

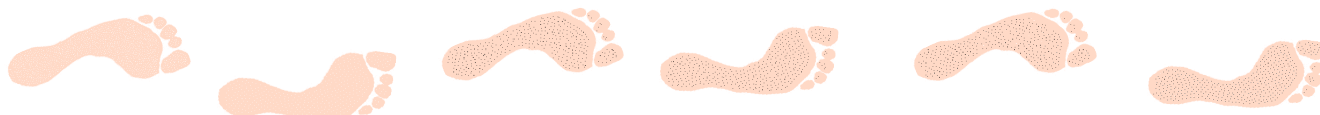
Nottinghamshire Pathfinder Children's Trust

Making Life Better for Children and Young People with Additional Needs

Issue 5

October 2004

The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services and Pathfinder Children's Trusts: **What does it mean in Nottinghamshire?**



As reported in the last Newsletter, the National Service Framework(NSF) has eleven standards. In this edition we are going to look, in a little more depth, at Standard 8 - **Disabled children and young people and those with complex health needs**

What the NSF says about Good Practice

Disabled children and young people receive child centred multi agency co-ordinated services from the point of referral through identification and assessment to delivery.

Area Child Protection Committees (ACPC) have strategies and protocols to ensure that disabled children and young people are safeguarded from emotional, physical, sexual abuse and neglect.

Multi agency transition planning and services focus

Response from the Pathfinder Children's Trust

The Pathfinder Children's Trust has adopted the Team Around the Child approach. With the family as partners, key professionals are identified who will be responsible for delivering the child's services. With the families' agreement these professionals will be automatically updated with information about the child and his or her needs. This will reduce the burden on the family having to re tell their stories.

The Pathfinder Children's Trust working in Partnership with the ACPC training committee has commissioned specialised training from TRIANGLE to ensure all staff working with children with additional needs understand their vulnerability with respect to issues of child protection. The training will also ensure that staff know what to do where child abuse is suspected.

The Pathfinder Children's Trust is working with three schools focusing on pupils in year 9 (aged 14) to look at how

on meeting the hopes, aspirations and potential of disabled young people, including maximising inclusive provision, education, training and employment opportunities.

transition planning can be improved. Currently there are processes in place for children with Statements of Educational Need. However children at School Action Plus do not yet have the same planning arrangements. Work is underway to address this.

What the NSF says about Issues for Parents

Parents commonly report difficulties in finding out about and claiming benefits.

Response from the Pathfinder Children's Trust

As part of our Team Around the Child Work we have been working with the Welfare Rights Service. This service will give professionals information about benefits and will act as a specialised resource to help professionals support families.

The care demands on parents, multiple appointments with services, and a lack of childcare, limits parents' ability to work or to undergo training.

The Children's Trust will be working with a number of Out of School Clubs to promote more inclusive practice so that children with additional needs can attend and parents have improved choice about training or employment.

As part of this work we are going to train young people with additional needs to become assessors. The young people will use the audit tool 'Hands Up for Inclusion' to help them with this.

What the NSF says about training

Wherever possible, joint training initiatives between health, education and social services staff are implemented.

Response from the Pathfinder Children's Trust

The Trust has agreed a training strategy which has the support of all the County Council services, local Health services, voluntary services and the Connexions Service, that any training which a single agency provides, related to services to children and young people with additional needs, will be opened up to staff from any of the partner agencies. The local Special Educational Needs Training programme for the forthcoming year has about ten courses identified as being open to other agencies to attend.

If you have any questions about what you have read in this month's edition, or any comments to make, please contact:

susan.twemlow@nottsc.gov.uk

Additionally special multi-agency training is being commissioned with respect to:

Listening to Children and What does a social model of disability mean?

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