

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD



TO:	Health and Wellbeing Board
FROM:	Linda Clegg, Director of Children's Services & Chair of the Children's Partnership Board
DATE:	8 th March 2016

SUBJECT: Evidencing the Disabled Children's Charter for Health & Wellbeing Boards

1. PURPOSE

To inform the Board of the range of multi-agency activities across the borough that together evidence that the Health and Wellbeing Board is meeting the seven key commitments of the Disabled Children's Charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Board Members are to consider and approve the evidence below which will then be submitted to Every Disabled Child Matters for publication on their website.

3. BACKGROUND

The Blackburn with Darwen Health and Wellbeing Board signed up to the Disabled Children's Charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards on 11th March 2015. The Charter has been developed by the charities Every Disabled Child Matters and Tadworth Children's Trust.

The Charter supports Health and Wellbeing Boards to meet their responsibilities towards disabled children, young people and their families, including children and young people with special educational needs and health conditions.

The Blackburn with Darwen Health and Wellbeing Board is listed as a Charter signatory on the Every Disabled Child Matters website and there is a requirement for written evidence to be submitted to demonstrate how the Health and Wellbeing Board is meeting the seven commitments by 1st April 2016. Updating the evidence is an annual requirement.

4. RATIONALE

The benefits of revisiting on an annual basis how the Board is meeting the seven key commitments of the charter are:

- Publicly share a vision for improving the quality of life and outcomes for disabled children, young people and their families
- Develop a greater understanding of how to meet the needs of disabled children, young people and their families
- Have greater confidence in targeting integrated commissioning on the needs of disabled children, young people and their families
- Build on local partnerships to deliver improvements to the quality of life and outcomes for disabled children, young people and their families
- Develop a shared focus on measuring outcomes experienced by disabled children, young people and their families

5. KEY ISSUES

The following text will be submitted to Every Disabled Child Matters for inclusion on their website, subject to the approval of the Health and Wellbeing Board:

Commitment 1:

We have **detailed and accurate information** on the disabled children and young people living in our area, and **provide public information** on how we plan to meet their needs.

As at 1st December 2015 there were 543 children registered on the children with disabilities 'Disability Links' database. This is a self-reported register where families sign up on a voluntary basis and the database is shared across health, education and social care.

A 'Short Breaks Statement', is published annually on the local authority website to inform families about statutory and universal services and how these can be accessed.

A strategy for children and young people aged 0-25 years with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) is a public document published on the local authority website and shared with the Council's Executive Board.

A joint commissioning plan across Education, Health and Social Care is being developed to ensure that services are redesigned and commissioned to meet the needs of children and young people with disabilities.

Commitment 2:

We **engage directly with children and young people** and their **participation is embedded** in the work of our Health and Wellbeing Board.

There is a clear line of communication to escalate issues for children and young people with disabilities and their families to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The multi-agency 0-25 Complex Needs Strategic Partnership Board escalates issues to the Children's Partnership Board which is a sub group of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Director of Children's Services is a member of all three Boards and additionally there is representation from Children's Services Elected Members to provide political oversight.

As part of an independent evaluation of the Education, Health and Care Plan process, feedback has been captured from children, young people and their families and carers to influence future service provision and improve the services offered.

Training for staff in person centred planning has been delivered to ensure that aspirations and outcomes for children are reflected in their Education, Health and Care plans. Further training on writing outcomes focused plans is in development.

Every family registered on the Disability Links database receives the 'Newsflash' newsletter three times per year to update on local services, support groups, benefits information and local recreational and leisure activities. The newsletter is also shared with a range of professionals, voluntary groups, public sector services and schools with copies available in GP surgeries and public buildings.

A 'Communication Passport' tool has been developed for use by professionals who work with children and young people with disabilities. The use of the passports has been embedded over the past two years to provide a focus for a child to communicate their views in 'Child in Need' reviews.

A 'Participation Champion' from the Children with Disabilities Service captures evidence of engagement activity and a Participation Annual Report is published on the local authority website and shared with the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Two strategic groups for hearing impairment and visual impairment meet termly with service providers and children and young people to identify gaps in provision and improve service delivery.

The Children with Disabilities short breaks facility 'Appletrees' has achieved 'Investing in Children' status, an award which recognises and celebrates examples of imaginative and inclusive practice. The scheme's assessors met with children and young people to discuss how they are able to influence change and decision making and the decision to award membership came from the children and young people themselves.

In addition, Appletrees was inspected by Ofsted in December 2015 and received an 'outstanding' judgement. The report stated that "young people stay in a welcoming and supportive home where they are fully valued and respected. Staff are extremely creative and highly successful in gaining the views of young people who have complex needs". One parent commented: "as a single parent I don't think I'd still be standing without the support of Appletrees. I trust staff completely and my child enjoys going. I have seen that staff are very affectionate and nurturing and I know that my child has picked up this warm and caring atmosphere."

Commitment 3

We engage directly with parent carers of disabled children and young people and their participation is embedded in the work of our Health and Wellbeing Board.

