



Aiming High for Disabled Children **EDCM briefing for supporters in England** **April 2009**

Introduction

Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better Support for Families (AHDC) (www.edcm.org.uk/aiminghigh) is the report from the disabled children's review, part of the government's Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. This was a joint review between HM Treasury and (the-then) Department for Education and Skills, aimed at improving services for disabled children in England. The report was an excellent result for the campaigning work of EDCM and all of our supporters.

The AHDC report was published in May 2007, and committed the government to a 'transformation programme' for the delivery of services for disabled children and their families in England from 2008 – 2011; the 3 year government spending cycle following the review.

Funding from the programme came on stream in April 2008 and so April 2009 marks the beginning of the second year of the AHDC programme, which is led jointly by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department of Health (DH).

This campaign briefing sets out the commitments made in AHDC and progress to date. It also highlights other spending and system developments relating to the AHDC programme and how EDCM supporters can get involved to make sure AHDC is being delivered.

Overview

Funding commitments

The AHDC report committed government to providing significant additional resources – **£340million** revenue funding¹, from 2008 to 2011, to transform services for disabled children. This funding is allocated to four specific service areas: short breaks, childcare, transition and parent forums.

In December 2008 the Children's Plan (www.edcm.org.uk/childrensplan) committed an additional **£90 million** capital funding² for short break services from 2008 – 2011, bringing the funding allocation to **£430 million**.

In February 2009 the Child Health Strategy '*Healthy lives, brighter futures*' (www.edcm.org.uk/health) clarified that an additional **£340 million** has been given to primary care trusts for disabled children from 2008 – 2011.

¹ Revenue funding is funding to enable actual *delivery* of services such as funding additional staff

² Capital funding is funding for *fixed costs* such as buildings, adaptations or transport

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This brings the total government funding allocation for disabled children from 2008 – 2011 to **£770 million**.

System reform measures

In addition to new funding, a set of system reform measures were introduced through AHDC to support delivery of the additional funding and to provide incentives for and transparency in the delivery of services by local authorities (LAs) and primary care trusts (PCTs).

These are:

- a) A national indicator on services for disabled children – National Indicator 54.
- b) A ‘core offer’ for families with disabled children
 (see www.edcm.org.uk/aiminghigh)

Further information about these measures and a detailed breakdown of all funding allocations can be found below.

Summary of funding commitments to date

Details of commitment	Source of funding	Amount allocated and timeframe	Who is it for	Nature and level of funding
Aiming High for Disabled Children, May 2007	Revenue funding from DCSF	£340 million between 2008 – 2011	Local authorities	Short breaks - £280 million revenue funding
				Childcare - £35 million
				Transition Support Programme - £19 million
				Parent forums - £5 million
The Children’s Plan, December 2007	Capital funding from DCSF	£90 million between 2008 – 2011	Local authorities	Short breaks - £90 million capital funding
Healthy lives, brighter futures (Child Health Strategy), February 2009	Funding from DH	£340 million between 2008 – 2011	Primary care trusts	£340 million for short breaks, community equipment and wheelchair services. £30 million of this for palliative care and end of life care. Note: Unlike the funding for local authorities, this funding is not ringfenced. See ‘Health funding’ section below for further explanation.

Funding commitments in detail

Short breaks

What did AHDC say?

- £280 million revenue funding (plus £90 million capital funding from the Children's Plan) was announced to transform short break provision, to enable local areas to expand the types of short break service available and increase accessibility to disabled children, young people and their families.

How is the money being spent?

- The Together for Disabled Children (TDC) (www.togetherfdc.org) partnership was appointed as the national support body and delivery agent for the short breaks programme. TDC will support all local areas, and support will include:
 - Regional networking and peer support activity
 - Training opportunities
 - Direct support for areas that require it
 - Good practice materials
 - A dedicated and inter-active web-portal
- Following a bid process, 21 pathfinder local authorities were selected to receive significant funding to develop good practice and improve short break services from April 2008.
- The pathfinder areas are: Bolton, Bradford, Brighton and Hove, Derbyshire, Dudley, Enfield, Gateshead, Gloucestershire, Halton, Kent, Norfolk, North Tyneside, North Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Suffolk, Sunderland, Sutton, Telford and Wrekin and Bournemouth-Dorset-Poole which are a joint pathfinder.
- All other local authorities received an average of £50,000 in April 2008. To receive additional funding from April 2009, they are required to demonstrate they are ready to provide high quality breaks by March 2009 according to a set of 'Readiness Criteria', which is set out in the Short Breaks Implementation Guidance (<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/IG00319>) issued by government for local authorities and primary care trusts to support them to transform short break services across England.

What other related activities are going on?

- The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 (www.edcm.org.uk/cypact) received Royal Assent on 13 November 2008. The Act introduces a new legal duty on local authorities to provide short break services – the first time the law has required local authorities specifically to provide breaks. The duty is expected to come into force in April 2011.

