



Dear all,

As we begin to enjoy the Spring sunshine, there is an air of expectation around the place. The Children and Families Bill has now completed its long passage through parliament and on Thursday 13th March became the Children and Families Act 2014.

The last two years have felt like a long process and has seen many people working hard to make this the best possible Act it can be. It's been a challenging but important process and Government have been receptive to the issues raised and the changes proposed.

However, now the real work of delivery begins. Conversations within parliament and the civil service are important but real change begins on the ground, in every local area, in every school and college and in every child and families life experience.

We are now focusing on this change, working with a whole range of partnerships to develop and refine the Code of Practice and, through some work very helpfully commissioned by NHS England, working directly with a variety of staff employed by Health to help them understand the change and support them in delivering it. As always our anchor points for the work we're doing in this area are the direct interactions we have with parents and children and young people themselves.

We are also now being supported by regional facilitators working with local authority pathfinder champions and a range of delivery partners to work with each area and support their specific challenge.

We are also continuing our work with the DfE funded delivery partners and grant holders to work together with pathfinder champions to plan and deliver the best regional and local support possible. more information on this will be available in the next two weeks.

Through this we all have real opportunities to change the lives of children, young people and families for the better, so the air of expectation continues!

Best wishes

Christine Henahan



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Special Educational Needs & Disability Reforms

An update on...

- The Children and Families Act 2014
- The Regulations
- The Code of Practice
- Health and the reforms
- Independent Support
- Preparing for Adulthood SEND reform forum

Children and Families Bill receives Royal Assent

The Children and Families Bill has successfully completed its passage through both Houses of Parliament and on Thursday 13th March it received Royal Assent.

There have been a number of significant changes to the Act during the final stages in the House of Lords:

- The Government brought forward a number of amendments to include young people in custody within the scope of the Act. Previously young people in custody were not covered by the SEN legislation. These amendments require local authorities to maintain Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans for young people in custody, allow EHC assessments to be requested in custody, and for appeals to be made against local authority decisions.
- The Government tabled an amendment requiring EHC plans to include any social care services required by the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970. This amendment will mean that local authorities must identify any social care provision it needs to make as part of the EHC assessment process, specify that provision clearly in the EHC plan, and deliver that provision.

- The Government tabled a series of amendments that removed the expression 'have regard to age' from the Act entirely. This followed concerns that young people with SEN would be disadvantaged because local authorities had to 'have regard to a young person's age' when assessing for or maintaining an EHC plan for anyone over 18.
- The Government committed to a review of the complaints and appeals processes in relation to young people who are challenging the education, health and social care elements of EHC plans. This review will include piloting a greater role for the tribunal in hearing complaints in relation to all aspects of EHC plans. The review will report back to Parliament. The Government also tabled amendments to widen the disagreement resolution and mediation arrangements to cover health and social care as well as education.

Regulations

The Government consulted on the draft Regulations in November 2013. Regulations are secondary legislation which set out in more detail exactly what the law requires.



Following consideration of the consultation responses, and now Royal Assent has been given to the Children and Families Act, the Government will lay the final Regulations before Parliament.

Almost all of these Regulations will be considered by Parliament using the negative resolution procedure – this means there will be no debate on the Regulations unless a Parliamentarian specifically objects to them. The only exception to this will be the Regulations on personal budgets which will be approved using the affirmative resolution procedure – this means they will have to be voted on and in all likelihood debated.

Code of Practice

The Government consulted on the draft Code of Practice in November 2013. The Government are currently working to change the Code of Practice to reflect the consultation responses and changes made to the legislation since it was first drafted.

The final Code of Practice will have to be laid before Parliament and approved using the affirmative resolution procedure – this means the Code will have to be voted on and in all likelihood debated. The Government are seeking to table a revised version for Parliamentary approval as soon as they can.

Young people's response to the Code of Practice

Over a six week period CDC carried out and commissioned 19 focus groups with disabled young people across England on the draft Code of Practice. We spoke with a wide range of young people aged 5-25 years.

The young people who took part in the focus groups talked to us about a range of issues, including: decision making; EHC plans; the Local Offer, transition to adulthood and access to information.

