

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	LOCAL AUTHORITY SIGN UP TO "EVERY DISABLED CHILD MATTERS" DISABLED CHILDREN'S CHARTER
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	16 OCTOBER 2012
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	SENIOR MANAGER, SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>	
NONE	

### **BRIEF SUMMARY**

The Every Disabled Child Matters (EDCM) Disabled Children's Charter is a set of commitments that local authorities can sign up to, to show that they are committed to disabled children and their families. The EDCM have asked local authorities to renew their commitment to local disabled children by signing the new Disabled Children's Charter.

The Every Disabled Child Matters campaign is run by four of the leading organisations working with disabled children and their families: - Contact a Family, the Council for Disabled Children, Mencap and the Special Education Consortium. For further information visit [www.edcm.org.uk](http://www.edcm.org.uk).

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (i) To enter into the Every Disabled Child Matters Disabled Children's Charter as set out at appendix 1 on behalf of the Council.

### **REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. To publicly demonstrate the Council's commitment to the activities and service standards described by the Charter.

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

2. Not to enter into the Charter. This was rejected because the Council is committed to the activities and service standards in the Every Disabled Child Matters Charter.

### **DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)**

3. Appendix 2 sets out how Southampton clearly meets the 12 service standards.
4. The Charter emphasises a commitment to providing good quality information to parents and carers, and to consulting and involving parents and carers in service improvement. This is timely given the recent establishment of the Children and Young People's Development Service, and with the work currently being carried out by the Pathfinder Project on new and more integrated approaches to the provision of assessment and services for children with special educational needs.

### **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Capital/Revenue**

5. None.

## Property/Other

6. None.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

7. The Council has the power to enter into and deliver the obligations set out in the Charter in accordance with Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 (the General Power of Competence). The power is subject to any pre or post commencement limitation or prohibition on the use of the power. It is not considered that any such limitations or restrictions apply in this case.

### **Other Legal Implications:**

8. In entering into the Charter, the Council is acting in accordance with the Public Sector Equality Duty and other equalities and anti-discrimination provisions as set out in the Equality Act 2010 (disability being a 'Protected Characteristic' under the Act).

## **POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

9. Entering into the Charter will reflect the Council's commitment to delivering on the key objective (SO1.1) in the Children and Young People's Plan 2009-12, namely "to improve outcomes for key groups in the City, especially children in care and care leavers and children and young people with complex needs and disabilities."

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**KEY DECISION** No

<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	All
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## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

### **Appendices**

1.	Disabled Children's Charter
2.	Copy of Charter with comment against each section showing how Southampton meets the criteria

### **Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None
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### **Integrated Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to be carried out.	No
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**Other Background Documents - NONE**