

Equality Impact Assessment Record

Date of EIA March 19th 2009
 Directorate Social Care & Learning

Initial Screening Record	
Activity to be assessed	Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC), Proposed Strategy 2009-2011
What is the activity?	Transforming and informing services for disabled children and increasing the choice and quantity of short breaks available for children with disabilities and their families in line with the Governments Aiming High for Disabled Children's agenda.
Is it a new or existing activity?	New
Aim / objective / purpose of the activity – who is the activity designed to benefit/target?	<p>The purpose of the activity is to: Implement the Government's transformation programme for disabled children's services in England. The programme is led jointly by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department of Health. There are two clear aspects to the Government's agenda. Firstly, the transformation of how services and support is provided to children with disabilities and their carers, and secondly, funding for a significant increase in the level of short breaks.</p> <p>The activity is designed for: All children and young people with disabilities who live in Bracknell Forest, and their families.</p>
Who is responsible for the activity?	The person/section/team responsible for this policy/function is: Simon McKenzie, Head of Service, Learning Difficulties and Disability, simon.mckenzie@bracknell-forest.co.uk
Did Step 1: Initial Screening indicate that a full EIA was necessary?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – full EIA completed and recorded below. <input type="checkbox"/> No – full EIA not completed therefore record ends here.
Full EIA Record	
Who are the members of the EIA team?	Chris Mills, Simon McKenzie, Penny Reuter
What evidence has been found to indicate that the activity might need to be amended? (Include any consultation undertaken)	<p>The strategy aims to achieve a significant increase in the level of inclusion for disabled children. The document was written in consultation with families, voluntary groups, the PCT and other providers, who are steering group members. The document states that:</p> <p>Within Bracknell Forest the AHDC steering group has agreed that improving the level of inclusion experienced by children with disabilities is critical to the delivery of effective support services to children with disabilities and their families. For the purpose of this strategy, inclusion has been defined by the steering group as: <i>'The ability of society to ensure that all children with or</i></p>

without disabilities participate effectively in all aspects of life and have the same opportunities and choices as any other child.'

In order to achieve this aim, many service providers will need to be provided with training and support to develop a more positive approach to the use of their services by disabled children. In some instances children with disabilities will need specialist, targeted assistance in order to take advantage of available services.

The strategy aims to significantly improve :

Information

Information about services must be easily accessible.

Transparency

Eligibility criteria for services must be clear and available to service users.

Participation

Services must fully involve children and their families in developing the support services they receive.

Assessment

Assessment must be integrated and co-ordinated across service areas, so that families are not asked the same questions about their needs by different agencies and professionals.

Feedback

Services must gather feedback to inform how services are developed in the future.

With the agreement and support of the Children's Trust, PCT and Executive Council Member the Steering Group will work with partners to enable the above improvement through:

- Working in conjunction with relevant sub working groups (e.g. the Inclusion in mainstream leisure services Group)
- Supporting and encouraging agencies to develop action plans in line with their own service needs
- Make funding only available for short breaks if organisations sign up to improve their service in line with the above five areas
- Modelling good practice by members of the Steering Group and their agencies
- Promote the Aiming High Agenda across Bracknell Forest

Considerable consultation was undertaken in developing the Aiming High Strategy. An independent consultation was contracted to gather the views of disabled children with over 70 children's views been taken into consideration. As often communication can be an issue for a child with a disability this involved in many cases a couple of one to one interviews. The results were produced in a report and informed the overall strategy, the consultant is now feeding back to these children as to the impact of their views/ comments. All parents of children with statements of

	<p>special educational needs received a feedback questionnaire (650) and another 350 questionnaires were sent to parents where a child was known to have a disability within the family. Over 80 responses were received and their views informed the development of the strategy. Parents have been included within the Steering Group with 4 parents regularly attending. Consultation with groups of parents was also undertaken by the Head of Service. Professionals providing services or support to disabled children and parents were also consulted with.</p> <p>The information gathered from consultations was used in conjunction with data analysis undertaken by the Local Authority to undertake a needs/ gap analysis which determined the priorities for developing short break provision and areas of particular need in the transformation plan.</p>	
<p>With regard to the equalities themes, which groups might be impacted by the activity? Might any of these groups be impacted adversely?</p>	<p>Groups Impacted</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Race and ethnicity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Age <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sexual Orientation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion or belief</p> <p>All of these groups could be potentially impacted upon</p>	<p>Groups impacted adversely</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Race and ethnicity <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Age <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Orientation <input type="checkbox"/> Religion or belief</p> <p>All of these groups could potentially be adversely affected</p>
<p>What evidence is there to suggest an impact/adverse impact?</p>	<p>The strategy is designed to address inequalities and should have a positive impact.</p>	<p>No adverse impact identified.</p>
<p>On what grounds can impact or adverse impact be justified?</p>	<p>No adverse impact has been identified</p>	
<p>Is there any current action that addresses issues for any of the groups impacted/adversely impacted?</p>	<p>The Local Authority and independent providers are already provided services to reduce the impact of disability; the aiming high strategy builds upon and develops this.</p>	
<p>What changes will you make to the activity reduce or remove any differential/adverse impact?</p>	<p>The Strategy focuses upon increasing more inclusive practices within services and support to children. The Development Manager, Head of Service and Steering group will monitor closely the impact of the Transformation plan and short break Developments.</p> <p>Feedback to central government such as the number of children accessing short breaks, the actual number of hours and over nights of short breaks will provide relevant data and evidence to monitor the impact. Information will also be collated as to the type of child receiving additional support for instance their gender, age and nature of disability to support the equitable distribution of support and services.</p>	

Into which action plan/s will these actions be incorporated?	The strategy will be further developed to demonstrate clear plans for 2010/11 following further consultation with service users and other professionals during 2009/10.
Who is responsible for the action plan?	Simon McKenzie, Head of Service, Learning Difficulties and Disability, simon.mckenzie@bracknell-forest.co.uk
Have any examples of good practice been identified as part of the EIA?	The strong emphasis on increasing the use of universal public facilities by children and young people with disabilities, and the attention to the needs of those with particularly complex needs.
Has the EIA been published on the Council website?	Yes
Who is the relevant Chief Officer and have they signed off the EIA?	<p>Chief Officer: Children's Social Care</p>  <p>Signature...Penny Reuter</p>
Which PMR will this EIA be reported in?	2009-10 Q1