

**Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs  
Pathfinder Application Form**

*This completed application form must be sent to  
SEND.contracts@education.gsi.gov.uk by 10am, 15 August 2011*

**I – Applicant details**

Name of local authority <b>Devon Council County</b>	[REDACTED]
Devon Peoples Services	[REDACTED]
Name(s) of PCT <b>NHS Devon</b>	[REDACTED]

**II – Background information**

Please provide figures below for each LA area in the pathfinder

Number of children and young people <b>153,392</b>	% and number of children and young people with Statements of SEN <b>3,582 (2.34%)</b>
% and number of Looked After Children <b>644 (0.42% of total child population)</b>	% and number of Looked After Children placed out of area <b>90 (13.98% of all DCC LAC)</b>
% and number of Looked After Children placed in your area <b>284 children</b>	% and number of Children in Need <b>2,583 children (1.68% of total child population)</b>
Number of Tribunal cases and % successful <b>37 cases, 54.0% successful</b>	% SEN statements completed in 26 weeks <b>94.6%/(100% July 2011)</b>
Please state whether this pathfinder is an NHS early implementer <b>YES/NO</b>	Please state whether any partner in this pathfinder is already engaged in: a) piloting personal health budgets <b>YES/NO</b> b) Piloting DfE Individual Budgets <b>YES/NO</b>

**Please describe the socio-economic make-up of your area (max 100 words)**

Devon has 457 Super Output areas. 21 of these were found to be in the most deprived quintile in the country. These areas are mostly in Exeter city and North Devon urban areas. By comparison 43 of the 457 areas are in the least deprived quintile.  
Devon is a dispersed and rural county and of the county's 422 parishes 97% have a population less than 10,000 and 75% have a population less than 1000. Rural deprivation has many factors but in Devon the fact that it is the third largest county in England makes isolation/accessibility a key factor.

**III- Basic Information (150 words per heading)**

Describe how this pathfinder demonstrates the basics. Text must include all the headings listed:

**Introduction**

We have developed over a number of years a strong commitment to putting a child or young person with their family at the centre of processes designed to reduce assessment, intervene proportionally and keep the family in control of the services they receive.

Our Integrated Children's Services started in 2001 brought together health and social care assessment and budgets to support the most vulnerable families. We have continued to develop this work with our short breaks offer to families. Our proven track record of using evidence based data and practice to manage effective change has been recognised nationally and will provide a strong foundation for us achieving the ambition to bring together the final elements of a single plan from 0 – 25 taking a child from early assessment and support through to their young adulthood.

We have a strong leadership team and partners from all agencies signed up and committed to this project.

Our strong working relationship with families and schools in Devon will allow us to ensure that this is not seen as a 'done too' approach. The Chair of Parent Carer Voice will sit on our steering group supporting and challenging any assumptions we make in developing the framework for change.

The Pathfinder will be the vehicle to build upon the following areas of existing development in Devon :-

#### **Partnership arrangements:**

Devon has had a strong Children's Trust arrangement and the Board still meets bringing together Children and Adult Services –now People's Services, Voluntary and Community sector representatives, Schools Forum and Governor groups, the Police, NHS Devon Commissioning and Public Health, Early Years sector and Parent Carer representatives.

Devon has a Joint Strategic Commissioning Board (DCC and NHS Devon) which includes County Council Members, Non Executive Directors and GPs. This is developing towards a Health and Well Being Board which will formally be in place by 2012.

There is a Joint Commissioning framework and a highly Integrated Children's Provider service and now a Joint NHS and DCC Leadership team in our Peoples Services.

The Head of Outcomes for Children with Additional Needs leads the joint commissioning framework for Children with SEN and Disability, working with a team of SEN, Social Care and Health commissioners. Integrated Children's Services delivers Public Health, CAMHS and SEN/Disability services.

#### **Work with a range of front line services:**

We will work with the following services using the single plan to align their delivery.

Voluntary and Community providers host 34 Children's Centres which are now a key part of the Early Help/Common Assessment (CAF) Team around the Child(TAC) approach. This includes Barnardos, Exeter Community Initiatives, Action for Children and The Children's Society.