“When I used to have my reviews at school they never used to tell me what was actually going to happen in the meeting. Even though I was confident enough to say my opinion, it was so daunting to go in with these professionals from my school with all these different ideas on how my support should be.”

Read our report which brings together young people's views from those discussions

For more information about the reforms have a look at our FAQs

Health and the reforms

The Children and Families Act will have major implications for how the NHS organises and delivers services to children and young people who have Special Education Needs and/or Disability. It will reform the system of support across education, health and social care to ensure that services are organised with the needs and preferences of the child and their family firmly at the centre.

CDC and In Control are working in partnership to deliver a programme of support for the NHS and other health partners about the implications of the Children and Families Act and associated NHS Mandate commitments, including the implementation of personal health budgets for children.



This month we have been hosting a series of events and the discussions that will go on to shape the programme of support available and ensure that it responds to the issues being raised.

CDC have also **produced a briefing** which highlights the key reforms in the Children and Families Act and some of the key issues professionals in the health services should be addressing as they prepare for the implementation of the reforms.

See our health pages for more information about our work on health.

Independent Support

On 7th January 2014, the Department for Education announced a Government funded programme called Independent Support with an investment until March 2016.



The programme aims to provide additional support to help the families of children and young people with SEN and disabilities through the new process following comprehensive reforms to support. Support will come in the form of recruited and trained 'Independent Supporters' who will be managed by the private, voluntary and community sector. They will provide advice and support for parents of children with SEN, and young people with SEN, through the statutory assessment and Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) processes.

Their role will involve spending one-to-one time with families and providing independent advice and help to families by offering a range of time-limited support such as liaison across different agencies and advice on personal budgets. We envisage the level and nature of that support will be tailored to the particular needs of individual families.

On the 3 March 2014, CDC launched a public tender for the Evidence Gathering and Build Phase, which will help to gather evidence and inform the next stage of activity planned for June 2014. This early phase will also provide us with an opportunity to promote the Independent Supporters Programme widely.

If you are interested in submitting a tender or if you would like more information about Independent Support please visit www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/independentsupport

PfA forum

The Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) programme is running an online forum for 7 weeks to discuss the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) reforms and consider how to create positive outcomes for young people with SEN and disabled young people.



Each week the forum will discuss a different element of the SEND reforms, and have so far covered the local offer and engagement of young people and families.

Visit the PfA forum here.

If you have any questions please **contact PfA on** info@preparingforadulthood.org.uk



Some helpful resources on SEN and disability policy

As Strategic Reform Partner, CDC is collating information and developing resources that highlight key aspects of the SEN reforms as part of

We have produced a handy information sheet highlighting a selection of useful resources produced by CDC and our partners highlighting different aspects of changes to SEN and disability policy. This sheet includes:

- A checklist on drawing up Education, Health and Care plans
- A slide pack by the Department for Education on implementing the reforms to SEND
- FAQs on SEN and disability reforms

You can download this information sheet listing all of these free resources at www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/sendreforminfosheet.

Two mythbusting sheets have been designed by the National Parent Partnerships Network, IPSEA and Contact a Family, as part of the SEN Information Organisation Group, to dispel some of the myths associated with the progress and implications of the Children & Families Act.

1. **Dispelling myths around the Act and the reforms**
2. **Dispelling myths around the transition from Statements to the new Education, Health and Care Plans**



CDC Updates

CDC Networks are recruiting!

For further information about the roles and to apply, download an application pack today!

Contracts and Compliance Officer, Independent Support

There is an opportunity to join the new Independent Support team based within CDC supporting the Programme Manager with the effective delivery of programme contracts and grants.

Closing date: 9am, 21 March 2014

Programme Lead, Early Support

We have an exciting opportunity to join the Early Support programme based at CDC as the Programme Lead. This post will lead CDC's work on the development and delivery of activity in relation to Early Support and will act as a national champion and lead spokesperson for Early Support and Key working issues.

