

January 2015



Dear all,

Welcome to the first digest of 2015. Happy New year to you all.

As always at this time of year we have been looking at resolutions. The usual ones are showing up in the team; a better work life balance, drinking less wine and not having quite as many team biscuits, but we're also thinking about our resolutions for the lives of disabled children and their families and what we can do to support the best possible outcomes.

Over Christmas we ran a campaign asking people to share their aspirations for children and young people in the form of a Christmas wish with us and with others on Twitter and on Facebook. We've chosen a selection below but do have a look at them all [here](#).

 [@GiveaGiggle](#) want all disabled children to have the same opportunities for play.

 [@SteveBroach](#) wants the new duty re best possible outcomes for children and young people in section 19 CFA 2014 to be made real.

[A parent and young person on Twitter](#) wish that all schools are accessible to wheelchair users.

[@NCB_tweets](#) wish that disabled children and young people are engaged in shaping services at a local level.

[@nasen_org](#)'s CEO wishes that ALL teachers learn the practical essentials that give ALL learners the best chance of success.

[@thepacecentre](#) want parents of children with disabilities not to have to fight a daily battle for support. 

The themes of rights and participation for children, young people and their families were echoed throughout the wishes and that seems a good place for CDC to continue its activities.

This is likely to be a really busy year as we continue working with you on the implementation of the Children and Families Act, on issues which impact on children across health and welfare, on the development of a new inspection regime from Ofsted and CQC, and of course a General Election.

More on all of these inside, but our resolution to you is to keep bringing you the best possible information and policy services on the issues so that we can all work together on the best possible outcomes for children with SEN and disabilities and their families.

Christine Lenehan



Contents

Welcome to the Winter edition!	1
What's new and what's next	4
Get involved with the CDC networks	6
Young offenders with special educational needs	10
Practice	12
Bright Sparks Kite Marking initiative	18
Resources	20
What we know about Early Intervention	24
About the CDC Digest	25



What's new and next: policy

Our last Digest was a Children and Families Act 2014 implementation special, aiming to give all those affected by the changes brought about by the Act guidance and information about the legislation, the support available and helpful resources. 3 months after the Act has come into force, our team look at what's new and what's next in the world of policy.

Transitional arrangements

Following the publication of statutory guidance on the arrangements for transferring children and young people with statements of SEN and Learning Difficulty Assessments to the new legal framework in August, the Department for Education has published an additional set of frequently asked questions to help local authorities to understand their responsibilities. The FAQs cover issues such as who is responsible for the transfer review, the timescale for completing transfer reviews, and the role of colleges in the transfer review process. [The FAQs can be downloaded here.](#)

Edward Timpson, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families, has written to lead members, Chief Executives and Director of Children's Services on the subject of transition to the new system. [In the letter](#), the Minister recognised that making the transition to the new system will be a gradual process and urged local authorities to focus on the quality of the experience for families, rather than focusing on the numbers being moved.

Care Act 2014

In October, the Department for Health published statutory guidance to support implementation of part 1 of the Care Act 2014 by local authorities. The Care Act consolidates existing adult social care statute into a single piece of law. The statutory guidance set out how local authorities should implement the Care Act in practice when the first phase of the reforms comes into effect in April 2015.

Chapter 16 of the statutory guidance is specifically focused on the transition from children's to adult services. This includes guidance on 'transition assessments', which can take place before a child reaches 18 where it is likely that a young person will benefit from adult care and support services once they reach 18. The guidance also covers how 'transition assessments' should be coordinated with preparing for adulthood reviews for children and young people who have Education, Health and Care plans under the Children and Families Act.

[The statutory guidance can be found here](#)

The Preparing for Adulthood programme has also produced a [guide on the links between the Care Act and the Children and Families Act.](#)



Review of arrangements for disagreement resolution

During the passage of the Children and Families Act, arguments were made in Parliament for a single point of redress for parents or young people challenging different elements of an Education, Health and Care plan. In response, the Government committed to a review of how the new arrangements under the Act were working for children and young people with SEN and their families. They have also committed to pilots which will test the expansion of the powers of the first tier tribunal to make recommendations about the health and social care elements of EHC Plans.

The Government has now announced that the review will be led jointly by the Department for Education and the Ministry for Justice and will start in April 2015.

