

Local Authority Disabled Children's Charter

The table below lists each of the commitments in the charter and identifies how these can be met within the next 12 months.

No.	Commitment	How will this be met
1	We know how many disabled children live in our area and all agencies in our area are working together to plan services based on this knowledge	A database is kept of all children and young people (aged 0-18 years) known to disabled children's services. Alongside this, data is regularly collected from other proxy measures, including the number of children and young people receiving Disability Living Allowance or with a Limiting Long-Term Illness (LLTI) in the census. A joint commissioning strategy (between SCC and the PCT) will be produced within the next 12 months; this will be informed by the data sources identified above.
2	We have an identified lead with specific responsibility for services for disabled children and families	There is not one identified lead, however the city has three key commissioning and operational roles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sam Ray – commissioning lead for safeguarding (including short breaks) • Louise Drury – Jigsaw team manager and CYPDS co-ordinator • Julia Katherine – Service Manager Special Education Needs and Principal Educational Psychologist
3	We are providing clear information to support choice and control for parents that explains how we provide specialist services and also make all universal services accessible	Many services have leaflets and websites which give information on what they provide. Part of the work of the SEND pathfinder is to produce a 'Local Offer' which sets out the various services and support available including eligibility and contact details. A first draft of this will be created before April 2013. Southampton City Council commission Mencap to provide the 'Young People Opening Doors' (Ypod) service which supports universal settings on an individual basis so that children with disabilities can attend.
4	Parents and carers in our area have access to transparent information on decisions made about their child, and have access to mechanisms for providing feedback	Parents and carers are involved in the assessment and planning process and have the opportunity to contribute and/or comment on them. All children and young people open to Jigsaw have a Lead Professional. Part of the work of the SEND pathfinder and Children & Young People's Development Service (CYPDS) is to increase the number of children and young people who have an allocated Lead Professional who can be a single contact point for families and support them to discuss decisions with different agencies – this will

No.	Commitment	How will this be met
5	Disabled children and their families are involved in the planning, commissioning and monitoring of services on our area, including both specialist and universal services	begin in September 2012. There are school councils in each of the special schools, where disabled children can comment on or feedback on services. A number of projects have taken place in the last few years so that disabled children can be more involved in service planning, however more work is needed in this area.
6	Our Parent Carer Forum is instrumental in developing and reviewing services in our area and promoting choice and control for parents	Parents and carers from the A-Buzz Parent forum have been a key part of decision making for a number of years, e.g. they attend monitoring meetings with short break providers to feed back from a parents' perspective and they were consulted over plans for an accessible play area in Houndwell Park with some of their suggestions incorporated into the final design.
7	We actively include disabled children and young people in any decisions made about them and the services that they access, that might affect them	In both the SEN statutory assessment process and the Jigsaw Foundation Assessment, there are dedicated sections for children and young people to convey their feelings and thoughts (this could be verbally, via PECS or Makaton or from observations by a professional) Person Centred Planning is offered to children in special schools with a learning disability to support them in planning for their future. In the SEND pathfinder, Support Planning around Personal Budgets is essential and should support children to make decisions about the support they receive – this is currently in development and will be in place within 12 months
8	Parents in our area benefit from our Parent Partnership Service, which is able to provide impartial advice and support to parents of disabled children and young people	Parent Partnership is provided by Southampton Mencap and provides support to parents, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice on the statementing process, e.g. help with paperwork and liaison with schools • Advice on transition to junior or secondary school • Advice and support regarding appeals and disputes • Advice and support in the preparation for, and participation in, Annual Reviews It is envisaged that as part of the SEND pathfinder and subsequent legislative changes, the Parent Partnership Service will be expanded to cover social care and health services as well.

No.	Commitment	How will this be met
9	Our staff receive both disability equality training and training to ensure that they have core competencies to work with disabled children	<p>All staff working in children's disability services have core competencies and there are a range of training courses available to access, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equal Opportunities and Inclusion of children and young people with disabilities • Working with children on the Autistic spectrum in early years • Intervening Early to support children and young people with disabilities • Being a Lead Professional in the CYPDS • Learning Disability awareness <p>In addition to this we require all contracted providers for short breaks to have training in place for their staff and provide opportunities for specialist training where needed.</p>
10	We have produced a short break services statement that has been drawn up in partnership with disabled children and their parents and have made it widely available	The Southampton City Council short break statement was published in October 2011, it is available to view and download from the city council website as well as a number of disability services. Parents were involved in preparing the statement however it is due for review in the next few months and this opportunity will be used to improve the format and content with further involvement from parents. This review will also consider how the statement can be made more widely available (e.g. in all schools, libraries, Surestart centres). Disabled children have not yet been involved in developing the statement – consideration will be given to how this can be achieved once the review begins.
11	We have regard to the provision of services suitable for disabled children, when assessing the sufficiency and supply of childcare in their area	The annual 'Childcare Sufficiency Assessment' includes a section on the supply of childcare for children with disabilities and the Children's & Young People's Information Service holds information on childcare providers with expertise in caring for children with specific disabilities.
12	We are working together with disabled young people and adult service providers in our area to ensure a smooth transition to adult services for disabled young people preparing for adulthood	Currently we have in place the Transition Operational Group which ensures that the appropriate multi-agency communication is happening between children's and adult's services for individual young people. Independent advocacy and Person Centred Planning (PCP) is commissioned so that young people can make choices and decisions on their futures.

No.	Commitment	How will this be met
		Planning is currently underway for a transition task and finish group to be formed to address some of the issues around transition – this will happen in the next few months.

DRAFT