

REPORT TO: Health and Wellbeing Board

DATE: 13 November 2013

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Children and Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People and Families

SUBJECT: Disabled Children’s Charter

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 Consider the request from Every Disabled Child Matters and the Children’s Trust, Tadworth to support the Disabled Children’s Charter.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board

- 1) sign the Disabled Children’s Charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards; and**
- 2) request an update report on progress in six months.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Every Disabled Child Matters (EDCM) and The Children’s Trust, Tadworth have developed a Disabled Children’s Charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards. The Charter has been developed to support Health and Wellbeing Boards to meet their responsibilities towards disabled children, young people and their families.

3.2 It contains a vision statement and specific commitments attached as Appendix 1. Health and Wellbeing Boards who sign the Charter must agree to each of the seven commitments within a year of signing. Health and Wellbeing Boards will be asked to provide evidence of how they have met the commitments and this information will be published on the EDCM website.

3.3 The seven commitments the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to make are as follows:

- We have detailed and accurate information on the disabled children and young people living in our area, and provide public information on how we plan to meet their needs.
- We engage directly with disabled children and young people and their participation is embedded in the work of our Health and Wellbeing Board.

- We engage directly with parent carers of disabled children and young people and their participation is embedded in the work of our Health and Wellbeing Board
- We set clear strategic outcomes for our partners to meet in relation to disabled children, young people and their families, monitor progress towards achieving them and hold each other to account.
- We promote early intervention and support for smooth transitions between children and adult services for disabled children and young people.
- We work with key partners to strengthen integration between health, social care and education services, and with services provided by wider partners.
- We provide cohesive governance and leadership across the disabled children and young people's agenda by linking effectively with key partners.

3.4 EDCM are asking all Health and Wellbeing Boards to sign up to the charter as they recognise the Boards potential to improve the services families with disabled children rely on. They ask for this support as they say:

“ Families with disabled children report that there is widespread dissatisfaction with health services. In Parliamentary Hearings on services for Disabled Children (2006) 48% of parents and 35% of professionals described health services for children as poor. EDCM's Disabled Children and Health Reform (2011) reports provided further evidence of parents' dissatisfaction caused by a lack of access to universal and specialist health services, and a failure to coordinate services around families with disabled children.”

3.5 EDCM also believes that the failure to meet the needs of families with disabled children often causes disputes around who should commission and fund services, along with issues around transition between children and adult services. Health and Wellbeing Boards can encourage commissioners from children's and adult social care, health and other agencies to work together more effectively.

3.6 There is currently a Strategic Group addressing the changes required in the Children and Families Bill in terms of children and young people with health and special educational needs. It is suggested that this group be asked to ensure each of the seven commitments are addressed and provide an update report to the Board in six months.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

4.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The Charter seeks to raise the profile and encourage a more joined up approach to the commissioning of services for disabled children and young people.

4.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton N/A

4.3 A Healthy Halton

The Charter seeks to encourage a more integrated approach to meeting the needs of Disabled Children.

4.4 A Safer Halton N/A

5.0 RISK ANALYSIS

5.1 By signing the Charter the Health and Wellbeing Board are agreeing to meet the seven commitments within 12 months. Work is already being undertaken in the Borough to meet the requirements of the Children and Families Bill it is therefore suggested that these two areas of work are combined.

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

6.1 The aim of the Charter is to improve provision for Disabled Children.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Every Disabled Child Matters Disabled Children's Charter For Health and Wellbeing Boards	www.edcm.org.uk	Ann McIntyre Operational Director Children and Enterprise