Closing date: 9am, 21 March 2014

Regional facilitators, Early Support

CDC are now seeking to recruit up to 9 Regional Facilitators to implement the Early Support delivery programme across nine government regions. The duration of each contract is 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015. Each Regional Facilitator recruited would be offered up to 96 days at a daily rate of £340, subject to contract task order negotiations. We would expect posts to start their position in April 2014.

Closing date: 21 March 2014

Assistant Director, Council for Disabled Children

We have a rare and exciting opportunity to join the CDC Senior Management Team as an Assistant Director. This post will play a pivotal role in leading our strategic partnership with the Department for Education on the upcoming SEND reforms.

Closing date: 14th April 2014



Watch this space
All our job vacancies
are advertised on our
website, on **Twitter** and
on our **LinkedIn**

A spotlight on the CDC networks

CDC directs much of its work through its Council, networks and the Every Disabled Child Matters campaign. We've asked two networks to give us an update on their work so far this year, and what they've got planned.

The National Parent Partnerships Network (NPPN) have been working to support Parent Partnerships through the current reform process, after which they are likely to evolve into Information Advice and Support (IAS) Services. We have been developing a set of Standards for IAS (similar to the current Parent Partnership Exemplifications) which should be finalised and disseminated later in the year. We have also been undertaking our annual Benchmarking of Parent Partnership Services - providing a



snapshot of the shape, size and activities of PPS across the country, the final report will be released soon. We are looking at redeveloping our SEN legal training (for PPS staff) as well as developing, in partnership with the SEN Information group, resources to inform and clarify key aspects of the current reform process.

For more information about NPPN on their website www.parentpartnership.org.uk/

The Making Ourselves Network (MOH) has been busy meeting with young people to discuss their views on the draft 0-25 SEN Code of Practice as part of the government consultation. MOH met with 19 focus groups across England and spoke with 168 young people aged 5-25 years. **You can read their response to the consultation here.** There is also an accessible version of the young people's response here [TO FOLLOW].

CDC also continues to support **EPIC, the young advisors to the Department for Education on the SEN reforms.** EPIC recently met to discuss the access to, and quality of, post-16 provision, an issue that continues to be hugely relevant to young people as they move into adulthood.



Read more about MOH on **their web pages** or follow them on Twitter, [@MOH_tweets](https://twitter.com/MOH_tweets).

Policy

Increase in funding for parent carer forums

Parent carer forums can now bid for up to £15,000 for their parent carer participation grant.

For more information, please see **Contact a Family and the National Network of Parent Carer Forums' bulletin.**



Personal Independence Payment

The National Audit Office (NAO) published a report on the progress of the Department of Work and Pensions' (DWP) new benefit, the Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

The report has highlighted the substantial delays that the new benefit is experiencing and the distressing impact this is having on disabled people. The report follows earlier announcements by the DWP that around two thirds of those applying for PIP have their application turned down.

The EDCM Campaign are looking for young people who are affected. If you have a story to tell about your experience with PIP, please email beatriceb@edcm.org.uk

Ensuring quality services

The Winterbourne View Joint Improvement Programme has published a Core Principles document aimed at helping commissioners to ensure service delivery that meets the needs of people with learning disabilities and / or autism who display, or are at risk of displaying, behaviour that challenges.

Consultations

A people powered NHS

NHS. Closing date: 18 March 2014

Fundamental standards for health and social care providers

Department of Health.
Closing date: 4 April 2014

Ill-treatment or wilful neglect in health and social care

Department of Health.
Closing date: 31 March 2014

Child poverty: a draft strategy

Department for Education & Department of Work and Pensions.
Closing date: 22 May 2014

Children's and adolescent mental health and CAMHS

Health Committee. Closing date: 19 March 2014

The Care Bill

The Care Bill pulls together threads from over a dozen different Acts into a single, modern framework for care and support. It reforms how the law works, prioritising individual wellbeing for disabled adults over the age of 18, with a particular focus on person-centred practice and outcomes, putting people in control of their care and support.



The intended outcome of the new legislation is that people's wellbeing, needs and goals are prioritised so that individuals will no longer feel like they are battling against the system to get the care and support they need. It highlights the importance of preventing and reducing needs, and putting people in control of their care and support and for the first time, it puts carers on a par with those for whom they care.

