

Committee	Scrutiny Committee for Social Services & Health
Date	27 March 2002
By	Director of Social Services
Title of Report	Final Monitoring Report on Implementation of the Action Plan for Best Value Review of Services to Disabled Children
Purpose of Report	To provide Members with a progress report

RECOMMENDATION

1. To note progress.

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 Monies have been invested in the service for 2002/2003, funded from a reconfiguration of the base budget, together with grants, such as the Quality Protects Grant and the Carers Grant. Measures have been put in place from April 2002, which will lead to the improvement in service quality, outlined in the recommendations.

1.2 A Senior Manager has been appointed to develop a joint strategic framework for services for Disabled Children. The full year cost of the post will be £40,000, which will be funded from the base budget.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 A report of the Best Value Review of Services to Disabled Children was presented to the Social Services Committee on 20 March 2001 along with an action plan, responding to key recommendations.

2.2 A key recommendation was 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 recruiting to this post but the successful applicant will commence her duties in late April. Significant progress has been made in progressing the action plan, despite the delay in recruiting the dedicated manager.

2.4 A final monitoring report is attached as Appendix B, detailing the progress against the action plan.

2.5 The "Disabled Children's Development Group" (see App.B, 7.11) continues to have the Action Plan as its priority and has dedicated time from the Department's Policy and Performance Review Unit to assist in the implementation of agreed actions. This group is formally linked to the Children's and Young People's Strategic Planning Team and has representation from statutory agencies, parents, carers and providers of services from the voluntary sector.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

1. Social Services Committee - 20 March 2001 Best Value Review of Services for Disabled Children.
2. Scrutiny Committee for Social Services & Health - 6 September 2001 Interim Report on Implementation of Action Plan for Best Value Review of Services to Disabled Children.