

Committee	<b>Scrutiny Committee for Social Services &amp; Health</b>
Date	<b>6th September 2001</b>
By	<b>Director of Social Services</b>
Title of Report	<b>Interim Report on Implementation of Action Plan for Best Value Review of Services to Disabled children</b>
Purpose of Report	<b>To provide Members with a progress report of work in hand</b>

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

### **1. To note progress made.**

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#### **1. Financial Appraisal**

1.1 It is anticipated that the cost in this financial year of appointing a senior manager to develop a joint strategic framework will be £15,000; this will be met from the base budget. It is anticipated that the full year cost will be around £45,000, partly funded by partner agencies.

#### **2. Supporting Information**

2.1 A report of the Best Value Review of Services to Disabled Children was presented to the County Council on 3rd April 2001 along with an action plan, responding to key recommendations.

2.2 The key finding and recommendations were in relation to the establishment and appointment of a Senior Manager with responsibility for the development of a "joint strategic framework" and the joint commissioning of services (Appendix A, 7.1 – 7.2)

2.3 There has been some delay in securing funding for this post; however, it is anticipated that the new post will be filled by the end of 2001. Significant progress has been made despite the delay in securing funding for the dedicated manager.

2.4 Appendix B, details progress against items 7.3 - 7.9 of the action plan, which were agreed as the priorities for the current year, as well as other elements of the work programme.

2.5 The "Disabled Children's Development Group" (see App.B, 7.11) has agreed that the "Best Value" action plan will be the priority for its work programme. This group has also been formally and more firmly linked to the Children's Services Planning Team. The group has representation from statutory agencies, parents, carers and providers of services from the voluntary sector.

2.6 It is intended that a final report of the action plan will be presented to this Committee at its meeting in March 2002.





<b>Response to Best Value Review for Children with Disabilities</b>			
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Commentary</b>	<b>Person(s) Responsible</b>	<b>Time Scale</b>
<p><b><i>Strategic Development 7.1-7.3</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Appointment of Senior Manager (7.1)</li> <li>▪ Joint Strategic Framework (7.2)</li>   <li>▪ Communication Strategy (7.3)</li> </ul>	<p>Agree. Decision made for integrated disability service to remain for a further twelve months under the auspices of Lead Manager Specialist Services, supported by dedicated time from the policy unit. Discussion with other agencies on proposals.</p> <p>Agree. Need to build on existing work undertaken by Triangle, 'Tomorrow We Go'. Will form part of strategic framework.</p>	<p>Helen Davies, Assistant Director (C&amp;F)</p> <p>John Tovey, Head of Specialist Services in conjunction with other agency colleagues</p> <p>Operations Manager</p>	<p>12 months</p> <p>12 months</p>
<p><b><i>Prioritisation and Resource Allocation 7.4-7.6</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Eligibility Criteria (7.4)</li> <li>▪ Reviewing Officer (7.5)</li>   <li>▪ System for prioritising resources (7.6)</li> </ul>	<p>Agree. Review system to be restructured to reflect needs of children accessing respite as a means of remaining within their families. Work towards appointment of disability reviewing officer to ensure that the care plans of children placed away from their families remain appropriate to the needs of those children, see also 7.22.</p> <p>Agree. Operations Manager to take forward development of system for prioritising resources as part of overall financial management strategy.</p>	<p>John Tovey, Head of Specialist Services</p> <p>Stuart Gallimore, Head of Child Protection</p> <p>Operations Manager</p>	<p>12 months</p> <p>12 months</p>
<p><b><i>Service Development 7.7-7.9</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fitness for purpose study of local authority buildings (7.7)</li> <li>▪ Establish pilot project for use of direct payments (7.8)</li> <li>▪ Redetermine arrangements for transition service (7.9)</li> </ul>	<p>Agree. This work will be commissioned and will inform implementation programme after strategy is agreed.</p>	<p>John Tovey, Head of Specialist Services</p> <p>Keith Hinkley, Head of Commissioning</p> <p>Bob Sherwood, Head of Policy &amp; Performance Review</p>	<p>12 months</p> <p>12 months</p> <p>6 months</p>
<p><b>WORK PROGRAMME</b></p> <p><b><i>Strategic Planning 7.10-7.15</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Analysis of needs of disabled children (7.10)</li> </ul>	<p>Agree. This will be essential preparatory work for the development of the strategy and the work</p>	<p>Bob Sherwood, Head of Policy &amp; Performance Review</p> <p>John Tovey, Head of</p>	<p>12 months</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establish multi-agency project group and linkages between other planning groups (7.11, 7.12, 7.13)</li> <li>▪ Undertake consultations on draft national strategy (7.14)</li> <li>▪ Establish disabled children's register (7.15)</li> </ul>	<p>programme of the new post.</p> <p>Preparatory work largely completed. A provisional register will be implemented from May 2001.</p>	<p>Specialist Services</p>	<p>May 2001</p>
<p><b>Partnership Working 7.16-7.17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parental involvement (7.16, 7.17)</li> </ul>	<p>Agree. Currently priority of Parents Forum. Work will progress in next 6 months.</p>	<p>Operations Manager</p> <p>John Tovey, Head of Specialist Services Operations Managers</p>	<p>6 months</p> <p>6 months</p>
<p><b>Service and Management Arrangements 7.18-7.20</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Service structure (7.18)</li> <li>▪ Audit data collection/Admin support (7.19, 7.20)</li> </ul>	<p>Agree. This will be taken forward as part of development of strategic framework, under Specialist Lead Manager. This will need to be in place prior to joint review in the Autumn.</p> <p>This will form part of departmental admin review, which will be the responsibility of an external consultant.</p>	<p>Operations Manager External Consultant</p> <p>Operations Manager</p> <p>Policy Unit John Tovey, Head of Specialist Services Operations Managers</p>	<p>6 months</p> <p>1 April onwards</p> <p>6 months</p>
<p><b>Care Pathways 7.21-7.38</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Framework for Assessment (7.21)</li> <li>▪ Disabled Children from ethnic minorities, analysis of need (7.22)</li> <li>▪ Task Analysis, Children's Disability Team (7.23)</li> <li>▪ Multi-agency protocols (7.24, 7.25, 7.26)</li> <li>▪ Children with complex needs (7.27, 7.28)</li> <li>▪ Residential respite (7.29)</li> </ul>	<p>Agree. Training completed, will be implemented from 1 April.</p> <p>Agree. Will form part of work programme of Policy Unit and will be incorporated into strategic framework.</p> <p>Agree. Link service will transfer to disability services in the near future.</p> <p>Agree. QP monies identified to establish Outreach service</p>	<p>Operations Managers</p> <p>Operations Manager</p> <p>Practice Managers</p> <p>John Tovey, Head of Specialist Services</p>	<p>6 months</p> <p>9 months</p> <p>8 May onwards</p> <p>6 months</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Family Link (7.30, 7.31, 7.32, 7.33)</li> <li>▪ Outreach (7.34, 7.35, 7.36)</li> <li>▪ Community Development (7.37)</li> <li>▪ Transition (7.38)</li> </ul>	<p>in the north of the county. this will provide opportunity to restructure current service and build in targets.</p> <p>Agree. Basis for working relationship already in existence. Will be taken forward as part of strategic framework.</p> <p>Agree. Awaiting outcome of paper being presented to Departmental Management Team by Diets Vershuren, Adult Assessment Team.</p>	<p>Keith Hinkley, Head of Commissioning Operations Managers</p>	
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**APPENDIX B**

