as well as a new sensory room. All the refurbished areas have been kitted out with equipment to provide play



areas for use by children and young people. The grounds have been developed with disused beds being brought back to life for planting, a living willow wigwam has been built and several new swings have been installed.

Partnerships

As part of the short breaks programme, Aiming High has developed successful partnership working within the borough. This included the setting up of a under 8's nursery in conjunction with Sure Start for three weeks over the summer holidays in 2010; a successful leisure programme including swimming lessons, pool parties and exclusive swimming sessions with Fusion Leisure; a project with the Chickenshed Theatre group that also involved two mainstream and two specialist schools working together and working with Early Years to promote inclusion, topping up funding that is currently available to support children with special educational needs and/or disabilities who use early year's settings.

Innovation

Aiming High Hounslow has endeavoured to raise the bar in terms of standards and user experience. It has been recognised that certain elements of our programme were innovative and have been cited as examples of best practice, by Together for Disabled Children. These have included the Decisions R Us Panel and the Care Plan 'Passport'.

Decisions R Us Panel

Through Aiming High funding, a group of disabled young people were involved in developing a Panel to award short break bids to other disabled young people. An organisation called 'People Speak' supported the young people to think about how the panel would run and how they would work together. Thomas said, "I enjoyed learning about voting, because we had to taste test different chocolate cakes".



The Panel managed £40,000 from the 2010/11 Aiming High budget and it allocated up to £500 to a child or young person with special needs (5-18 years) who lived in Hounslow for a short break and/or equipment to support them accessing a short break, once their application had been approved by the Panel.

Over 100 children and young people successfully applied to the Panel for bids ranging from adventure holidays to dancing lessons to equipment that enables communication. Other bids included furniture and accessories to create a 'cool room', a group bid from Lindon Bennett School for an activity holiday, horse riding - one young person even went to a Muse gig!

The Panel has also distributed 175 Merlin passes via the bids process as well.

Care Plan Passport



Having listened to parents concerns and frustrations with endlessly repeating the same information about their child, the Aiming High team, in conjunction with the Parents Forum, developed a care plan which parents/carers could complete and share with providers of short breaks. The care plan, which was called the 'short breaks Passport' was completed either by hand or electronically and was then shared with the short breaks provider, who used it to assess the child's needs in each setting. Usage of the Passport was agreed with all the providers involved in the Aiming High project and was hoped to ease access and participation in Aiming High activities.

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Workforce Development

Aiming High Hounslow implemented a workforce development programme to provide additional training to professionals and parents who work/care for a disabled child. The programme covered a range of topics from disability awareness, introduction to autism and challenging behaviour to Makaton and first aid training. The training was offered to those based in the Hounslow borough; professionals came from a range of diverse settings; schools, portage, youth clubs, providers, children centres, parents, charity, health, social care, childminders and the Hounslow play team. Some providers were new to working with disabled people,

through the workforce development these providers have been trained and are now more confident with working with disabled children, thus making more services in Hounslow accessible for disabled children.

23 courses were run a total of 45 times and have been combination of full day and evening courses to cater for those who can not attend day sessions. Some courses have been run multiple times due to high demand / growing interest:

A total of 368 delegates have attended the courses with an overall attendance of 612.

Delegate feedback was returned for each course that was run; a lot of the feedback was positive; the use of different mediums was particularly effective. Delegates found that the

sessions enabled cross team working and having delegates from different backgrounds was very valuable.

Another training programme is being developed for 2011/12 that will be based on the experience of the last year.

Comments included:

"Really informative. Excellent approach to the course. Very interesting."

"The course was fab. Given me a lot to think about when facing and dealing with my son's challenging behaviour."

"The trainer was superb – very clear and understandable. Best trainer on the subject I have heard. Communicated a vast amount of information very well."



Aiming High funded items for a sensory room at home for Libby. "Being content for a little time each day helps the whole family. Although she can walk she can not play on her own which makes life very hard."

LAIMP (Local Area Implementation Plan)

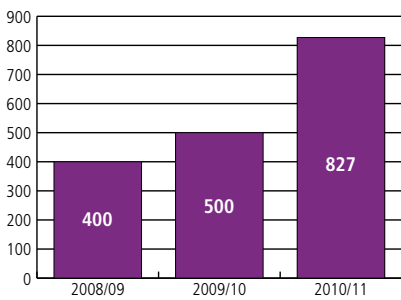
The Local Area Implementation Plan (LAIMP) was developed by TDC as a monitoring tool to be used for quarterly reporting to demonstrate the growth in the volume and range of short breaks provision.