The Care Bill also establishes and makes provision about Health Education England and the Health Research Authority.

the Care Bill has completed its passage through both Houses of Parliament. The House of Lords will now consider amendments made in the commons.

Download fact sheets about the Care Bill

Also...

The Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) team will be producing a fact sheet on the links between the Care Bill and the Children and Families Bill. This will also be the topic of the PfA forum in the coming weeks. **Sign up to register with the forum here.**

Keep up to date with all our policy work!

www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/what-we-do/policy

SENDirect – Opening up Opportunities for families

SENDirect is a project developed by the SEND Consortium, which consists of Ambitious about Autism, Contact a Family, Dyslexia Action, Family Fund, ICAN, KIDS, Mencap, National Autistic Society and Scope. The SEND Consortium's vision is that children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families, get the support they need to thrive.



What is the SENDirect service?

SENDirect intend to make it easier for families to find out about and enjoy opportunities available to them, whether that means finding a leisure activity the whole family can do together, or sourcing the right educational intervention to meet their child's needs. SENDirect's national online brokerage service for families of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities will enable families to take advantage of the choices they have.

It will also gather information about things they search for that aren't available and use this information to encourage the development of new and better opportunities to meet their needs. SENDirect will provide information around personalisation, guidance on the new laws and regulations, as well as facilities to compare and buy services for children and young people over the internet.

SENDirect is being piloted in partnership in **10 Local Authority Areas**, and will be tested in these areas from September 2014, with a full launch planned for March 2015.

"..more needs to be done to help local service providers successfully promote what they can offer and understand more about the needs of children and young people with SEND in their area"

Elizabeth Archer, SENDirect

Elizabeth Archer, Project Lead at SENDirect explains, "SENDirect know that helping children and young people with SEND and their families receive the right services at the right time is key. To achieve this, more needs to be done to help local service providers successfully promote what they can offer and understand more about the needs of children and young people with SEND in their area.

It is incredibly important that SENDirect is easy for families of children with SEND to use, and that it is a valuable resource for everyone in their lives, which is why we are delighted to be involving parent carers, professionals and a wide variety of health, voluntary sector and private organisations in our Local Authority area partnerships in shaping the service.

We want to ensure that SENDirect is of value to everyone who supports families of children with SEND, and in particular those offering information, advice, services and opportunities to families. We want to know what these professionals want and need us to do to support them to thrive, so they in turn can offer support to families. That's why we are really keen for CDC members to join our expert advisory network – so they can support us to make sure SENDirect meets their needs”

How you can help

[Click here](#) to sign up to the SENDirect expert advisory network, to get involved in shaping SENDirect or to get news on progress

Practice

SEND: developing effective anti-bullying practice

From 2013 to 2015 the **Anti-Bullying Alliance** (ABA) is working in partnership with Achievement for All 3As, Contact a Family, Mencap and the Council for Disabled Children on an exciting and innovative programme of work, developed and informed by the views of young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) themselves and funded by the Department for Education, to reduce the incidence and impact of bullying on children with special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities in schools.

Evidence shows that children and young people with SEND are significantly more likely to be bullied or victimised than those who don't have any SEND.



FREE TRAINING! The Anti-Bullying Alliance have free training and resource packages available for schools and the wider children's workforce and parents and carers across England. For further information and links to lots of free resources please visit www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/send-programme

Change 100

Leonard Cheshire Disability's new internship programme, Change100, is shaping the future for young people and business in the UK by finding talented disabled undergraduates and matching them to some of the UK's leading companies as paid interns.

Change100 has placements across the UK and is open to anyone with a long term health condition or disability, including physical, visual or hearing impairments, mental health conditions and learning disabilities like dyslexia and dyspraxia.

New Child Stroke Project

The Stroke Association is working in collaboration with Evelina London Children's Hospital to deliver a **Child Stroke Project** which will deliver a research study evaluating the needs of families and young people following stroke in childhood.

The project also offers a Child Stroke Support Service to families affected by stroke in childhood. The support service aims to offer information, advice and support to families and young people.