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- The Child Health Strategy (CHS) (www.edcm.org.uk/health) published in February 2009 clarified that primary care trusts have £340 million over 3 years (2008-2011) for disabled children's services, including short breaks. Further information on this health funding is below.

Useful links

- Information about the short breaks programme is at:
<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/ahdc/shortbreaks/>
- Short breaks Q&A, a funding allocation breakdown and the short breaks implementation guidance are at:
<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/IG00319>

TAKE ACTION!

How can EDCM supporters get involved to campaign for improved short breaks?

Supporters can take our online action which enables them to ask their local authority how they are **planning their short break services** for when the new Children and Young Persons Act duty comes into force in 2011. Take action at www.edcm.org.uk/cypact

Childcare

What did AHDC say?

- £35 million was announced to improve childcare provision and develop more accessible childcare places to ensure all families have the same access to appropriate childcare provision.

How is the money being spent?

- 10 areas for the childcare funding were selected as to pilot accessible forms of childcare for disabled children. These are Barking and Dagenham, Bradford, Camden, Cornwall, Luton, Northumberland, Oxfordshire, Sefton and Solihull.
- The Disabled Children's Access to Childcare (DCATCH) pilots will focus on childcare for those disabled children who are currently least likely to be able to access services, including older children and children with complex needs. They will address the concerns of families with disabled children including limited or lack of accessible centres, play and leisure activities.

What other related activities are going on?

- Following EDCM campaigning, in January 2009 the government announced a London Childcare Affordability Pilot Scheme that will pay an increased level of the childcare element of Working Tax Credit to parents of disabled children. More information can be found at this EDCM news story:
http://www.edcm.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_912rl_26010612003617j27t_20091283046m

Useful links

- Information about the childcare pilots is at:
<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/ahdc/childcare>

Transition support

What did AHDC say?

- £19m was announced to develop a Transition Support Programme (TSP) to raise the standards of transition support and provision and achieve greater consistency in all local areas.

How is the money being spent?

- A Transition Support Programme (TSP) has been developed to raise the standards of transition provision and achieve greater consistency in all local areas in England. The TSP was launched in December 2008 and is a three-year programme (2008 to 2011).
- The Council for Disabled Children and partners are working as the national transition support team (NTST) for the Transition Support Programme. (<http://www.transitionssupportprogramme.org.uk>) In addition, NTST will be working with National Strategies and the Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP) to provide regional support to local areas. The purpose of NTST is to drive and shape the programme in local areas, engage with and exchange good practice in transition and identify the support needs of local areas.
- One of the first tasks of NTST was to build on existing evidence and form a picture of what transition services in all local areas are currently delivering to disabled young people and their families.
- NTST developed a Self Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) for local authorities to complete in partnership with Primary Care Trusts, partner agencies, disabled young people and their families. The information received was to help NTST to

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assess and identify the type and level of support each local area needs to improve their transition services.

- In **year 1** (November 2008 – March 2009) all local areas received £10,000 in their November 2008 Sure Start grant to cover the cost of completing these SAQs and to ensure the views of disabled young people and their families were included. The SAQ will be carried out each year of the Transition Support Programme and each local area will be assessed on current practice and evidence.
- 13 local areas also received an additional £37,500 to extend their practice in the following areas:
 - Engagement with disabled young people and their families
 - Personalisation
 - Joint assessment processes in children's and adult services
 - Education, employment and training options at 16 years plus
 - Strategic partnership working
- The 13 local areas are: Birmingham, Cornwall, Coventry, Devon, London Borough of Redbridge, London Borough of Richmond, Leicester City, Medway, North East Lincolnshire, North Tyneside, Nottinghamshire, Oldham and Suffolk.
- In **year 2** (April 2009 – March 2010) all local areas received a second sum of £10,000 in April 2009 to support their improvement in transition support. In addition, 24 local areas will receive an extra direct grant of £37,500 to develop best practice and improve support across transition in other areas.
- Learning from their work will be put on the Transition Support Programme website as it becomes available.

What is happening now?

- 147 out of 150 local areas completed the SAQ by the deadline (30 January 2009). Information from the SAQs has been used along with other data to complete a report for DCSF and DH with recommendations of what level of support and funding would benefit each local area. Local areas will be informed about these recommendations in April 2009.

Are there other related activities going on?

- On behalf of the Transition Support Programme, NTST, working in partnership with National Strategies and the Care Services Improvement Partnership, held three pan regional transition seminars in March and April. The aim of these seminars was for local areas to learn more about the Transition Support Programme, NTST and partners, and to hear from regional support agencies about the type of support available to local areas. Delegates were also invited to attend workshops on subjects such as joint working and commissioning

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across agencies, multi agency assessments and participation of disabled young people and families.

Useful links

- More information about the Transition Support Programme is at: <http://www.transitionsupportprogramme.org.uk> and <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/ahdc/transition/>
- For email updates about the Transition Support Programme, you can email tsp@ncb.org.uk with 'TSP Updates' in the subject line.

Parent forums

What did AHDC say?