The LAIMP splits the data to record both specialist and non-specialist provision. With reference to Hounslow, specialist provision covers borough services such as the Play team schemes; the Decisions R Us Panel figures (these were co-ordinated by the Participation worker via the Youth service); the PHAB clubs, Otaker Kraus Music Therapy, Hounslow Extra Club, the Lindon Bennett London Zoo trip

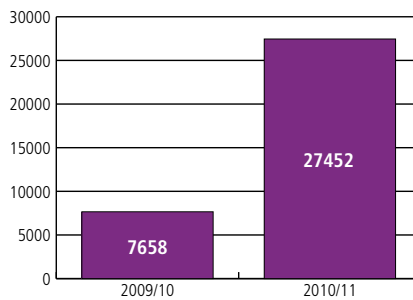
and the travel training provider, Owl Dimensions.

Non-specialist provision covers Brentford Sports, Kids Cookery, Watermans, Feltham Bees, Heathrow Gym, the trips to Thames Valley Adventure Playground, the swimming sessions and pool parties with Fusion, the trip to Legoland, Watermans, the cinema and theatre performances, Interact and Watermans arts courses.

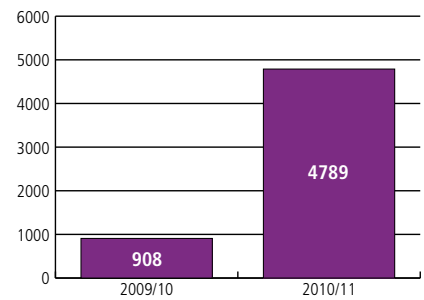
Number of children accessing Short Breaks



Number of hours – Specialist Provision



Number of hours – Non-Specialist Provision



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The Aiming High Experience

**Young Person -
Thomas Misra**



Thomas and carer Ryan with their tickets for the Muse concert at Wembley Stadium.

"My name is Thomas Misra and I am 18 years old. I have taken part in the Youth Panel in Chiswick Town Hall and in the Phab Club in Hounslow. I am also taking part in the Fashion workshop and the Music Workshop in the Waterman's Art Centre on Saturday.

The things I enjoy are music, singing, dancing and games. I like socialising, meeting other people and taking part in fun activities. I would like to do more if I get the chance." Thomas Misra

Parent - Aldona Zywicka-Thornton

"Aiming High has effectively helped us (and many other families with disabled children from many diverse creeds and cultural backgrounds) to befriend, support and network with each other."

**Provider -
Brentford Sports
- Peter Shears**

BRENTFORD FC
COMMUNITY SPORTS TRUST 

"The Aiming High programme has been of tremendous benefit to us here at Brentford FC Community Sports Trust. The new partnerships which have been established have meant that we are now able to reach out to many new children / young people which 18 months ago we had no contact with.

For example, we started a new Aiming High Inclusive Holiday Course alongside a local sports centres programme and supported by the Hounslow PLAY team.

This programme included young people with disabilities playing sport alongside their mainstream peers / friends. We used the same venue as the mainstream camp and added extra support workers to include the Aiming High Group. One mother wrote to me following her son's attendance. "Thank you very much for the info. My son especially enjoyed the trampoline and basketball sessions. It is usually quite difficult for him to interact with people, but it was refreshing to see the dedication and commitment of all staff, who were very welcoming and such fun to watch. Thanks to them for helping him to fit in so well. Can you please let us know of anything else going on because he is quite isolated."

We have recently begun offering kayaking sessions to the local community via our Brentford Boating

Arch team. Through some additional funding from Aiming High we were able to purchase some new Katakana specialist kayaks which are able to seat 6 people at a time. This has meant we have been able to include parents, carers and siblings in the activity which has reduced the anxiety levels and enabled all the participants to take part. The groups have included visually impaired and autistic children alongside others with physical disabilities, all in the same activity. The mother of one visually impaired boy commented "M had a fantastic time kayaking, the coaches were brilliant with the children, they supported them really well, listened to them and had fun! We would love to do this again!"

The new contacts and relationships made have meant that we are now able to offer further weekend activities, to compliment the Aiming High holiday schemes and our regular schools programmes, having a clearer idea of the activities that the children want."

**Training
- Michelle
Nicolas - Scope**

"The training available within Hounslow via Aiming high was invaluable to myself and to many of our support workers who go out and support children with disabilities within their own homes as well as within the community.