Families can refer themselves directly to the Support Service by contacting **anna.panton@stroke.org.uk** or ringing 07715 065 925

NCB call for examples of health and VCSE collaboration

Is your service involved in effective collaborative practice between health and the voluntary sector to improve health and wellbeing for children and young people?

NCB is inviting case studies of best practice examples to be shared and promoted to its members and partners; to the Department of Health, NHS England and Public Health England; and amongst the **Health and Care Voluntary Sector Strategic Partners** and their members.



If you would like to submit a case study, please **email Emily Hamblin** by 29 March 2014.

Children with autism illegally excluded from school

New research published by **Ambitious about Autism**, shows that four in 10 children with autism had been illegally excluded from school temporarily last year.

The research forms part of the charity's campaign, **Ruled Out: Why are children with autism missing out on education?**

Help if you are waiting for a diagnosis for your child

Contact a Family have created a new section on our website to help parent carers who are going through the process of trying to get a diagnosis for their child.

Find out what support is available from Contact a Family and other organisations.

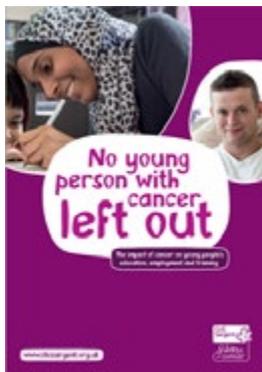
Resources

New parent guides from Contact a Family

- **Developmental Delay** explains what is meant by the terms 'developmental delay' and 'global developmental delay' and includes top tips from parents. It also contains a pull-out poster showing important milestones in a child's development.
- **Living with a Rare Condition** includes why rare conditions are sometimes hard to diagnose, how to access medical information, help and support, and a section on getting involved in research.
- **Living Without a Diagnosis**, written for parents whose child has a learning difficulty or problem, but do not know its cause. It includes information about getting a diagnosis, how to access help and support and top tips from other parents

These can all be downloaded at www.cafamily.org.uk/healthprofessionals

No young person with cancer left out



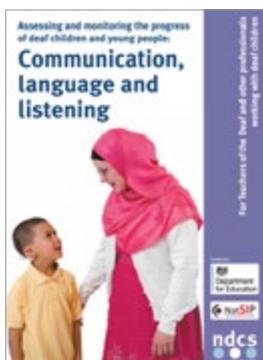
CLIC Sargent's new report, '**No young person with cancer left out**', highlights the impact of cancer on young people's education, training and employment and summarises findings from research with young people who were diagnosed with cancer between the ages of 16 and 24. It explores the issues that young people with cancer in face in accessing and maintaining education, training and employment opportunities.

For more information and to download the report please go the CLIC Sargent website here or contact Helen Gravestock at helen.gravestock@clicsargent.org.uk

Information brochure for siblings

Sibs has a new information brochure for siblings of disabled children. It highlights some of the common experiences shared by siblings and includes tips for dealing with issues such as worry or not understanding disability. It also signposts siblings to the YoungSibs service which is run by Sibs for siblings across the UK aged 6-17.

Download the brochure for young siblings here, or get a copy from info@sibs.org.uk



Navigating assessments for deaf children

The National Deaf Children's Society and the National Sensory Impairment Partnership have produced a new resource to help professionals navigate through the range of specialist assessments for deaf children on communication, language and listening – available online at www.ndcs.org.uk/assessments

Changes to speech and language therapy

The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists has written a very helpful article on the implications of the Children and Families Act, focussing on speech and language therapy. **You can read the article on their website here.**

Ensuring Quality Services

The Winterbourne View Joint Improvement Programme has published a Core Principles document aimed at helping commissioners to ensure service delivery that meets the needs of people with learning disabilities and/or autism who display or are at risk of displaying behaviour that challenges.

Ensuring Quality Services is written for commissioners of education, health and social care (local authorities and clinical commissioning groups) and prescribed specialised health services (NHS England) in England.

