

**Committing to the Disabled Children's Charter**

**Background**

1. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2012 highlights a number of concerns about the quality of life and disadvantage that many disabled children experience. The prospect of disadvantage unfortunately continues through into adult life for people with disabilities.
  - Four in ten disabled children live in poverty nationally, and put the other way, approximately two thirds of children living in poverty will have special educational needs.
  - Thomas Coram Research estimates that between approx 1,000 and 2,000 children experience some form of disability in York
  - There are nearly 4,000 children and young people in mainstream schools in York who have some form of special educational need
  - The percentage of children with statements of special educational needs, indicating higher levels of need has risen in York for the first time since 2008.
  - The percentage of children in special school in York has gone up for the first time this year
  - We are also seeing a steady rise in the numbers of children with a physical and sensory disability in York schools, an increase in the number of children with a hearing loss as their primary need and a significant rise in the numbers of pupils with speech, language and communications needs.
  - 32 % of young people in York who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) are young disabled people, compared to 22% nationally.

## **An Introduction to the Disabled Children's Charter**

2. The national charity The Children's Trust Tadworth has developed a Disabled Children's Charter to support Health and Wellbeing Boards to meet the needs of all children and young people who have disabilities, special educational needs (SEN), health conditions, and their families.
3. The Charter includes 7 commitments focused on improving health outcomes for disabled children, young people and their families and providing evidence after 1 year on how they have met each one.
4. The National Disabled Children's Charter is attached as Annex A

## **The benefits of signing the Charter**

5. To accompany the Charter, The Children's Trust Tadworth has developed the document 'Why sign the Disabled Children's Charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards'. This explains:
  - The overarching benefits to Health and Wellbeing Boards for signing the Charter
  - The value of each Charter commitment with reference to Health and Wellbeing Board statutory functions
  - How to demonstrate the commitments have been met
  - Resources for Health and Wellbeing Boards

'Why sign the Disabled Children's Charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards' is attached as Annex B.

6. A presentation will be given to the Health and Wellbeing Board to provide further evidence of health and wellbeing issues disabled children experience and why it is recommended that York's Health and Wellbeing Board sign the national Charter and a City of York Charter.

The City of York Charter is attached as Annex C.

## **Recommendations for the Health and Wellbeing Board**

7. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to:
- Review the Disabled Children's Charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards and the accompanying document 'Why sign the Disabled Children's Charter for Health and Wellbeing Boards'
  - Sign up to the national Charter and agree to achieving its 7 commitments
  - Sign up to the local Charter, for the City of York.

**Reason:** That the Health and Wellbeing Board demonstrate a commitment to improving the lives of disabled children, young people and their families.

### **Council Plan**

8. The proposals in this paper have particular relevance to the 'Building Strong Communities' and 'Protecting Vulnerable People' strands of the council plan.

### **Implications**

#### **Financial**

9. No financial implications

#### **Human Resources (HR)**

10. No HR implications

#### **Equalities**

11. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2012 highlights the need to improving the lives of the disabled children, young people and their families. Unfortunately the disadvantage that many disabled children experience is continued into adulthood. Addressing health inequalities is an overarching aim of the Health and Wellbeing Board and a key priority within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

#### **Legal**

12. No legal implications

#### **Crime and Disorder**

13. No crime and disorder implications

## **Information Technology (IT)**

14. No IT implications

## **Property**

15. No Property implications

## **Other**

16. No other implications

## **Risk Management**

17. There are no significant risks associated with the recommendations in this paper.

## **Contact Details**

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**Report  
Approved**

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**Wards Affected:**

**All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

## **Annexes**

**Annex A – The Disabled Children’s Charter for Health and  
Wellbeing Boards**

**Annex B – Why Sign the Disabled Children’s Charter for Health and  
Wellbeing Boards**

**Annex C- City of York Charter for Disabled Children 2013-16**