[Details of the review can be found here.](#)

For an overview of the learning from the first months of implementation of the Act and what to expect in 2015, join us in our Spring Conference season in London or Leeds. More information on pages 16-17 and [on our website here.](#)

Keep an eye on our resources hub for all up-to-date resources and tools relating to the Children and Families Act, Care Act and more!

www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/resources

Readiness and Accountability

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission have published [their evaluation of local areas' readiness](#) for the implementation of the special educational needs and disability reforms. This was undertaken following commitments made by ministers during the passage of the Children and Families Bill.

The review states that the Department for Education, the Department of Health and NHS England should consider introducing accountability measures to monitor the impact of the reforms. In response, Edward Timpson, Children and Families Minister, has invited Ofsted to formally inspect local areas on their effectiveness in fulfilling their new duties. They will do this along with the Care Quality Commission and a local authority officer.

[The statement from Edward Timpson can be found here.](#)

Get involved with the CDC Networks

We direct much of our work through our Council, our networks, programmes and the Every Disabled Child Matters campaign. There's a variety of ways for you to keep in-the-loop about their work and the ways in which you might be able to get involved. Read on for what they've been working on since the last Digest in September!

Making Ourselves Heard

is a national project to ensure disabled children's right to be heard becomes a reality, giving disabled children direct access to government and policy makers and ensure the voices of disabled children and their success stories are heard.

On 27th November the Making Ourselves Heard (MOH) team ran a Participation in Practice seminar, focussing on how to effectively engage children and young people in the SEND reforms. Co-delivered with young people and co-chaired by EPIC member Kiatipat and Kath Evans from NHS England, the seminar brought together a range of professionals from across the disability sector to focus on practice development. Turnout for the event was high, particularly from professionals who have duties under **section 19 of the Children and Families Act 2014**.

The seminar included a range of workshops from engaging with children and young people in their EHC plan assessments and involvement in the Local Offer, to providing information and advice to support children and young people in decision making.

Read our new leaflet for more information about participation at CDC

Sign up to the MOH newsletter to hear about future participation events and projects

Information Advice and Support Services Network

supports and promotes the work of Information, Advice and Support Services (IASS) across England.

On the 1st September 2014 Parent Partnership Services (PPS) in every local authority have evolved into Information, Advice and Support (IAS) Services. Each IAS Service now provide support similar to that of a PPS, although the type of support, and who is entitled to receive it, has been significantly expanded to include children and young people.

The Information, Advice and Support Services Network (IASS Network) is the national network which provides training and support to local Information Advice and Support (IAS) Services across England.

Since September the IASS Network has been focusing on promoting the work and the structure of the new IAS services to children, young people and parents, as well as professionals and other services. Extensive work is also taking place providing support (including legal training, presentations, and direct advice) to services themselves to assist with their transition from PPS to IASS.

Keep up-to-date by checking their website at IASS Network website: www.iasnetwork.org.uk

Preparing for Adulthood

a national programme working on transition issues, delivered in partnership by NDTi and CDC.

As one of the ten Delivery Partners commissioned by the Department of Education the Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) Team have been busy continuing their programme of training and developing new resources which support implementation.

Most recently, they have been assisting local areas to involve young people in planning Education, Health and Care plans. You can now access the first of their 'Whole System Change: Learning Examples', a case study on Oakfield School and College in Wigan via their [resources page](#).

PfA have been developing resources and best practice evidence in mental health by considering how key principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 link with the duties in the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act. Their new Factsheet: **The Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Supported Decision Making** has been written in partnership with the Transition Information Network, the Information Advice and Support Services Network and Making Ourselves Heard. It explores how to support young people in decision making to create positive outcomes as they prepare for adulthood.

A new fact sheet on **Personal Budgets for Post-16 Provision and Further Education Colleges** Personal, written with In Control, AOC and Natspec, explores useful examples and scenarios of how personal budgets can be implemented in FE colleges and post-16 provision.

There are also a series of new films on **PfA's Youtube channel** which cover topics such as young people's views on involvement in supported decision making. You can also keep up to date on the latest news from PfA via our e-bulletin ([sign up here](#)), **Facebook** or on twitter [@PfA_tweets](#).

Transition Information Network

brings organisations and individuals together to improve disabled young people's experience of transition to adulthood and is a source of information and good practice standards for disabled young people, families and professionals.

