

Best practice examples: Targeted youth support

**Integrated support for vulnerable young people – emerging practice:
Including disabled young people in local service provision:
Hammersmith and Fulham**

Hammersmith and Fulham Action on Disability (HAFAD)

Challenges Tips

- Effecting long-term change in segregated provision culture
- Developing effective partnerships with other services that
- deal with different service criteria and cultures
- Meet disabled families concerns re mainstream provision
- Identifying and directing resources to meet needs

Key Actions

- HAFAD brings local disability projects together with the aspiration of becoming a centre for integrated living
- HAFAD becomes the main borough provider for leisure activities for disabled young people (11–25 years) launching its Agenda for Youth (AFY) programme in 2000
- HAFAD pilots a new inclusive youth club in a Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) partnership with Masbro Centre's mainstream youth group
- Builds on learning from Masbro, developing clubs with youth service at Castle Club and Fulham Cross centre
- Council becomes Children Trust (CT) pathfinder. Director of HAFAD becomes voluntary representative for CT board – enhancing the projects networking potential to influence and join-up services from within the CT
- Children's Fund establishes a bridge worker in the play service – to work across departments and plan transitions
- HAFAD develops personal profile reports on disabled people to support transitions
- HAFAD works with other agencies to ensure a sustainable inclusion strategy is written into the council's disability equality plan and the new children's service framework
- HAFAD develops a training programme for including young disabled people in play and youth services

Impact

HAFAD has developed its service provider role to incorporate its traditional advocacy and campaigning functions within the new Children's Service framework. Through its AFY programme it delivers 600 places to disabled young people and refers users onto inclusive groups. The new bridge worker is creating strong links between the play service and social services helping increase mobility; ease transitions and ensure inclusion is high priority. Although the Masbro project funding has ended, disabled users continue to attend clubs at the centre.

Following a planned withdrawal of HAFAD staff at Fulham Cross, the club continues to thrive with disabled young people also attending other activities at the centre. HAFAD continues to support development through referrals and bridge working assessments. Its involvement in the CT breaks down barriers, promotes inclusion strategically and increasing collaboration between services ensures disabled young people are included in plans.

To find out more, contact

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