

JOINT COMMISSIONING STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES



Who is the strategy for?

This strategy is being developed on behalf of the Plymouth Children and Young People's Trust.

It will be developed by a large group of people who have the most experience with disability, including children and young people themselves. Parents know their children best and so must be at the heart of this process.

What goes into the strategy will directly inform the planning, funding and delivery of services across Plymouth, and not just those dealing specifically with disability.

What will the strategy do?

It is easier to state what the strategy definitely won't do!

Firstly, it won't be talking about what services are on offer for disabled children and young people, or how good or bad they are.

The focus of this strategy will be on the ***child, young person and their family.***

We want to look at the needs of children and young people who happen to be disabled. The strategy will consider the child first - and the disability next.

The strategy will ask how we can collectively give that child or young person the best chance in life, while enabling them to fulfil their potential as they prepare for adulthood!

To do this, the strategy must also acknowledge and address the needs of families who love, support and care for a disabled child or young person.

How is this workshop different from others we have attended?

There are many different pieces of work happening around disabled children and young people at the moment, the biggest of which is based on 'Aiming High for Disabled Children'.

This strategy will not duplicate any of this work (or any of your efforts in the above!), but looks to bring everything together in a more joined up and useful way.

Its reach will also extend beyond those services dedicated to disabled children and young people - this will no doubt give much more meaning to achieving all five of the Every Child Matters Outcomes.

Who will be at the workshop?

There will be a variety of different people at the workshop, probably around 50, including parents.

While we will not be talking about any services, we have invited staff that work in particular departments as it is important that they are part of the discussions to develop this strategy. This will include the Integrated Disability Service and Child Development Centre, as well as others such as primary & secondary schools, the youth service, children's centres, Connexions and many more.

We are also inviting City Councillors as well as staff from other areas of the Council such as housing, sport & leisure, adult social care, asset management, planning & development and transport.

PROGRAMME

9.00 Opening	This will outline the plan for the day and some ground rules for the workshop such as listening to each other & respecting different opinions
9.10 – Presentation by children and young people	We are working with small groups of young people who will be telling the workshop what they want! This may be in person on the day of the workshop, or they will present their views in other creative ways such as through video, music or photos. They will decide this over the next month.
9.30 – Why do you do what you do?	This is an ice breaker and aims to help participants to find common ground regardless of who they are, what they do or why they are at the workshop. It can be quite daunting for professionals to talk to each other and with parents, and vice versa, but becomes a lot easier after this exercise.
9.45 – The Miracle Question	Participants will go off into small groups to think freely about what life would look like for disabled children, young people and their families if the strategy in 5 years time was totally successful in every way. This exercise allows us to think about what we would all want if we didn't have to think about realistic issues such as money, tiredness, emotions or even the weather! This often bogs down thinking about what could be achieved. It is a useful way to get people thinking about what should and could happen in the next 5 years! It will also help us develop a common vision.
10.15 – Where are we now?	This exercise will allow participants to feedback how they feel Plymouth is doing in relation to their own answers to the Miracle Question!
10.30 – COFFEE BREAK	
10.50 – Key message about needs	Over the past 3 months a great deal of information has been collected to inform this strategy. The key messages will be presented at the workshop and there will be an opportunity to ask questions.
11.10 – Developing big & small themes for the strategy	Participants will be divided into four small groups to discuss key themes. They have not yet been decided but are likely to be based around the following issues: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Raising aspirations and promoting independence2. Supporting and empowering families to empower the child3. Responding to the emerging and established/complex needs of children and young people4. Keeping children and young people safe The facilitator for each group will guide participants on each topic. It is an open discussion or brainstorm session with no correct or incorrect answers. Each group will be asked to identify up to 6 small themes for their topic.
12.30 – LUNCH (provided)	
1.15	Small groups will continue with an exercise that looks at what types of activities could be implemented within at least 2 of their chosen smaller themes.
2.30 – Wrap up	A couple of exercises to look at next steps and to give feedback about how the day has gone. We would especially welcome parents to give their feedback if they are able to stay until the end.

Please feel free to join at any of the above times