



**Disabled Children's Services
National Indicator
*Information for parents and carers***

Background Information

The Aiming High for Disabled Children programme has introduced a new way to measure how well local areas are supporting families of disabled children. This is being done by sending out a questionnaire every year to a sample of families with disabled children and asking parents to feedback on their experience of services.

The responses from these questionnaires are collated to provide a measure called the 'Disabled Children's Services National Indicator', which shows how each local area is performing compared to other areas, as well as against a national average.



Each year the performance of local authorities and health services is measured by a range of indicators. One of these is the Disabled Children's Services National Indicator. Local authorities and health services will be able to use this to discuss progress with parents and consider how they might develop services.

The Disabled Children's Services National Indicator helps local areas identify which services require improvement. It provides data on the following:

Information – whether parents are receiving all the information they need in a way that they can easily access.

Transparency – whether parents are being told about how decisions are reached regarding services for their child.

Assessment – how assessments are carried out and whether parents have to repeat the same information to many different professionals.

Participation – whether parents are being listened to and involved when decisions are made about their child.

Feedback – whether families are asked for feedback on how they find the services they receive and if this feedback is acted upon.

Disabled Children's Services National Indicator results

Questionnaires are distributed across England yearly and the Disabled Children's Services National Indicator is recalculated on the results. Everyone will be able to see how their local area is doing as results are published online at www.dcsf.gov.uk/ecm/ahdc/nationalindicator. You can see the results from the first survey and the latest scores, published in December 2009, on the Aiming High for Disabled Children website www.dcsf.gov.uk/ecm/ahdc/nationalindicator.

The results will provide information to help chart progress and enable local authorities and health services to plan improvements with parents.



Providing Additional Feedback

Parent participation

Service managers will need to find out from parents, children and young people the type of support they need in order to improve services. Through the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme, Together for Disabled Children is supporting the development of parent forums across England. Through these forums, parents have the opportunity to work with local authority and health services, to make sure that services are provided that meet the needs of families. In some areas parent forums are well established but in other areas they are just getting started.

Parent participation is central to the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme. One way to get involved is through parent forums, but there are other groups and ways to get involved locally. To find out more about parent participation visit www.togetherfdc.org/Topics/ParentalParticipation.aspx

What you can do

If you are a parent you can help in any of the following ways:

- If you receive a questionnaire please complete and return it.
- Let your local parent forum know you are happy to tell them more about your experience of services and what changes you would like to see.
- If you have time, get more involved with the work of the parent forum. This could mean attending meetings and working with children's services to develop services that really meet the needs of disabled children and their families.



Useful Contacts

Parent forum contact details

If you would like to get involved with your local parent forum you can find out who is leading this work by contacting Kate Johnstone at Together for Disabled Children.

Tel 020 7608 8783 Email: Kate.Johnstone@cafamily.org.uk

or through the Contact a Family helpline

Tel 0808 808 3555 Email: helpline@cafamily.org.uk

Parent Partnership Services

Parent Partnership Services (PPS) offer information, advice and support to parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs (SEN). To find your local PPS contact the National Parent Partnership Network.

Tel 0207 843 6058

or visit www.parentpartnership.org.uk

If you have any questions or would like to let us know what you thought about this leaflet email
ahdc.implementation@dcsgsi.gov.uk

More information about the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme can be found at
www.dcsf.gov.uk/ecm/ahdc