**Progress Report**  
**BV Review of Children with Disabilities**  
 (refers to Action Plan, Appendix A)

Note: Items 7.3 – 7.9 are priorities for 2001/2002

Item	Progress Report	Original Target Timescale
<p><b>Strategic Development</b>  <b>7.1-7.3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointment of Senior Manager (7.1)</li> <li>• Joint Strategic Framework (7.2)</li> <li>• Communication strategy (7.3)</li> </ul>	<p>Discussions with other agencies continue, services remain under the Head of Specialist Services until the end of 2001. Dedicated time from Policy &amp; Performance Review Unit (<i>achieved June 2001</i>).</p> <p>i) Audit of existing specialist communication skills within social services resources. (to be completed October 2001)</p> <p>ii) 4 x ½ day training sessions for staff based on materials jointly devised by ESCC and Triangle; focusing on interactive communication (November 2001 – March 2002).</p> <p>iii) Agreed standard of communication will be in place (by April 2002).</p> <p>iv) Contract with Xpress Advocacy Service “in negotiation” (<i>will be in place by January 2002</i>)</p>	<p>April 2002</p> <p>April 2002</p> <p>April 2002</p>
<p><b>Prioritisation and Resource Allocation 7.4-7.6</b></p>	<p>They have been revised to incorporate the needs of disabled children. (<i>May 2001</i>)</p>	



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligibility Criteria (7.4)</li>   <li>• Reviewing Officer (7.5)</li>   <li>• Prioritisation of Resource Allocation (7.6)</li> </ul>	<p>Further amendment will be required to take into account the needs of young carers, in relation to the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 (<i>November 2001</i>)</p> <p>Appointment of a Reviewing Officer still under consideration. Options for amending the current review format are being developed. (<i>December 2001</i>)</p> <p>A system for prioritising resource allocation will be agreed (<i>October 2001</i>) within an overall financial management strategy.</p>	<p>April 2002</p> <p>April 2002</p> <p>April 2002</p>
<p><b>Service Development 7.7-7.9</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fitness for purpose study of buildings (7.7)</li>   <li>• Pilot for use of Direct Payments (7.8)</li>   <li>• Transitions Service (7.9)</li> </ul>	<p>Commenced (<i>Aug. – Sept. 2001</i>) by Policy Officer, Policy &amp; Performance Unit.</p> <p>Proposals due to go to “Project Board” (Carers and Disabled Children Act). (<i>August 2001</i>)</p> <p>i) Management accountability is with Operations Manager, Children with Disability. (<i>June 2001</i>)  ii) Negotiations continue to secure funding for staff, achieved for remainder of current financial year. (<i>July 2001</i>)  iii) Transitions Protocol and Process in place. (<i>July 2001</i>)</p>	<p>April 2002</p> <p>April 2002</p> <p>October 2001</p>
<p><b>WORK PROGRAMME</b></p>		