- £5 million was announced to support the development of parent involvement in every local area and provide ways for parents to influence the design and delivery of all services for disabled children.

How is the money being spent?

- Together for Disabled Children (TDC), a partnership between Contact a Family and Serco, (www.togetherfdc.org) are the delivery agent for the development of parent forums.
- From 2008-2010, £3 million will be available through grants and support from TDC to develop parent participation in each local area across England.
- In phase one, £3,300 was awarded to parent groups developing participation in 145 out of 150 local authorities to be spent by March 2009. There is an additional £1.5 million available to parent groups in phase two of the programme.

What is happening now?

- Application to bid for phase two grants is currently open and the deadline is 15 May 2009.

Useful links

- Information about how to apply for grant is at: <http://www.togetherfdc.org/Topics/PPFundingandGrants.aspx>
- Information and development materials are available at: <http://www.togetherfdc.org/Topics/ParentalParticipation.aspx>

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Health funding

What commitment has been made?

- The government made a commitment in the Children's Plan in December 2007 to publish a Child Health Strategy jointly between DH and DCSF. In line with this commitment, *Healthy lives, brighter futures* (www.edcm.org.uk/health) was published in February 2009.
- The strategy clarified that £340 million has been given to primary care trusts for disabled children from 2008 – 2011 to invest in palliative care and end of life services, short breaks, community equipment and wheelchair services.
- The strategy stated that £30 million of the funding is for palliative care services including capacity-building, 24 hour crisis support and short breaks in order to implement the '*Better Care: Better Lives*' strategy.

How is the money being spent?

- Unlike the funding for local authorities, the funding announced for primary care trusts is not ringfenced – it is part of their 'baseline allocations'. The government has stated that it is for each PCT to set their own spending priorities, including how much they spend on services for disabled children and children with palliative care needs. It is therefore hugely important that EDCM supporters **campaign locally** to make sure the funding is spent on its intended purpose (see below).

Useful links

- The Child Health Strategy '*Healthy lives, brighter future: the strategy for children and young people's health*' is at:
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_094400
- Information about EDCM's campaigning on disabled children and health is at:
www.edcm.org.uk/health
- Letters were sent to PCTs in April 2009 setting out expectations on PCTs in relation to disabled children. Download at:
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleaqueletters/DH_097376

TAKE ACTION!

How can EDCM supporters get involved to campaign for transparency on the health funding for disabled children?

Supporters can take our online action which enables them to ask their PCT how much money they are spending on disabled children. Take action at www.edcm.org.uk/health

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System reform measures

Core Offer

What did AHDC say?

- The Core Offer is a national statement of expectations setting the standards of services that families with disabled children can expect from their local area.
- The Core Offer has five elements:
 - **Information and Transparency:** should be tailored according to individual needs, accurate, appropriate and be readily accessible. This will empower families with disabled children by providing clarity to what services and support are available and how to access them.
 - **Assessments:** which are holistic, multi-agency and co-ordinated, as well as focussed on meeting the needs of disabled children and their families are more likely to lead to better outcomes for disabled children.
 - **Participation and Feedback:** the participation of families in the shaping and delivery of local services will ensure that services are appropriate and tailored to meet actual needs. Effective and accessible feedback should be given back to parents and carers by professionals with a clear complaints procedure to influence future provision.

Useful links

- The Core Offer can be found at:
<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/ahdc/coreoffer>

National Indicator

What did AHDC say?

- The disabled children's services national indicator (National Indicator 54) is a single performance measure on service provision for disabled children. It will assess the experiences of families using services and how these services are delivered according to the five elements of core offer. This is aimed at improving the quality of services and is a key priority of the Child Health and Well-being Public Service Agreement (PSA12)
(http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr_csr07_psa12.pdf).

What is happening now?

- An independent contractor (BMRB) is collating data through parental surveys, which will be used to calculate a national baseline indicator. The sample of parents to be surveyed has now been chosen and there are two remaining phases to the research this year.
- **Phase 1** – spring 2009 – 30 local areas who have included the indicator in their Local Area Agreements for 2008-09, or who have chosen it as a local target, will be surveyed. In addition BMRB will ensure that they receive questionnaire responses from a further 2000 respondents nationwide (England). This will enable them to provide both a national baseline for the indicator and a breakdown by service and core offer standard. It will also give figures for each of the 30 areas. Data reports providing these will be available by the end of June 2009.
- **Phase 2** – summer 2009 - the questionnaire will be sent out to all local areas. This will give all local areas (PCTs and local authorities) a data report which gives them their baseline for the national indicator and a breakdown by service and core offer standard
- A briefing which explains both the process and the timetable for the development of the indicator is now available and can be found at www.edcm.org.uk/aiminghigh

Useful links

- More information about National Indicator 54 is at: <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/ahdc/coreoffer>

Find out how to get involved in EDCM campaigning at:
www.edcm.org.uk/getinvolved

Find out how to help make disabled children matter locally where you live at
www.edcm.org.uk/localaction

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