The feedback from our support workers has been that a lot of the training has really changed the way



Aiming High funded one-to one swimming lessons for Keshav to help his confidence in the pool so he can build strength and keep active.

in which they approach their work with young people. This is particularly true of the training around choice."

Westbrook Semi-Independence Nights

"My daughter has been attending the nights at Westbrook and it has been fantastic and made an impact on our lives, in as much as Holly has proved that she is capable of doing things that we did not think she could."

Mrs Beverley Stansby, mother of Holly

Three Wings Trust



"Jake, my son and I attended a few of the Three Wings events which helped to introduce us to the service. We met people and are now going to use it."

Donna Pearce, mother of Jake

Otakar Kraus Music Therapy



"He enjoyed the sessions as he loves music. He had a great chance to play many different musical instruments. I was happy as he got a chance to interact with a different adult and the teacher was really good with him. He keeps on asking when he can go back. I want to thank Aiming High for providing such an opportunity."

Mrs Subramanian, mother of Ragul

Early Years - Inclusion

'My son has really benefited from the extra time that he has been at the nursery and the support that he has had means that he is making really good progress in his learning.' Anon

'I have been able to use the time to go shopping and do my own stuff, you know, do everyday things that everybody else can do. I don't really know how I am going to cope without that time.' Anon

'It has been nice to feel that my child has been included and has been treated like all the other children. I can't tell you how much that has meant to me.' Anon



Residential trips funded by Aiming High have enabled disabled children to interact with their peers and develop confidence and communication skills.

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The Aiming High Experience

Thames Valley Adventure Playground



"Lewis enjoys the wide open space as he is free to do what he wants. Enjoys the climbing – in fact, he enjoyed just about

everything. Beautiful place, well maintained, good for parents and children." Paula Sutch, mother of Lewis.

Theatre/Cinema Trips



"The cinema sessions from

Aiming High are really beneficial for families like myself who have children with special needs because it gives a chance for us to spend time together as a family and not worry about what other people think because here everybody is in the same boat."

Jess Kaur, Parent

Legoland



"Aiming High was fantastic over the summer – 3 activities a week which is a good balance. We've used the Merlin Pass, since the trip to Legoland, at both Madame Tussauds and Sea Life so have had weekend activities as well. Maxima enjoyed

the Kids Cookery School as she was able to attend with her sister and was able to watch what she was doing. It helped to build her relationship with her sibling and important that they could do things together. She has also enjoyed the kayaking and the swimming. The Aiming High staff are so kind and it is a pleasure to meet them." Parent - Sophie Mitzutani

Feltham Bees

"I enjoyed football very much especially when I score a goooooooooo!"

Geoffrey Acquaaah, age 8

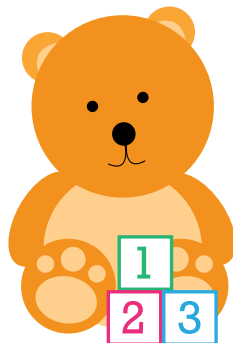
Kids Cookery

"Its brilliant, I want to go again, Mummy!"

Chetan Verma-Issar



Sure Start/ Teddy Cubs



"Before Teddy Cubs, I had never left my son alone ever. However, I saw how much he was enjoying himself, how much fun he was having and the bond he had with the co-ordinator,

Angie and I felt confident to leave him. Since Teddy Cubs, I have taken him to Sure Start as I am now much more happy to leave him with other people and I know he has a bond with the co-ordinator, Angie, who managed Teddy Cubs as well." Iffit Kahn, Parent

Fusion



"Michael really enjoyed all the

pool parties - sometimes it has been hard for him when children don't understand what's wrong with you. He always looks forward to it. Aiming High has provided different experiences for him that he wouldn't have had." Sally Lloyd, Michael's mother.

Interact



"I have learnt to communicate and feel confident and I have met a lot of people. I loved the paper dance. I have enjoyed everything and wish to come again. I give it 10/10!"

Rhythm, Interact participant

Chickenshed

During the spring term, an exciting project took place in Hounslow with four of the local borough schools. Two mainstream schools, Lampton School and Bedfont Junior joined with two specialist schools from the borough, Oaklands and Marjory

Kinnon in a drama project with the Chickenshed Theatre Group.



Chickenshed is a well-known inclusive theatre company based in North London. Founded in 1974, Chickenshed is open to anyone and everyone, producing powerful, dynamic theatre. Led by Chickenshed staff, the project aimed to promote inclusive participation for children and young people with disabilities with those from a mainstream setting.