Transition Information Network (TIN) offer a wide range of information and resources about transition through our website, publications and events.

Their magazine - My Future Choices - is for disabled young people, families and professionals. It includes articles about transition projects, interviews with disabled young people, the latest policy and charity news and resources. The new issue will be coming out in the next few weeks so make sure you **sign up to the network for free!** If you would like to recommend any resources you think should be included on their website please contact us at tin@ncb.org.uk.

To stay up to date on the latest resources and information for young people please visit TIN on [Facebook](#) and [twitter](#) at [@TIN_talks](#)

Every Disabled Child Matters

a consortium campaign run by four national organisations working with disabled children and their families. The consortium members are: Contact a Family, the Council for Disabled Children, Mencap and the Special Educational Consortium.

EDCM's latest campaign has been focussed on supporting a Parliamentary Inquiry into childcare for disabled children, co-chaired by Robert Buckland MP and Pat Glass MP.

The inquiry received nearly 1200 responses from parents to an online survey. There were evidence from local authorities, Parent Carer Forums, Ofsted, childcare provider organisations, parents, disabled children and young people as well as Department for Education officials.

The Inquiry launched its finding in July report and found that disabled children and their families face significant barriers to accessing appropriate, high quality, affordable childcare.

For full details of the findings the report is **available on EDCM's website here.**

To find out how you can get involved in EDCM's childcare campaign and upcoming projects, **sign up to be a supporter.**

Health projects

The health policy team have been developing online resources for Clinical Commissioning Groups and health practitioners detailing the duties on them within the Children & Families Act 2014. The resources focus on the joint commissioning duty, health service involvement in the EHC process, information sharing between services, identifying and working towards life outcomes of children and young people with SEN and disability. [Check out the resource here.](#)

An updated version of 'My Rights Your Responsibility' - an interactive resource for parents and carers of disabled children and young people to inform them of their child's rights - is now available to use and download. The resource contains eight sections looking at the following aspects: sensory impairment; epilepsy; transport; invasive care; personal care; moving and handling; communication and behaviour management. [You can access the resource here.](#)

The Expert Parent Programme also continues to provide valuable support and advice to parent carers. It has been developed to empower parents to become more confident and resilient when engaging with health services and there is a 4-hour-long workshop for parents with approved trainers, and lots of resources on health services. [Find it here.](#)

Social Care projects

Following feedback from social care professionals that the SEND Code of Practice raised some questions about links with existing statutory responsibilities, CDC is developing a resource for strategic managers and frontline practitioners.

This toolkit is intended to:

- Place the changes in the Children and Families Act for social care professionals in the wider context of social care roles and responsibilities
- Support effective decision-making
- Provide up to date advice on law and practice
- Support workforce learning and development
- Provide training materials for use locally

[Keep an eye on our social care pages for updates on this work.](#)

Young offenders with SEN

New duties relating to young offenders

In April 2015, the sections of the Children and Families Act 2014 relating to children and young people with SEN in youth custody come into effect in April 2015. If implemented effectively this new framework and approach could have a significant impact on this group of children and young people and their outcomes.

The overall numbers of children and young people in custody are decreasing however, as published in a Ministry of Justice document in 2013, 18% of sentenced young people in custody had a statement of special educational needs, compared to 3% of the general population.

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Addressing the issues

The Act seeks to address a number of issues for detained children and young people with SEN by:

- making the home local authority responsible for a child or young person's special educational provision while they are in the community and in custody;
- requiring that appropriate SEN provision and health provision continues to be arranged in custody; and
- helping the resettlement process and making the best use of the time by getting assessments under way in custody and support in place immediately on release.

What it means in practice

From April 2015 if a child or young person with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan enters custody, their home local authority will be under a new duty to arrange appropriate SEN provision based on their EHC plan while they are in custody. If they have health needs, NHS England must arrange the health provision in their plan.

Where needs are identified in custody, the Act gives the young person, the child's parent or the person in charge of the custodial establishment a new right to request an EHC needs assessment from their home local authority. In addition, anyone (e.g. a youth offending team) can bring a detained child or young person to the attention of the home local authority if they are concerned that they have or may have SEN and the assessment and development of EHC plans will begin in custody.

