

BRISTOL PARENT CARERS
INTEGRATED SERVICES & MULTI-AGENCY WORKING

Introduction

The Reforms require care to be commissioned jointly by local authorities, health and care providers. So, agencies will work together in a more joined up way to provide a better outcome for families.

Local authorities and health authorities must ensure:-

- they work together
- all services co-operate to support SEND children and their families
- Adults and Children's Services integrate to cover the 16-25 age range
- they take a person-centred approach in the way they work
- they involve children/young people and parent carers in reviewing and developing provision for those with SEND
- information about support is clear and transparent.

In Bristol

Before the national reforms were announced, the local authorities in Bristol had already started work on a new Integrated Service for children and young people with SEND from 0-25 years. They were making the changes because they had listened to parent carers and staff, and realised that:-

- there are too many ways to access services
- pathways to services are not clear
- those with the greatest need are not always targeted
- there is not enough shared information to enable understanding of need
- families want a consistent and coordinated approach.

To address these issues, the changes happening in Bristol are:-

- A city wide First Response team that anyone can call if they have concerns over the development, behaviour or condition of a child or young person

- Three area-based Early Help teams for anyone that First Response has identified as being in need. Each team will have an Early Help coordinator, social worker and administrative support. Also an Early Help coordinator will work within the First Response team.
- A specialist Integrated Disabled & SEN Children and Young Adults Service (from 0-25 years), for anyone that Early Help identifies as being in need of Specialist Care.
- Various assessments to be consolidated into one - the Single Assessment Framework.

Bristol Parent Carers' reps have been involved in designing the models and pathways for these new services.

A phased introduction of these changes will begin in April 2014, with the main structural changes to be fully implemented by September 2014.

The aim is that the benefits of Integrated Services will be:-

- clarity and transparency of what help is available
- practitioners can share information, without parent carers having to keep explaining themselves
- more efficient use of budgets.

If you have any views on the reforms, please email them to: sendplus@bristol.gov.uk, if you want to get involved, [contact us](#).