

## **CHILDREN'S DISABILITY FORUM**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **AIM:**

To develop a Southampton City inter-agency strategic overview for disabled children, in order to achieve accessible, co-ordinated services that are based on identified need and make the best use of resources available to all agencies, from Statutory, Voluntary and Independent sectors.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To develop, agree, drive and monitor a clear strategic framework which reflects the identified needs of Southampton children with disabilities and their families.
2. To ensure that strategies or priorities are based on identified needs developed in partnership with service users and carers.
3. To identify gaps in service and feed this information through to commissioners.
4. To ensure that the strategy meets/reflects current best practice, and is responsive to government objectives and priorities as well as to local pressures.
5. To encourage as broader spectrum of strategic involvement as possible to ensure robust and purposeful planning.
6. To maximise resources available from the key agencies for the benefit of the users of the service.
7. To seek opportunities to increase resource availability through influencing or supporting commissioning activities.
8. To work in partnership with adult services to develop effective protocols and procedures that ensure Transition between children's and adult services is inclusive, proactive, thorough and successful.
9. To undertake oversight activities for key projects such as Aiming High, the Disability Commissioning Review, and National Transition Support Program.
10. To ensure there are procedures and mechanisms in place to give every child and young person the opportunity to express their wishes, needs and aspirations.
11. To develop a clear communication strategy that ensures that young people and their families are fully informed about the services and opportunities that are available to them.
12. To encourage and support mainstream services to be as inclusive and accessible as possible to increase the range of opportunities and support offered to children with disabilities.