This part of the legislation applies to children and young people aged 18 and under, who have been sentenced or remanded by the Courts to a Young Offender Institution, a Secure Training Centre or a Secure Children's Home in England.

Raising awareness

Work has been underway over the last 6 months to raise awareness of this new approach, clarify statutory requirements and to prepare the ground for implementation. The Government has recently published statutory regulations and an updated version of Chapter 10 of the Code of Practice for consultation and are now considering the responses. Although the final version of the regulations and Code of Practice will not be before Parliament until the early part of next year, the consultation versions provide helpful detail and guidance on the new framework for anyone who is preparing now.

More information on the legal framework can be found in the [CDC young offenders fact sheet here](#).

The consultation version of the regulations and Code of Practice can be found on the [government's website here](#).

Next steps

This year, the final Regulations and Code of Practice will be made available which will take into account the young offenders provisions.

CDC is running a conference programme in Spring which will cover these new provisions and at which attendees can attend a workshop to cover them in more detail. More information on the conferences on pages 16-17 and on our [website here](#).



Practice

Reports

Counting the Costs

Contact a Family have shared the findings of their 'Counting the Costs survey 2014'. The report, which can be [found here](#), includes findings such as that a third of families with disabled children are going without heating.

[Join the Counting the Costs campaign here.](#)



State of children's rights

The Children's Rights Alliance for England have written a [review of Government action on United Nations' recommendations](#) for strengthening children's rights in the UK.

Frustrated and exhausted

The charity Scope conducted a survey of 1,500 parents and have found that many parents of disabled children are 'frustrated' 'stressed' and 'exhausted'. [Read more of the findings here](#). They have now launched a [new online community](#) where parents of disabled children can share their experiences and get guidance and practical tips from other parents and disabled people on everything from how to access support, to finding the best specialist disability equipment.

Mental Health Services

In [a report](#) published on 5 November, the Health Select Committee concludes that there are serious and deeply ingrained problems with the commissioning and provision of children's and adolescents' mental health services (CAMHS).

Read on to find out about the new 'My CAMHS Choices' website!

Making the SEND reforms work for children who need palliative care

Together for Short Lives has written a [short report](#) which sets out feedback they've received from professionals involved in caring for children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions and commissioners on what is working well, what the challenges are and what SEND agencies can do to make the new system work for children who need palliative care.



Get Involved!

Effective School Leadership: Meeting the SEND Challenge for Change

London: 30 January 2015

Bolton: 19 May 2015

Initial feedback suggests that the level of awareness and preparedness for change surrounding SEND reforms is variable, which may seem at odds with the national policy for change as we move from embedding policy to implementing transformational practice.

The upcoming nasen leadership conference seeks to address the key issues for leaders in schools and settings, outlining the implications of SEND reform for senior leaders. The conference offers a packed programme of leadership support and workshops exploring issues highly relevant to those in a leadership role with delegates gaining a range of practical tools and guidance to apply within their workplace.

The Department of Education will present the government view of reform to explain clearly the new statutory requirements for SEND, and the NAHT are contributing to the programme where key aspects of support for leaders will be identified.

Further information on the conference, the programme and a booking details are available via the [nasen website](#).

Promoting the health and welfare of looked after children

London: 26th March 2015

This free event will provide an opportunity to learn more about the updated statutory guidance from the Department for Education and the Department of Health, for local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and NHS England, on promoting the health and welfare of looked after children. It will be a chance to discuss key implications and share positive local practice which will support implementation.

Programme information and booking details will be available in due course., we will keep you updated,

The National Autistic Society's Professional Conference 2015

Harrogate: 3rd – 4th March 2015

The theme for the conference this year is 'Innovative approaches to support and intervention'. [Find out more and book your spot here](#).

NDTi National Learning Disability Conference - What is Going On?

London: 27th January 2015

Chaired by NDTi, with thought-leaders from the sector, this conference is about what needs to happen to enable people with learning disabilities to lead a full and satisfying life as part of the community. [Find out more.](#)

Training

Short breaks

Short Breaks Network is pleased to offer a number of **free, interactive ‘Working Together with Parents’ training and networking events** for short breaks practitioners and parents at various locations throughout England.

Places at these sessions are free but limited in number and are offered on a first-come, first-served basis and limited to two places per project.

