

## London: Sufficiency and Beyond Children with Disabilities

### **PARTNERSHIP WORKING TO DELIVER CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

#### **Introduction**

This is one of a series of fact sheets produced as part of a toolkit to support London Local Authorities in delivering the childcare sufficiency duty set out in the Childcare Act 2006. (See Fact sheet 2 for a summary of the duties in the 2006 Act). Other Fact sheets in this series provide a focus on the needs of Older Children and children for whom English is an additional language (EAL).

This fact sheet focuses on working in partnership to deliver childcare and integrated working to achieve childcare sufficiency for children with disabilities. Partnership working is important in making the best use of available resources and ensuring that as far as possible that parents, children and young people receive appropriate and timely services. In addition, the local authority has a statutory duty to for partnership working and the involvement of parents and children in the planning and delivery of early childhood integrated services. Other key partners also have a statutory duty to co-operate in order to improve the wellbeing of children and young people.

#### **Guidance**

##### **Duty to co-operate**

*Guidance on inter-agency co-operation : Children's Trusts*

This guidance sets out the features of inter-agency cooperation through children's trusts. It provides a strategic framework within which all children's services in an area will operate.

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/search/IG00012/>

##### **Working with the Third Sector**

“Working with Voluntary and Community Organisations to Deliver Change for Children and Young People” and “Engaging the Voluntary and Community Sectors in ” are available from

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/strategy/voluntaryandcommunity/voluntaryandcommunity/>

## **Involving children and young people**

### Building a Culture of Participation

The handbook focuses on how to listen to children and young people so that their views bring about change. It aims specifically to:

- Identify and illustrate the benefits of child and youth participation
- Guide organisations in thinking about how to create appropriate environments in which children and young people can be involved in meaningful ways, so that their views are listened to and acted upon
- Help organisations explore how they can develop cultures and infrastructures which sustain and embed participation throughout all their activity

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/strategy/participation/participation/>

Who	Why	Further information
Childcare providers – preferably via a Providers' Forum	Provider forums should be consulted on a range of issues including the planning and commissioning of childcare, funding arrangements (including the funding of the free entitlement to early learning and care) and the nature and content of support and training	<p>See 'Securing sufficient childcare: guidance for local authorities Childcare Act 2006' DCSF</p> <p>Together for Children has produced a range of documents which are designed to be used by both colleagues in LAs and in local PVI organisations as they work together to deliver SSCCs and services in their communities.</p> <p><a href="http://www.childrenscentres.org/Topics/PVISupportProducts.aspx">http://www.childrenscentres.org/Topics/PVISupportProducts.aspx</a></p>
Childminders	Child care providers	Each LA has a Childminder Network which provides an opportunity to form a more strategic partnership. Support and training may be needed to encourage childminders to work with older children, children with disabilities or who have EAL.
Children and young people	<p>A statutory duty. Also note that provision is more successful (better take up and better outcomes for children and young people) if they have been involved in the planning of services in a way appropriate to their age and understanding.</p> <p>Mechanisms for consultation can use existing structures such as Youth parliaments, Youth Forums or School Councils.</p>	<p>See 'Securing sufficient childcare: guidance for local authorities Childcare Act 2006' DCSF</p> <p>Good practice example from Newham can be found at:</p> <p><a href="http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/strategy/managersandleaders/planningandcommissioning/casestudies/casestudies/">http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/strategy/managersandleaders/planningandcommissioning/casestudies/casestudies/</a></p> <p>Participation Works is a collaboration of agencies committed to children and young people's participation. Examples of good practice and a download of the <b>Hear by Right</b> self assessment tool is available on the website.</p> <p><a href="http://www.participationworks.org.uk">www.participationworks.org.uk</a></p> <p>Help with consulting with young children – <a href="http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk">http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk</a>, <a href="http://www.mencap.org.uk">http://www.mencap.org.uk</a>, <a href="http://www.coram.org.uk">http://www.coram.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.ncb.org.uk/Page.asp">http://www.ncb.org.uk/Page.asp</a></p>