<p><b>Strategic Planning 7.10-7.15</b></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of need (7.10)</li> </ul>	<p>i) Some information will be available from the “Children in Need Census” . (SSD October 2001). In addition a survey of all children within the Hastings area will be conducted as an indicator, to inform strategic framework development. (Sept. 2001 – Jan. 2002)</p>	<p>April 2002</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-Agency Project Group + links between other planning groups (7.11; 7.12; 7.13)</li> </ul>	<p>The Disabled Children’s Development Group (DCDG) is now formally linked to the Children’s Services Planning Team and has the “BV Action Plan” as its priority within its work programme. (July 2001) Dedicated time from Policy &amp; Performance Review Unit (achieved June 2001)</p>	<p>April 2002</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation on draft national strategy (7.14)</li> </ul>	<p>Will be progressed with Disabled Children’s Development Group (DCDG). (Jan. 2002)</p>	<p>April 2002</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disabled Children’s Register (7.15)</li> </ul>	<p>Implemented May 2001. Good response from parents; register will develop even more substantially if access to service information can be linked to it.</p>	<p>May 2001</p>
<p><b>Partnership Working 7.16 – 7.17</b></p>	<p>Parents Forum continues with representation on DCDG. Consideration of combining with “Special Educational Needs, Parents Forum” is in hand.</p>	<p>October 2001</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parental involvement (7.16)</li> </ul>	<p>Not progressed to date.</p>	<p>October 2001</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance Monitoring by parents (7.17)</li> </ul>	<p>Service structure agreed (June 2001) (pending discussions with other agencies on the extent and timescale for integrating Health, Education and</p>	<p>October 2001</p>

<p><b>Service and Management Arrangement 7.18 – 7.20</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service Structure (7.18)</li> <li>• Data collection and analysis (7.19)</li> <li>• Administrative support (7.19)</li> <li>• Introduce Excel spreadsheet etc. (7.20)</li> </ul> <p><b>Care Pathways 7.21 - 7.38</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment Framework (7.21)</li> <li>• Analysis of Ethnic Minorities Needs (7.22)</li> <li>• Task Analysis (7.23) (Fieldwork Teams)</li> </ul>	<p>Social Services to disabled children).</p> <p>i) Will be addressed once transfer of data to “Carefirst” has been completed and consolidated. (<i>October 2001</i>)</p> <p>ii) Level of administrative support – no progress.</p> <p>This recommendation will be progressed by <i>April 2002</i></p> <p>Achieved (<i>May 2001</i>)</p> <p>Will be achieved by April 2002</p> <p>Will be achieved (<i>by December 2001</i>)</p> <p>Multi-Agency Commissioners Group (MAC) established; (<i>June 2001</i>)</p> <p>Achieved (<i>July 2001</i>)</p>	<p>October 2001</p> <p>October 2001</p> <p>April 2001 onwards</p> <p>October 2001</p> <p>October 2001</p> <p>October 2001</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protocols and Multi-Agency Agreement for residential placements (7.24)</li> </ul>	<p>Subject of discussion with health commissioners and providers via DCDG.</p>	<p>October 2001</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of placements in residential school (7.25)</li> </ul>	<p>Achieved within social services teams and informs team plans/training plan. (Aug.2001)</p> <p>No progress to date</p>	<p>October 2001</p> <p>October 2001</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health care in social care settings (7.26)</li> </ul>	<p>No progress to date – requires the Strategic Framework to be in place which needs jointly funded dedicated Senior Manager time.</p>	<p>October 2001</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit of training needs (7.27)</li> </ul>	<p>These recommendations are being addressed as the extended Link and Outreach services come on stream. Additional funds have been secured from “Quality Protects” funding. The Family Link Scheme has been brought under the management of Specialist Services, offering an integrated service response of support in the home, in an alternative family setting, or in residential respite care according to the priority needs of the child and family.</p>	<p>October 2001</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical and sensory disability risk assessment (7.28)</li> </ul>	<p></p>	<p>December 2001</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long term projections for residential care (7.29)</li> </ul>	<p>) No significant progress in community development activity.</p>	<p></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link and Outreach developments 7.30 – 7.36</li> </ul>	<p>ii) Agreement with EYCDP that its development activity will include children with disabilities.</p> <p>iii) Pilot project established with Wealden D.C. at Hailsham (Buddy Scheme).</p>	<p>8 May 2001 onwards</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Developments/EYCDP/ Sports Development (7.37)</li>   <li>• Pooled Transition Budget 7.38</li> </ul>	<p>Development noted, significant financial implications of developing service levels to meet growth pressures – ongoing.</p>	<p>October 2001</p>
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