Anti-bullying

There is free training is available from the Anti-Bullying Alliance, funded by the Department for Education. Training options include:

- parents and carers (delivered by Mencap and Contact a Family),
- schools (delivered by Achievement for All 3As),
- the wider children’s workforce and all professionals (Anti-Bullying Alliance)

Training for young people on thier SEND support

Making ourselves Heard and the Early Support programme are currently offering free face-to-face training workshops for young people on the changes to their SEND support.

If you are interested in this free training, please register your interest by contacting us via Georgie Lund on glund@ncb.org.uk.

Your views needed!

What advice would you give to parents who are looking for childcare?

The Family and Childcare Trust have been funded by the Department for Education to make a series of short films and have written “Top Tips” with parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities for parents.

The Family and Childcare Trust want to hear from parents and talk about the advice they would pass on to other parents who are looking for childcare.

For more information, please email Pip Dorkings at pip@familyandchildcaretrust.org

National survey of charities and voluntary organisations 2014



The biggest survey of charities and voluntary organisations of the year has been launched by a [coalition of charities](#) to find out more about the needs and support of the sector. The survey’s findings will be used to lobby key decision makers and funders about the support charities and voluntary organisations need.

[Please join and take part in this survey](#). By taking part you will be helping make sure that funders and decision makers know more about your needs. The survey has 20 questions and can be completed in 15 minutes.

Parent carers of children or young people with rehabilitation needs

The Improving Rehabilitation Services Programme has recently been established at NHS England. As part of this programme, a project has been set up to scope children and young people’s rehabilitation services and to establish if there is a case of need for work to improve rehabilitation services for children and young people.

To guide and inform this work NHS ENgland are holding stakeholder engagement sessions for parents and carers of children and young people who have received (or are receiving) rehabilitation services. At these events they will be seeking feedback on priorities regarding rehabilitation, considering the ‘bigger picture’ for services across the country, and for children and young people with a range of rehabilitation needs. This information is central in both making a case for future developments and in targeting the activity of the rehabilitation programme.

Expressions of interest for parent carers are now open and close on 15th January.

[More information about Leeds session](#)

[More information about London session](#)

SPRING CONFERENCE:



A NEW LANDSCAPE FOR SEN AND DISABILITY:

The challenges and successes of implementing the Children and Families Act

Leeds

Park Plaza
Hotel
27 Feb 2015

London

Friends
Meeting House
4 Mar 2015

We're pleased to present the agenda for our Spring conference programme, which will discuss learning from the first six months of implementation of the SEN and disability reforms.

It will also look forward to April 2015 when further legal duties will be introduced, including the introduction of further care and support reforms, as set out in the Care Act 2014, and requirements for supporting children and young people with SEN when they are detained in youth custody.

In the afternoon, there will be an opportunity to take part in two of our five interactive workshops; an opportunity to ask your most pressing questions to experts in the field and discuss issues and best practice with others working in your sector.

These conferences will bring together senior management and delivery staff across education, health and social care, and will be equally useful to those working for voluntary and community sector organisations, SENCOs, as well as parent carers and strategic leaders from across the board looking to broaden their understanding of the changes are taking place now and those that are yet to come.

What will the day cover?

- Examine the best practice and lessons learned from the implementation of the Children and Families Act
- Explore the emerging case law following the introduction of the Act
- Advance your understanding of further changes to law being made in April 2015, including young people with SEN in custody and the Care Act 2014
- Engage in five interactive workshops for in-depth training on the issues that matter to you

Who should attend?

- Senior management and delivery staff across education, health and social care
- Voluntary and community sector employees
- Local authority staff
- Parent carers
- Anyone with an interest in learning more!



Agenda



9.30 Registration and refreshments

10.00 Chair's opening remarks
Christine Lenehan, *Director, Council for Disabled Children*

10.15 Embedding cultural and legislative change
Stuart Miller and Caroline Bicknell, *Deputy Directors, 0-25 Special Educational Needs and Disability Unit, Department for Education*

10.45 Ofsted's role in the new SEND framework
Charlie Henry HMI, *National Lead for Disability and SEN, Ofsted*

Break

11.30 Lessons learnt from implementation and preparing for further change
Philippa Stobbs, *Assistant Director, Council for Disabled Children*

12.00 Legal challenges and opportunities
Steve Broach, *Barrister, Monckton Chambers*

12.30 Panel discussion

13:00 Lunch and networking

14:00 Workshops
Choose from two of the interactive workshops below.