Who	Why	Further information
Children's Centres	A significant provider which also have experience in targeting low income families and vulnerable groups.	Good practice in partnership working example: Your local Children's Centre can be found at: <a href="http://www.surestart.gov.uk/surestartservices/settings/fundedsettings/">http://www.surestart.gov.uk/surestartservices/settings/fundedsettings/</a>
Children's Workforce Development Council	CWDC aims to improve the lives of children, young people, their families and carers by ensuring that those who work with children and young people have the best possible training, qualifications and support. It helps organisations work together more closely so that children and young people are at the heart of what they do.	<a href="http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk">http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk</a>
Cultural sector: Arts Council Creative partnerships, local projects	Cultural projects help to provide activities for children and young people outside of school which are attractive to older children. Specifically the 'Find your talent' pilot programme is helping to develop the cultural offer	The London Find Your Talent Pathfinder is Tower Hamlets which is working on a theme of community cohesion through culture <a href="http://www.findyourtalent.org/pathfinders/tower_hamlets.html">http://www.findyourtalent.org/pathfinders/tower_hamlets.html</a>  The London delivery body for Creative Partnerships is 'A New Direction London': <a href="http://www.creative-partnerships.com/area-delivery-organisations/anewdirection/creative-partnerships-london,9,ADO.html">http://www.creative-partnerships.com/area-delivery-organisations/anewdirection/creative-partnerships-london,9,ADO.html</a>
Health	Primary Care Trusts have particular interests in the physical and mental health of children and young people and are significant partners in Children's Trusts and Local Strategic Partnerships.	PCTs commission the healthcare for a local authority area. Contact details for your local PCT can be found at: <a href="http://www.london.nhs.uk/your-nhs-in-london">http://www.london.nhs.uk/your-nhs-in-london</a>

Who	Why	Further information
JobCentre+	Providing childcare sufficiency is important in supporting JC+ role in getting parents back to work. A particular issue is making sure information for parents is up to date and available in appropriate formats – not all information can be web based.	Each Jobcentre+ District has a Childcare Partnership Manager. Their role is to improve the fit of childcare provision to meet the needs of unemployed parents by acting as a focal point for resolution of childcare issues in their locality. They work with Local Authorities and other childcare partnerships to foster the growth of local childcare provision and give information about formal childcare to advisers, parents and employers.
Local authority	Each LA has a duty to secure sufficiency, its role is to act as the co-ordinating body drawing up plans with the active involvement of a wide range of partners	See ‘Securing sufficient childcare: guidance for local authorities Childcare Act 2006’ DCSF  Plans for achieving sufficiency should be included in the LA’s Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP).
Parents	A statutory duty.  Participation of families in the planning process is crucial and particular care should be taken to include the views of low income families and the parents of disabled children, Participation can be through existing structures such as Parent’s Forums or by processes developed to support the CYPP	See ‘Securing sufficient childcare: guidance for local authorities Childcare Act 2006’ DCSF  X ref to fact sheet on disabled children for more info
Play services	Play services can form part of a package of childcare and may offer a more attractive choice for older children.	Play services can be provided by the local authority or the third sector. The way the service is organised will differ from borough to borough. Some play services provide a specialist service to meet the needs of children with disabilities
Schools	Schools are partners in both planning and delivering sufficiency. The Extended Schools programme offers opportunities for delivering childcare wrapped around the school day. Involvement can be through existing schools forums or with individual schools	Each local authority will have its own mechanism for consulting and involving schools as well as an officer responsible for the implementation of the Extended Schools Programme.

Who	Why	Further information
Sports bodies: School sports partnership	Sport based activities appeal to a wide range of children.	Information about School Sport partnerships can be found on the Youth Sports trust web site at: <a href="http://www.youthsporttrust.org/subpage/specialist-sport/index.html">http://www.youthsporttrust.org/subpage/specialist-sport/index.html</a>  Each local authority has its own network of school sports partnerships. Sport England have a London web site: <a href="http://www.youthsporttrust.org/subpage/specialist-sport/index.html">http://www.youthsporttrust.org/subpage/specialist-sport/index.html</a>
Third sector (voluntary sector)	National and local organisations that work provide services to, work with and support children, young people with disabilities and their families will be critical partners;  PVI providers should also form part of this partnership	Daycare Trust Council for Disabled Children Contact a Family Together for Disabled Children   Private, voluntary and independent sector childcare providers should be involved in the Provider Forum or its equivalent.
Youth Service	Local authority's experts in working with young people who can advise about appropriate services for children and young people; consultation processes and good practice in young people's participation work	Youth Services locally should be in a position to advise on provision for older children with disabilities and any targeted provision they have or fund, including specialist provision and best practice in inclusive provision
National bodies and sites	The Office for Disability Issues (ODI) has been set up to help government deliver on the commitment made in the report, <a href="#">'Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People'</a> .	<a href="http://www.officefordisability.gov.uk/default.asp">http://www.officefordisability.gov.uk/default.asp</a>

