



**Letter from Ray Shostak and Tom Jeffery**

2 August 2006

Dear colleague

**Comprehensive Spending Review 2007**

**Call for evidence: DfES/HM Treasury Joint Policy Review on Children and Young People**

In partnership with key stakeholders, a lot of progress has been made since 1997 that has transformed the life chances of children:

- the risk of a child living in poverty has declined, and 500,000 fewer children live in relative low income poverty than in 1998;
- educational attainment has increased at all key stages over this period;
- from 1998 to 2004 there has been an 11.1 per cent decline in the under 18 conception rate while the under 16 conception rate has fallen by 15.2 per cent. Both rates are now at the lowest levels for twenty years.

However, further progress can and must be made. In *Support for parents: the best start for children*<sup>1</sup>, published at the 2005 Pre-Budget Report, HM Treasury and the Department for Education and Skills identified further steps to be taken to improve the outcomes for children and young people.

To take forward these conclusions and to inform the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, in Budget 2006 the Chancellor announced a policy review of children and young people. This Review will consider:

- how services for children and young people and their families can build on the three principles identified in *Support for parents, the best start for children* – rights and responsibilities, progressive universalism and prevention – to improve outcomes for children and young people;

We refer to this as the ‘prevention’ strand of the review. Under the umbrella of the children and young people review, three additional sub-reviews focus on:

- how services can provide greater support to families with disabled children to improve their life chances;
- what strategy should be adopted over the next ten years to deliver a step change in youth services and support for young people;

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<sup>1</sup> [www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pre\\_budget\\_report/prebud\\_pbr05/assoc\\_docs/prebud\\_pbr05\\_adparents.cfm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pre_budget_report/prebud_pbr05/assoc_docs/prebud_pbr05_adparents.cfm)

- how services for families and children at risk of becoming locked in a cycle of low achievement, high harm and high cost can be reformed to deliver better outcomes.

**Attached at Annex B to this letter are the terms of reference of each strand of the review. They contain key questions that the review aims to address, and through this letter we are seeking contributions that could improve our evidence base to respond to them.**

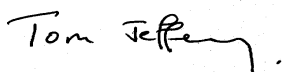
The list of questions is not exhaustive – respondents can provide information that they think may support the review in other ways. Evidence could include quantitative evaluations, qualitative case studies, analysis from survey data, or examples of promising practice. It would be helpful for respondents to state the source of evidence and comment on its strength and robustness.

We are aware that some individuals and organisations have already contributed to the review or similar work in Government. Some organisations have indicated to us they are providing a response on behalf of a number of stakeholder groups. We are grateful for these contributions and responses to this call for evidence do not need to duplicate responses you have already made or can cross-refer where appropriate.

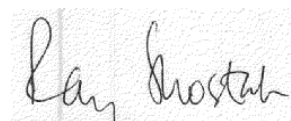
We would be grateful if submissions of evidence to inform the review can be sent to: [cypreview@hm-treasury.gov.uk](mailto:cypreview@hm-treasury.gov.uk). For longer submissions, we would be grateful if they could be accompanied by a summary (up to two pages) bringing out the salient points and key supporting evidence. A suggested covering proforma is attached at annex A.

A copy of this letter and proforma is also available on the Treasury website<sup>2</sup> and on the Every Child Matters Website<sup>3</sup>. **Responses should be submitted by 15 September 2006.**

Many thanks and kind regards



**Tom Jeffery, Director General  
Department for Education and Skills**



**Ray Shostak, Director  
HM Treasury**

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<sup>2</sup> [www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spending\\_review/spend\\_csr07/reviews/spend\\_csr07\\_reviewsindex.cfm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spending_review/spend_csr07/reviews/spend_csr07_reviewsindex.cfm)

<sup>3</sup> [www.everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk)

## Annex A – Covering Template for Responses

Please complete the attached cover sheet when sending evidence, indicating the set of questions to which a response is being provided and contact details of the person for any follow-up queries.