16:00 Close of conference

1

New legal rights for children and young people with SEN in custody

2

Meeting the needs of children and young people without Education Health and Care plans

3

Integrating the Care Act 2014 and parent carer assessments into a birth-to-25 system

4

Meeting the new requirements for Information Advice and Support Services

5

Working together, developing effective joint commissioning arrangements

To book your ticket please follow the links below

[Leeds, 27th Feb 2015](#)

[London, 4 Mar 2015](#)

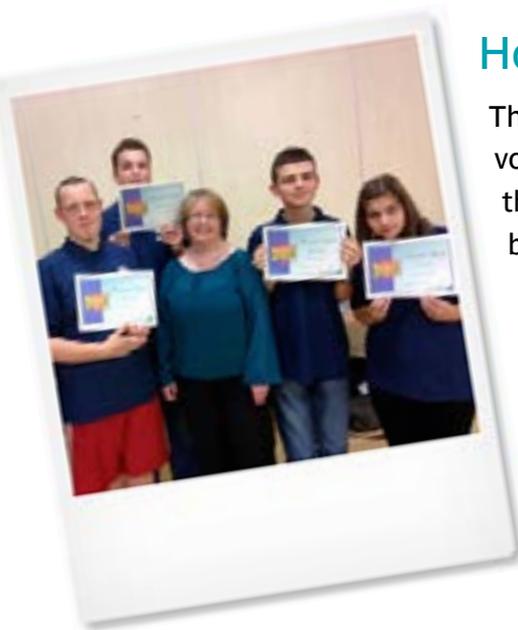
Price is £199 including VAT.

Best practice

Bright Sparks Kite Marking initiative

In Halton, North West England, young people often felt apprehensive about using local services and going shopping; were these venues going to be accessible, would the staff be able to help them if they had questions or problems, would they be clean and safe?

Halton Speak Out, an organisation based in Runcorn, had heard from local young people about their experiences of, and concerns about, using services and decided to do something about it; setting up the Bright Sparks Kite Marking initiative.



How it works

The Bright Sparks project involves recruiting young disabled volunteers and training them to become consultants to support the development of an inclusive community. 15 young people between the ages of 6 and 20 have been involved so far.

A key part of the young peoples' role has been to visit facilities and services in their local area as 'secret shoppers' to assess the quality of provision for disabled children and young people. Their experience of the service they receive is marked against set criteria which determines whether the venue in question should receive a Bright Sparks Kite Mark, to display in their venue, or whether they have more work to do in order to receive one.

After their visit the young people feed back to the managers of all the venues and, for those that have not yet met the Kite Mark criteria they make recommendations for how they can improve their services. The venues are supported by Halton Speak Out young consultants and staff throughout the process to help them make their venue inclusive for all young people.

The project also employs two young people, Dan and Stephen, to work as 'Bright Sparks Co-Workers', supported by a Project Worker. They attend meetings with businesses that are being supported to achieve a Kite Mark, help create resources for the project, write up reports, and much more.

The Statistics

39 venues have succeeded in meeting all the criteria to receive a Kite Mark

9 venues have been successfully re-kitemarked

17 venues being supported to improve their services and receive a Kite Mark

What's been achieved?

Feedback from services has been overwhelmingly positive and the young people involved enjoy having their views actively heard and supporting venues and services to become inclusive for all young people and their families. Talking about his involvement, one of the Bright Sparks Co-workers Dan said: "I like kite marking and meeting new people and I like to help my Co-Worker with helping business' when visiting them."

As well as the venues the Bright Sparks team choose to kite mark, they have been contacted by several venues in the local area who ask to be assessed, showing that venues of all types are understanding the value to them and their community in having an accessible and inclusive venue and that they see working with the Bright Sparks team as the best way to help them achieve that aim. The Mayor of Halton has even been involved; attending Halton Speak Out's Bright Sparks awards ceremony In December 2014 to celebrate the good work of the project and encouraging more venues in the area to get involved.