For more information and to read the document please see the **Local Government Association's website here.**

See the CDC website for a huge range of resources produced by us, the wider voluntary sector and government
www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources

Events

A New Landscape for SEN and Disability

23 April, London

1 May, Birmingham

8 May, Manchester

Early-bird ticket: £199 if you book by March 2014

Standard ticket: £250 if you book after this date

Following Royal Assent **CDC is hosting three conferences** on the Children and Families Act 2014 and the development of the new SEN Code of Practice. The events will give attendees a comprehensive understanding of the Children and Families Act 2014 including:

- practical guidance on setting up joint commissioning arrangements,
- information on how to establish Education, Health and Care assessments, and drawing up your Local Offer,
- an understanding of the most important things you need to do between now and September 2014.

For more information about the event and how to apply for a place, **please click here**.

The Early Language Development Programme supporting vulnerable children

The ELDP is a universal evidenced based programme targeted at children from 0-3 in areas of deprivation. This government funded programme, led by I CAN, is creating the skilled workforce and knowledgeable parents essential to support communication development in the early years.

The programme gives training and resources to lead practitioners to enable them to cascade the learning to a local network of early years and wider family-facing practitioners.

This local training is currently giving over 11,000 practitioners the knowledge, confidence and strategies to work with families in greatest need, supporting them to help their child's speech, language and communication development in the home.

Click here to access emerging programme findings. **Click here** to see how the ELDP is working in Birmingham.

Funding for the ELDP is continuing through 2014-15. Please contact eldp@ican.org.uk for information on how to apply.



The Children's Trust; Open Days for Professionals

15 May & 13 November, Tadworth in Surrey

Free

The Children's Trust are hosting two free events which offer an overview of their residential brain injury rehabilitation; community-based support; transitional services for technology-dependent children; and education for learners with profound and multiple learning difficulties.

If you work with children and their families, why not come and find out how their expertise and services have developed, see their facilities and speak to their multidisciplinary team?

Find out more at www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk

Exciting two-day event for occupational therapists

19 & 20 May, London

Count me in! is a unique two-day event which will explore the mapping, planning and development of networks to enable researchers and practitioners to exchange knowledge about children and young people's occupations.

The event follows the launch of the "Children and young people's occupations, health and well-being: a research manifesto for developing the evidence base" by the College of Occupational Therapists, Specialist Section: Children Young People and Families.



Find out more at www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk/countmein

For Families

Kids in the Middle

27 March 2014, Coventry

Free

The Kidz exhibitions are the largest UK events of their kind aimed at parents, carers and healthcare professionals. The focus of these events is equipment, products and services for children and young adults with disabilities and special needs.

For more information email info@disabledliving.co.uk or see the **exhibition agenda**.

Events cont'd

Dogs for the Disabled

31 May, Warwickshire
Free

Dogs for the Disabled is holding a **Fun Day at Stoneleigh Park** in Warwickshire. The day is free and open to all and will give you the chance to experience their work, meet their puppies, volunteers, staff and assistance dogs. There will be lots to see and do during the day, including dog shows, have-a-go agility sessions, disability sportszone, the Zoo Bus, and 'Healwork to Music' displays by Mary Ray.

Positive Behaviour Management

21 March, London
From £65

Is your child struggling with behaviour issues? Ambitious about Autism are running **Positive Behaviour Management training** aimed at professionals, parents and carers. It offers a range of practical evidence based tools for supporting positive behaviour in children and young people with autism. It will explore why certain behaviours occur, how to assess the behaviour, and an overview of strategies for positively supporting children and young people with autism.

Family Support Seminars

27 March, & 29 May
From £10

Ambitious about Autism are also running **family support seminars**, covering all areas for parents and carers of children and young people with autism. The seminars are also suitable for professionals. The series of seminars will be presented by leading legal experts and practitioners in the field. The final seminars are:

- How to achieve a successful transition to adulthood – 27 March 2014
- Understanding the new SEN legal system under the Children and Families Bill – 29 May 2014

Find out more about both of them on **Ambitious about Autism's website**.

Details of all CDC events and links to members' events can be found at www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/getting-involved/events

Hemiplegia Early Years Workshop

22 March, Bath

The Early Years Workshops are for parents of children aged 0-5 years, especially those with a recent diagnosis, to help make sense of the condition and, to put them in touch with other families dealing with similar issues.