Contact details for respondent	
Name	
Job title	Head of Children’s Development and Commissioning
Do you represent an organisation?  (if so, name of organisation and type: e.g. voluntary, public body, private company).	Chair of Disabled Children’s Planning Group for Derby City Multi agency group with representatives from statutory and voluntary sectors
Postal address	Central and Greater Derby PCT Derwent Court Stuart Street Derby DE1 2FZ
Telephone number	

	Which area of the review are you responding to? (please mark X)
Prevention strand	
Review of disabled children	X
Strategy for youth services	
Review of high cost, high harm families	

## **Annex B2: Terms of reference for the Review of Disabled Children**

### Objective:

**To improve outcomes and life chances of disabled children through the development of effective and accessible services for disabled children and their families.**

### The scope of the review will cover:

- services specifically for disabled children, including how specialist services for disabled children support access to universal services, specialist services provided in a universal setting and how universal services refer children to specialist services;
- childcare services, which are of particular importance in the early years for children's development and to support their parents;
- appropriate support for disabled children during the school years and in making the transition into adulthood;
- how expenditure by one service/department can avoid or reduce concurrent or later expenditure by another department.

The Government recognises that financial support and benefits have played an important role in reducing the risks of poverty and delivering economic wellbeing. This provides the foundation on which families, communities and government can work together to secure better outcomes for disabled children and their families. Although financial support and benefits will not be a focus, the review will consider the interrelationship between poverty and service delivery needs.

The review will consider the actions that can lead to better outcomes for those children already with a disability, including family support e.g. respite provision, rather than prevention and risk factors, which will be considered as part of the wider Children and Young People's Review.

### The key questions the review will address include:

The changing profile of disabled children, for example, due to increases in complex disability and rise in Autistic Spectrum Disorders, profound and multiple learning disabilities and low birth-weight babies and the challenges this poses to services.

What progress has already been made in addressing the needs of disabled children and their families?

What are the barriers currently restricting access to services and therefore effective intervention?

Are services sufficiently co-ordinated at local level to allow families to access sufficient support to meet their needs?

How does the system of support for disabled children and their families compare across the country and abroad? Are there lessons we can learn to improve outcomes?

What family support services i.e. key workers, short breaks, sibling support, behavioural management are currently available and how do these relate to other services?

What are the most cost effective interventions in delivering better outcomes?

Are there interventions which, if made earlier, could reduce more costly interventions later? How can we identify the need to intervene earlier?

What lessons can we learn from the legal frameworks in other countries that might inform the review?

### **Comments and Response from the multi agency group:**

- Agree what is the definition of disability and provide a meaningful way of assessing need. Disabled children are not just those children in receipt of services
- There should be no financial gain for any services provided for disabled children and their family
- There have been lots of good initiatives and with a plethora of policies with either short term funding or no additional funds at all e.g. Communication aids project
- Short term funding is time wasting, inhibits forward planning, doesn't allow for the measurement of the full impact of new service developments, limits the retention of staff and ability to attract competent staff
- Projects develop skills, confidence, multi agency approaches and a greater knowledge base that isn't sustainable with time limited resources
- There is limited national training and an ageing workforce of specialist practitioners.
- Multi agency working has been very helpful but this should be formalised and good practice disseminated.
- Early intervention is the key to delivering good outcomes but there are few staff on the ground with the right skills and expertise.
- Thresholds and criteria still determine access to services in many cases.
- Children and families have to "fit " into services and not the other way around
- Consultation, participation and choice for children and families is high on the governments agenda but in reality there is little choice
- Services are not good at intervening early and many children get referred to specialist services too late because of the threshold for access
- The introduction of the carers grant / allowance goes some way to support families, however there is still the expectation that families will care for their children long term
- Generally people who work in the caring environment are poorly paid

- The key worker is an important role in supporting parents, building confidence and getting to know the family
- Disabled children should receive ongoing support and should not be discharged from services.
- CWDC standards will provide the evidence base to establish the key worker role.
- Some difficulty in providing appropriate services with inclusion agenda.
- Inclusion can be isolating and expensive
- There must be a balance between inclusion and specialist
- Inadequate resources for comprehensive inclusion
- There must be links between mainstream settings and specialist provision with a sharing of expertise
- Decreased role of local authorities across education has produced difficulties in meeting needs of disabled children
- Enhanced Resource provision is appropriate providing they are large and flexible enough
- Individual care packages can be flexible and responsive. There may be difficulties coordinating targeted services.
- Developing regional protocols to respond to high cost low incidence supports smaller authorities to meet needs of very complex children
- Assessments can set up artificial barriers to services