The Bright Sparks Project is a great example of meaningful participation of disabled children and young people in consulting on and ultimately changing the services they receive. It has also been hugely successful in promoting inclusivity in the community and building the confidence, aspirations and skills of local young people. This project also suggests an approach that could support the implementation and quality assurance of the recent SEND reforms, for example, looking at services and provision listed in the local offer.

What's next?

Halton Speak Out are continuing their Kite Marking project by inspecting new venues, working with the venues who have not yet fulfilled the Kite Mark criteria and reassessing venues which already received Kite Marks, to make sure they continue to meet the agreed criteria. Keep an eye out for their work if you're in Halton! They are also continuing to update their resources, made to support the young consultants and the businesses they work with.



More information

Find out more about Halton Speak Out on their website: www.haltonspeakout.co.uk

The Bright Sparks Kitemark project is funded as part of the Innovation and Sustainability Grant, run by CDC and funded by the Department for Education.

Resources

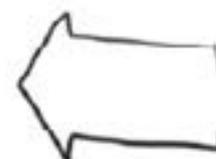
Implementation of the SEN and disability reforms

- **A series of brief guides to the Code of Practice.** Department for Education. These are aimed at: parents; health partners; social care; early years settings; schools; and further education colleges.
- **'A letter about the link between social care and the SEND reforms'** Department for Education.
- **'A step-by-step guide to EHC Plans'** CDC.
A guide which brings together the primary and secondary legislation and the statutory guidance in the SEND Code of Practice on EHC plans. Along with a summary of the legislative framework the guide features notes and additional guidance from the Council for Disabled Children on how to complete different sections of EHC plans.
- **Online and interactive resources for Clinical Commissioning Groups and health practitioners.** CDC and NHS England.
These resources detail the duties on them within the Children & Families Act 2014.
- **'Implementation resources for further education colleges'** Association of Colleges and Department for Education.
- **'The Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Supported Decision Making'** Preparing for Adulthood
This fact sheet explores how supported decision making can create positive outcomes for young people as they prepare for adulthood as well as considering how they would want to be supported.
- **Reports on Pathfinder learning.** Department for Education.
Three new reports covering the local offer, support for 19-25 year olds and progress with workforce development.
- **'Making it Personal'** KIDS.
This is a suite of resources to support those affected by the SEN and disability reforms to gain a greater understanding of the changes and the impact these changes will have on the lives of families of disabled children and young disabled people, with a focus on personal budgets.



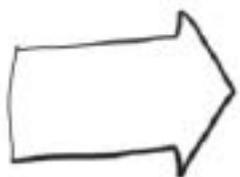
More information

- **'Commissioning for better outcomes'** Think Local Act Personal.
Designed to support local authorities improve their commissioning practice in line with new duties under the Care Act.
- **'Being in Charge of your own services'** Think Local Act Personal.
An EasyRead guide to person centred care and integrated personal commissioning.
- **'Commissioning independent advocacy'** SCIE.
A resource aimed at commissioners charged with meeting the new duties to provide advocacy under the Care Act 2014.
- **'Briefings for the children and young people's sector on the role of Healthwatch'** Healthwatch.
Briefings written for those working in any aspect of the national children and young people's (CYP) sector on the role of Healthwatch England and local Healthwatch with regard to CYP.
- **'How to commission better mental health and wellbeing services for young people'** Right Here.



Resource hubs

- **Anti-Bullying Alliance's SEND Information Hub** contains information and resources about reducing the bullying of children and young people with special educational needs and / disabilities (SEND). It also holds information about their, Department for Education funded, programme aimed at reducing the incidence and impact of bullying of children and young people with SEND. As part of this programme we have lots of free training available for schools, the children's workforce and parents and carers.
 - **Nasen's SEND gateway** is an online portal offering education professionals free, easy access to high quality information, resources and training for meeting the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- **My CAMHS Choices** has launched their new website which has been created by young people for young people, to act as a support and provide information on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).



- **SENDirect** is a personalisation service which allows parents and professionals to see what choices are available to them, how much things cost and what other people think of them; access information about rights; and more!
- **Learning Exchange website** has an information section on school-based childcare for children with SEND
- **The information section** of the SEND Pathfinder website contains a whole host of updated guidance, best practice and resources on the SEND reforms.