A Disability Links Forum is organised by the 'Parents in Partnership' group three times per year to give parents and carers opportunities to voice issues of concern, either personal or general with professionals.

The Blackburn with Darwen 'Local Offer' website is an online resource that details services, support and guidance available to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 0 – 25 and their families.

Link to the Local Offer: <http://search3.openobjects.com/kb5/blackburn/directory/localoffer.page>

A 'Friends of the Local Offer' group has been established to gather feedback on the services available to children and their families to improve existing services and fill identified gaps.

The Parents in Partnership group is represented on both the 0-25 Complex Needs Strategic Partnership Board and Transitions sub group and have a regular agenda item at each meeting. Conversely, a representative from Children's Services attends the Parents in Partnership Forum meetings.

Commitment 4

We set clear strategic outcomes for our partners to meet in relation to disabled children, young people and their families, monitor progress towards achieving them and hold each other to account.

Strategic outcomes are agreed by the 0-25 Complex Needs Strategic Partnership Board and partners include parent representatives, an Elected Member, the Blackburn with Darwen Clinical Commissioning Group, the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information and Advice Support Service (SEND IASS), East Lancashire Healthcare Trust, Lancashire Care Foundation Trust, Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care and Education.

The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) strategy is currently being refreshed and a group of partners meet to collectively explore revised strategic outcomes.

To maintain high standards, commissioned contracts are monitored through managed scorecards and commissions include Occupational Therapy, the SEND Information Advice Support Service

(IASS), Speech and Language Therapy services and the Independent Mobility Service.

Blackburn with Darwen is working towards co-ordinating commissioned health services for children with special educational needs and disabilities through the Healthy Child Programme Strategic Board.

Commitment 5

We **promote early intervention** and support for smooth transitions between children and adult services for disabled children and young people

A 0-25 Complex Needs Strategic Partnership sub group focuses on transitions support and includes representation from adult social care, children's social care, Parents in Partnership and education.

A 'Transitions Planning Guide' for children, young people and their families has been published in consultation with the Parents in Partnership group to ensure that the young person's needs, aspirations and wishes are central to the process.

Transitions planning is also reflected in the Education, Health and Care Plans and subsequent reviews and parents and children influence the detail in both.

A Transitions Operational Managers group meets quarterly to identify early which children will require transitions planning and support.

The 'Access Initiative' group meets on a termly basis to identify the aids and adaptations required to both anticipate and meet the needs of individuals.

Commitment 6

We work with key partners to **strengthen integration** between health, social care and education services and with services provided by wider partners.

Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCO) attend cluster meetings to cascade key priorities and developments within their organisations.

Funding arrangements for complex needs packages of care are co-ordinated by decision making panels with representatives from health, social care and education.

Education, Health and Care Plan 'All About Me' meetings are attended by children, young people and their parents / carers with invited representatives from health, social care and education to agree the support required. A health representative attends meetings where there are complex health issues and for plans where a health need is not at the forefront, health advice is provided in writing to influence the plan.

Commitment 7

We provide **cohesive governance** and leadership across the disabled children and young people's agenda by linking effectively with key partners.

The 0-25 Complex Needs Strategic Partnership Board reports into the Health and Wellbeing Board via the Children's Partnership Board sub group. Each member of the 0-25 Complex Needs Strategic Partnership Board leads on the SEND reforms on behalf of their organisation. Terms of reference have been agreed and a SEND action plan is in place and monitored.

A 'Governance and Commissioning sub group' of the 0-25 Complex Needs Strategic Partnership Board works to ensure that governance arrangements are well managed and effective and an

action plan is in place.

A monthly 0-25 Complex Needs commissioning progress report is shared with the multi-agency Blackburn with Darwen Joint Commissioning Recommendations Group to ensure a robust governance and accountability infrastructure for the commissioning of SEND provision for children and young people aged 0-25.

The Local Authority Special Educational Needs team provides briefings and training for schools and colleges on Education, Health and Care Plans and updates on SEND reforms.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Charter supports the principles of the Start Well priority area of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy - *'Making sure children and young people get the best start in life'*, and upholds the approach of the Strategy to increase community engagement.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Co-ordination of the monitoring of the seven commitments will have no additional financial implications for either the Health & Wellbeing Board, The Children's Partnership Board or the 0-25 Complex Needs Strategic Partnership Board and will be met within existing approved budgets.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications.

9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional resource implications to the Health and Wellbeing Board, The Children's Partnership Board or the 0-25 Complex Needs Strategic Partnership Board, other than existing officer time to report on progress.

10. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Revisiting on an annual basis how the Health and Wellbeing Board is meeting the seven key commitments of the charter will enhance the Board's understanding of the needs of disabled children, young people and their families, including children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and health conditions. This intelligence will be used to influence decision making and commissioning.

11. CONSULTATIONS

The Children's Partnership Board and the 0-25 Complex Needs Strategic Partnership Board have been consulted on the evidence submission.

VERSION:	V1.0
CONTACT OFFICER:	Justine Westwell, Planning & Corporate Reporting Manager, PEOPLE Programme Area, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
DATE:	26 th January 2016
BACKGROUND PAPER:	None