The team from Chickenshed worked with both the primary and secondary schools, via a series of weekly workshops, to develop two dramatic presentations that were performed at the Watermans Theatre in Brentford on March 1st 2011.

The secondary school presentation was based upon the ground-breaking show 'Crime of the Century' that Chickenshed produced after members of the company had a personal experience with the devastating effects of gang culture.

The primary school presentation was based upon work developed from the imaginations of the children themselves.

"It's brilliant to have the opportunity

Items for a 'Cool Zone' to help Adam relax and be quiet '...when I need to be having some thinking time and have lots of worries and anxieties'.



to work with mainstream schools and professional actors.... It will develop the students' drama and social skills."

Mary Kelly, Teacher, Oaklands School

"Thank you for teaching us music and movement. I had fun making the

London Eye. I also loved shouting out my favourite word. Mum and Dad loved it too, they said I was fabulous. I would love to do another show with you sometime."

Samuel, Marjorie Kinnon School.

Going forward April 2011 and beyond

Parents Forum

The Parents Forum will continue! Monthly dates have been booked at Da Spot for the rest of 2011 and it is hoped that, now established, that this will remain a focal point for contact with parents with a child or young person with additional needs. A new Chair will be picked from May 2011 and representatives from the local authority will attend each meeting.

Helping HANDZ Network

Previously known as the Children with a Disability Network, the Helping HANDZ Network seeks to



improve access to information, help to identify support, use parents and carers as evaluators when planning services and promote opportunities for families who have registered a child with disabilities or additional needs to the Disabled Children's Register.

The Network offers families a quarterly electronic newsletter, the chance to meet and talk to other families with a disabled child at forums and workshops, the chance to support or be supported by other families through its "buddying" scheme and, for children and young people who meet the criteria, a Network Card that is recognised by local businesses and services.



Helping HANDZ Network Co-ordinator, Steve Devlin

Steve Devlin, the Helping HANDZ Network Co-ordinator is always on hand to bridge the gap between parents and the local authority and other community services.

Early Intervention Grant

On 11 December 2010, the Government announced an £800 million investment in short breaks for disabled children over the next four years. This money has been allocated to local authorities as part of the Early Intervention Grant (EIG). Whilst the funding was announced separately to the overall EIG, the short break funding has not been ring fenced. Local authorities have been charged by Government to make local decisions to achieve the best possible outcomes within what is overall, a reduced funding pot. To that end, Hounslow Council have awarded £602,000 for short breaks for 2011/12.

Short Break Duty

On 19 November 2010, the Government asked Parliament to approve Regulations on Breaks for Carers of Disabled Children. From April 2011, the regulations placed a duty on local authorities to prepare a statement for carers on what services will be available in local areas and what criteria they will be accessed by. The regulations state that by 1st October 2011 local authorities must publish a statement for carers in their area setting out:

- details of the range of short breaks services provided;
- any criteria against which eligibility services will be assessed;
- and how the range of services is designed to meet the needs of carers in their area.

The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 will alter Schedule 2 of the 1989 Children Act so that it requires that 'every local authority (England and Wales) shall provide services designed to assist individuals who provide care for such children (disabled) to continue to do so, or to do so more effectively, by giving them breaks from caring.' This change in the law will make short break provision for disabled children and their families a statutory service. The wording of the new duty is also important. The new legal provision makes clear that breaks should not just be provided to those carers struggling to maintain their caring role, but also to those for whom a

break would improve the quality of the care they can offer. Short breaks should therefore not just be used as a crisis intervention, but should also be used in a preventative fashion to enhance the lives of families with disabled children and help them lead an ordinary and valued life.

In addition to the new duty, the legislation also provides the

Government with powers to issue accompanying regulations which will determine in greater detail what local authorities must do in meeting the new duty. The Government intends to write these regulations at a later date - drawing upon the learning gained from the short break programme - and in doing so further define the legal requirements surrounding short break provision.

The regulations and the new duty will come into force in April 2011 and the Short Breaks Service will ensure the October statement is in place for 1st October 2011.

Conclusion

The Aiming High project has proved that there is a need for short breaks to be available for families with disabled children and young people and that, when in place, can help to relieve stressful situations for families and even enhance the family environment by providing opportunities for the family to enjoy a break together.

The Aiming High project provided the platform for this to happen and going forward, the Short Breaks team will aim to make best use of the experience and knowledge gained to ensure that Hounslow's short breaks support the families and the children and young people it aims to help.

Thanks must go to the children and young people and their parents/ carers who have been involved in the project to date.

Short Breaks Service

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