What we know about Early Intervention

by the Challenging Behaviour Foundation

The Early Intervention Project, delivered by the Challenging Behaviour Foundation (CBF) and CDC, began in recognition of the fact that the right local support at the right time can avoid the emotional ordeal and high costs of crisis intervention in a hospital setting. It aims to deliver better outcomes across the country for children with learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges. Now that we're 18 months down the line, what do we now know and how could you help fill the gaps in knowledge?

What we know

The CBF brought together a group of key academics who have worked to pull together all the data and research evidence gathered into a briefing paper and data supplement. We have found that there is an estimated 40,000 children in England with learning disabilities whose behaviours challenge and, instead of receiving good, local care, 236 children are living in Assessment and Treatment Units (ATUs), a third of whom are over 100km from home. One in eight of these children are 10 years old or younger. The annual costs of ATUs can be as much as £250,000.

What we don't know yet

What has become clear that there is a real lack of research evidence about the best forms of early intervention for children with learning disabilities whose behaviours challenge. There are also huge gaps in the data which impede efforts to properly plan and commission services. We're now looking to widen the net further still and ask the sector their experiences and to share their knowledge.

So get involved!

Do you know of a service or resource that is having a positive impact? We are collecting case studies of good support for children with learning disabilities whose behaviours challenge, and would particularly like to hear about:

- How parenting programmes have been made accessible
- Good schools working in partnership with parents
- Early communication support
- Well-equipped Short break/respice services

Click here to download our 'Sharing Good Practice' form, or email earlyinterventionproject@thecbf.org.uk.

Next Steps

We want to see our vision become reality for children with learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges. We hope to use the findings of our evidence papers, workshops and focus groups to further our work on influencing policy. We will also be collecting case studies of good practice - something that professionals and commissioners have requested - which can be used to improve the delivery of services in the future.

If you would like to be kept up-to-date with the latest developments in the EIP then please join the email reference group; email earlyinterventionproject@thebcf.org.uk.

A VISION FOR OUR CHILDREN ♥

OUR CHILDREN Should have the same opportunities & experiences as other children

OUR CHILDREN Are trying to tell us things

OUR CHILDREN should be valued, should be understood, feel safe & secure

AT EVERY AGE OUR CHILDREN NEED:

- 1 A keyworker to help us through the system
- 2 Everyone to use Positive Behavioural Support pro-actively
- 3 Proper Reasonable Adjustments to ensure access to healthcare & community

AT EVERY STAGE WE NEED:

- 1 Information & training so we understand causes of behaviour & how to support change
- 2 Support for the practical - emotional difficulties we face (Support from parents/professionals)

WHEN THEY ARE LITTLE (0-5)

- Early identification by experts!
- The right information & support, at the right time, in a form that is right for us

WHEN THEY ARE AT SCHOOL (5-16)

- Schools/services to work with us
- Local schools to rise to the challenge of supporting our children
- Professionals to help us access local mainstream & specialist support

AS OUR CHILDREN GROW UP (14-25)

- A keyworker, one-stop-shop for planning & delivery
- Appropriate housing options
- Activities - real choice including positive risk
- Lifelong learning
- Skilled support workers/carers

BETTER OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES

WELCOME! Wee Hee!

YOUTH CLUB ALL WELCOME

SCHOOL WELCOME

WE NEED GOVERNMENT, LOCAL AUTHORITIES & HEALTH TO:

- ★ Show that you value disabled children
- ★ Think & talk about people not processes
- ★ Have a named Challenging Behaviour Co-ordinator
- ★ Deliver long-term planning & clear pathways
- ★ Employ keyworkers
- ★ Commission Positive Behavioural Support
- ★ Include specialist support within the "Local Offer" to respond to needs identified in Education, Health & Care Plans
- ★ Ensure access to responsive schools near home which work with parents to provide effective education
- ★ Develop a national strategy
- ★ Ensure a joined up approach

Early Intervention Project, Challenging Behaviour Foundation 2014

[Download a bigger version of the vision image here.](#)

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, please send us your details using [the form on our website here](#).

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 **IASS Network**, the **Special Educational Consortium**, the **Transition Information Network**, the **Independent Support** programme and the **Every Disabled Child Matters** campaign.

Find us on social media



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The views in this e-bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the Council for Disabled Children

...or contact us on cdc@ncb.org.uk or 020 7843 1900