Autism Seminars for Families

The National Autistic Society has brilliant Autism Seminars for Families across the country, throughout the year. **Keep an eye on their website** for events near you!

A Warm Welcome to our New Members

Brandon Trust

Brandon Trust is an innovative charity supporting people with learning disabilities in the UK. They champion Personalisation, providing services designed around individual needs: from living solutions to vocational courses, from community and leisure access to employment training and support. www.brandontrust.org

Cleft Lip and Palate Association (CLAPA)

CLAPA is the only UK-wide voluntary organisation specifically helping those with, and affected by, cleft lip and palate. CLAPA is based in London with a network of branches across the UK. www.clapa.com

Sebastian's Action trust

Sebastian's Action Trust has created the UK's only purpose-built facility that offers respite holidays to very sick children and their families. They also give practical support in many different forms to children battling with life-limiting illnesses and provide meaningful assistance at critical times to families exhausted by the stresses of hospital life and their child's gruelling treatment. www.sebastiansactiontrust.org

British Stammering Association

BSA is the national organisation for adults and children who stammer, run by people who stammer. www.stammering.org

YASS! (Young Autistic Spectrum Socialising)

YASS! is a self-help voluntary group run by parents to support each other and share information and experiences. It is aimed at children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder aged 0-25 years who have social, communication and imagination difficulties. www.barnet.gov.uk

Focus on the Innovation and Sustainability programme

The **Innovation and Sustainability Programme** is part of CDC's work as Strategic Reform Partner and is funded by the Department for Education. The programme is intended to support the development of capacity building across the voluntary and community sector as well as the implementation of the government's proposed SEN and disability reforms.



Applications were open between June and September, and on the final count we received over 200 applications featuring a wide range of creative ideas linking to the SEN and disability reforms and leading to more sustainable ways of working.

The successful 20 projects were selected as they were particularly innovative, clearly demonstrated how they will increase the organisation's sustainability and had a focus on the participation of disabled young people and those with SEN and families within their work.

One such organisation is Decipha CIC, who are running a Leadership Programme for young adults aged 19 – 25 years with life-limiting conditions. The project hopes to see these young adults thinking seriously about their life outcomes – what sort of employment is available, what housing options they could consider, how they can get the best out of their healthcare and how they can develop their friendship networks in their local communities.

“It was great to see so many young adults and families come [to the event]. Now that life expectancy is so much better for those living with rare conditions such as Duchenne, thanks to interventions such as ventilation and cardiac management, we look forward to seeing more adults in employment and achieving the life that they want.”

Dr Janet Hoskin, Decipha CIC

At the launch of the programme on 28th January 2014, Dr Jon Hastie who is 32 years old and has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy spoke about the Social Model of Disability, explaining how it is society that disables people because it often denies disabled people the chance to have the same opportunities as non-disabled people. Jon gave an inspirational presentation about his own journey to independent living and employment, explaining how he overcame barriers that stood in his way.

Both CDC and the Department for Education are delighted to have the opportunity to support projects like this one and look forward to helping all the Innovation and Sustainability grant recipients develop further.

A full list of grant recipients, and information on their projects, can be found at www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/innovationsustainabilityprogramme.

About the Digest

The CDC Digest is a quarterly round-up of all the essential policy, practice and other news involving disabled children and young people, and their families.

You can **download the latest issues from the CDC website**.

If you would like to be added to the list to receive this digest, email **hmackay@ncb.org.uk** with 'Subscribe to CDC Digest' in the subject line.

About CDC

The **Council for Disabled Children (CDC)** is the umbrella body for the disabled children's sector in England, with links to other UK nations. We are the only national body that brings together the diverse range of organisations that work with and for disabled children to support the development and implementation of policy and practice. Our work impacts on over 800,000 disabled children and their families.

CDC hosts Early Support, **Making Ourselves Heard network**, the **National Parent Partnership Network**, the **Special Educational Consortium**, the **Transition Information Network** and the **Every Disabled Child Matters campaign**.

Find out more

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