

In March 2005, a report went to Cabinet from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Personal Care, on **'Services for Children with Physical or Sensory Disabilities and their Families'**. The following recommendations were agreed to:

- a. Give serious consideration to increasing respite provision in the long-term, including appropriate residential respite opportunities for children with solely physical disabilities.
- b. Raise fees paid to Take-a-Break carers (giving consideration to linking fees to the foster carers' scale) and takes steps to promote recruitment to the Take-a-Break and Befriender schemes more widely.
- c. Review the way in which the roles and responsibilities of Children's Social Care are communicated to its partners and to the public.
- d. Make the eligibility criteria for children's social care services transparent and publish them.
- e. Within available resources, seek to promote the provision of increased sporting and leisure opportunities for disabled children through its Youth and Community Services and, in particular, through partnership arrangements with the voluntary sector.
- f. Within available resources, seek to negotiate amendments to the school transport contracts to allow for flexibility in the arrangements for children with disabilities and strengthens the quality assurance monitoring of taxi services for this client group.
- g. Social Care for Children and Young People will seek to reduce waiting times for Occupational Therapy assessments.
- h. Within available resources and under the aegis of 'Customer First', the Children and Young People portfolio will seek to produce, in collaboration with its partners, a county-wide information strategy which will be implemented by end 2006.
- i. Calls on the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and Social Care for Children and Young People to give a high priority, when planning for the Children's Trust, to the creation of key worker/lead professional roles in order to support improved outcomes for children with disabilities and their families.
- j. As lead member, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People will monitor and co-ordinate progress and report back to Cabinet, and would be willing to report back to Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the end of the year.

A hard copy report detailing progress on the recommendations will be sent to members for their comments and information.