



Our Ref:
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Dear Christine

DISABLED CHILDREN'S CHARTER

Since signing the Charter on 15 January 2015, I am pleased to report the progress on meeting the seven commitments in Suffolk, and to highlight our further ambition in Suffolk to achieve excellence.

Commitment 1: We have detailed and accurate information on the disabled children, young people and their families living in our area, and provide public information on how we plan to meet their needs

- The State of Suffolk is a key document of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and is intended to provide an overview of the strategic health and wellbeing related needs in Suffolk, including the wider issues that affect local people such as housing and education.

It provides an overarching analysis, taking a life-course approach and highlights issues for Suffolk. The 2015 State of Suffolk report will be used to inform the first refresh of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, a ten year strategy 2012 – 2022.

In addition a number of specific Needs Assessments are available, including:

- Learning Disability Needs Assessment
- Family Carers Needs Assessment and its companion Young Carers Supplementary Report
- Speech and Language Needs Assessment
- Active Living Health Needs Assessment

We are currently refreshing our speech and language assessment to inform our joint commissioning arrangements, and conducting a needs assessment on children and young people in Suffolk with emotional or behavioural difficulties, and all-age autism.

Information is published as follows: <http://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/joint-strategic-needs-assessment-jsna/reports/NA/>

We have a register of over 3000 families on our Activities Unlimited website who receive information relating to our Short Break Offers and how these can be accessed.

<https://www.access-unlimited.co.uk/activitiesunlimited/> The Access Unlimited Website holds full information of our Local Offer, and provides a one stop shop for Suffolk children and young people with additional needs and disabilities. The website also holds information on Young Carers. <https://www.access-unlimited.co.uk/>

Commitment 2: We engage directly with disabled children and young people and their participation is embedded in the work of our Health and Wellbeing Board

We engage with disabled children and young people to gain individual feedback about their services on a regular basis. We have modelled good practice through our Access Unlimited website and as part of the SEND reforms. Our Education, Health & Care Plans are person centred and multi-agency. We have embedded the Signs of Safety approach to our work and have set up an Engagement Hub in our children's services to put service users at the forefront of the commissioning process. IESCCG have set up and implemented a Youth Engagement Forum (YEAH!) to talk and engage with young people. We have recently co-produced our Joint Learning Disability Strategy.

We have recently undertaken some peer research with young people with additional needs as part of Suffolk Assembly of Youth (SAY). Work is currently underway with young people with disabilities, VCS partners and Wolsey Youth Theatre to create a short DVD on how to local provision can be inclusive.

Ambition: we are currently developing how we can embed the views of children and young people in the refresh of our Health & Wellbeing Strategy, so that we have a truly co-produced Plan.

Commitment 3: We engage directly with parent carers and their participation is embedded in the work of our Health and Wellbeing Board

We have good engagement with parents and carers, and this has been demonstrated through co-production on the SEND reforms.

Our Suffolk Parent Carers Network [SPCN] was a vital part of our SEN Reform Working Group, and Parent Carers were also involved in all the work stream activity, which included:

- Development of the Education Health and Care [EHC] Plan template;
- Personal Budgets;
- Moving into adulthood;
- Joint Commissioning;
- The Local Offer;
- Workforce development.

Parents and Carers continue to be a key part of reviewing how well the “Local Area” is preparing for Ofsted / HMI inspection.

Ambition: We feel that we have good co-production with parents and carers in developing services. We now need to ensure that we use the voice of parents and carers more systemically to influence contract monitoring and ongoing quality of provision.

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

We are accountable to a clear NHS outcome framework, and we currently reported on shared outcomes for disabled children through our Health & Wellbeing outcome “Every child in Suffolk has the best start in life”. As part of our refresh of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy we have a new shared strategic outcome of “Improving independent life for people with physical and learning disabilities”.

We have a set of joint outcomes for our Learning Disability Strategy and SEND Strategy, and we set shared outcomes for our families as part of our Education Care & Health Plans.

We hold partners to account through our Children’s Trust Board and Health & Wellbeing Board.

Ambition: We need to better understand journey of families in terms of meeting their outcomes, and we will now test the integration of our Education Care & Health Plans through the early adopter integration site of Connect East Ipswich. We will audit a sample of plans to test where integration works and learn lessons for the system to improve outcomes for families.

Commitment 5: We promote early intervention and support smooth transitions between children and adults services for disabled children and young people

The Board has agreed an Adult Learning Disabilities Strategy which is inclusive of young people aged 14-25. The Joint Mental Health and Learning Disability Commissioning Group has signed up to a set of outcomes for all young people in transition to adulthood, and agreed joint support for implementation of them. We have agreed a new practice framework with Adult and Community Services that supports the person-centred practice within our Signs of Safety approach.

Ambition: We are developing our offer which will be addressed in our Commissioning Strategy which will include join-up of support from age 14 – 25, working with Adult Care Services, Health and Education to improve outcomes for young people into adulthood

Commitment 6: We work with key partners to strengthen integration between health, social care and education services, and with services provided by wider partners

We have worked effectively to achieve the multi-agency SEND reforms, develop the Mental Health and Learning Disability Strategy, the Health & Housing Charter and Suffolk's Emotional Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

Ambition: As part of our early adopter for health and social care integration, our project "Disability Friendly Ipswich", will give us an experience in the area of East Ipswich of what is like to live with disability and how we can make communities more inclusive. We are starting this project now by working with services to find out the views of service users between now and Dec 2015.

Commitment 7: We provide cohesive governance and leadership across the disabled children and young people's agenda by linking effectively with key partners

We provide leadership for Disabled Children through our Children's Trust arrangements which are accountable to the Health & Wellbeing Board. The HWB takes a whole life approach and in its Health & Wellbeing Strategy Refresh a new priority "Improving independent life for people with physical and learning disabilities " is to be added to strengthen our work in this area.

Our social work service sits within Education & Learning of Suffolk County Council, and Safeguarding is integrated with occupational therapy and school nurse services.

Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board would like to assure our continued commitment to the Disabled Children's Charter and we are actively seeking continuous improvement in the integration of services across the Suffolk system, and improvement of outcomes for families.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Alan Murray
Chair
Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board