

The Children's Services Multi Agency Strategic Implementation Group in Sheffield have read the report with interest and we would like to make the following comments; Whilst we recognise that the report is an interim analysis of the issues we felt that future work should ensure that

- \* Poverty amongst families with disabled children should be wider published and be high on the reduction of poverty agenda This needs to be published at a government level

- \* Tax Credits should reflect the costs of caring for a disabled child and should be adjusted accordingly. In addition there should be recognition of the fact that the families caring role often extends into the Child's adult life and this also needs to be reflected

- \* Current funding strategies will not meet the costs of extending services to meet the needs of disabled children and young people Money ring fenced to the inclusion of children and young people with disabilities

- \* There is no national consistent funding stream for SEN and so it is difficult to compare the performance of LEAs

- \* Key Workers as an "invest to save strategy" may well increase efficiency and service quality but "start up" money needs to be available

- \* Extended school and access to play, sport and leisure not focussed on in the report.

- \* Emphasis on the cultural and attitudinal change required by mainstream services to accept their responsibility in meeting the needs of disabled children/young people targets need to be set in mainstream services around this. Funding should be attached to meeting the targets ,The Inspection regime is not sufficient to ensure inclusion.

- \* Minimum standards should not only be around what people can expect but also around how it is delivered

- \* Raising standards in child care, remuneration for care work. Government needs to raise the status of "caring" for Children/young people/disabled people generally. Issue around inclusion and specialist training for the workforce: where will the money come from for this.

- \* Special attention should be paid to the needs of disabled children and young people from Black and Minority Ethnic communities

We are aware that the comments are primarily aimed at what happens next but we felt it was important to make them

Kit Moran