The Pathfinder will be delivered through our Stepping Stones Programme linking to 368 schools including Academies, FE colleges, 10 maintained special schools and direct relationships with over 10 Independent special schools . In addition the statutory Learning Difficulty Assessment processes brings together national independent post 16 providers and local FE Colleges.

Devon Education Forum includes all Academies in dialogue, there are three school sector Associations , a network of Local Learning Communities and Federations. A new Specialist Child assessment centre is hosted by Vbranch House, a voluntary organisation, and Integrated Children's Services co-ordinates the Early Support programme, links with the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub and Acute Hospitals.

We are now a People's Service and are already extending the management of complex cases from 18 to 25.

#### **Role of VCS sector:**

The Pathfinder will work with all VCS providers as above and the VCS Consortia for young people (Young Devon, CVS, Westbank ). We have a formal Voluntary Statutory Partnership agreement, pooled budget and contract between NHS Devon/ DCC and Vbranch House to deliver PD education, therapy and equipment support services across Devon. In addition Young Devon provide Transition advocacy support, Person Centred Planning Training programme, work on

young peoples engagement, health transitions and mental health counselling and psychotherapy support. Young Devon play a key role in supporting young people in transition. We will develop the work with Parent Partnership services, Parent Carers Voice, A Brighter Tomorrow ( Face to Face ) to offer further support to families during the single plan process and at key transition points in terms of identifying specialist support and advice.

### **Engagement of parents:**

The Pathfinder will build on the strong relationship with the parent carer involvement forums and wider consultation framework which includes regular area Parent Conversation Events. We consulted on the Green paper through this process engaging over 140 Parent carers across Northern , Eastern and Southern Devon area meetings.

Parent Carer Voice are an independent charity which we support through grant funding who have County Forum, and three locality forums. PCV have always had representatives on Strategic Boards, Interview boards, planning groups and we were an AHDC change champion for this area of work. Our Joint Agency Record identifies 2700 families who all receive DISC Plus newsletters and information services on a regular basis and we have knowledge of 11,000 families of children with SEN.

Parent Partnership Services are well embedded in Devon with a network of voluntary Parent Support advisors.

### **Engagement of children and young people:**

The Pathfinder will continue to build on the 'Yes We Can' Young Commissioners programme for children with complex disabilities who have produced DVDs and guides as to how young people can get involved in the young commissioners/young inspectors framework. Ellen Tinkham school have developed a Transition programme which is specifically designed to transform learning for disabled children and young people to give them higher expectations and aspirations. This Self Direction or Engagement Model links to Person Centred Planning model which has been developed since 2007. This meaningful way to support engagement now sees all young people in 10 Devon maintained special schools engaging in PCP reviews and a programme rolling out in Secondary schools for children with SEN. We capture strategic information from these reviews which informs our development plans.

The Devon Youth Parliament is active in supporting children with SEN and Disability and has representatives from the special school sector.

### **Capacity to test and innovate:**

Our capacity comes from all areas of our partnership.

The new Strategic Leadership Team , Devon Peoples Services have approved this bid and Jennie Stephens , Strategic Director, will require us to report to the Board on a regular basis. There is a stated intent to work with vulnerable children and young people 0-25 and to further integrate assessments ( Early Help/Statutory assessment) already.

The Children with Additional Needs Commissioning approach led by John Shaw, the Head of Outcomes, includes NHS Devon Commissioner Gwen Pearson , Beryl Perrin - Programme Manager CAN and Anne Porter Senior SEN officer. The Pathfinder , delivered through the Stepping Stones Programme, will link Early Years , School and Transition planning .

Integrated Children's Provider service deliver integrated joint assessments (health and social care) and have a track record through a Pilot integrating SEN assessments and this includes Co-location with County Special Education Teams.

### **Project plans:**

The Project will be managed using the 'Devon Way' methodology (Prince 2 model) with a full time Project Officer supporting the Project Design Teams. The following list and flowchart initially identifies the Project Structure and Key owners will be :-

John Shaw Head of Outcomes CAN

John Peart Head of 14+ Learning and Skills Strategic Team - Banded Funding /Age range and Employment

Anne Porter – Senior Commissioner SEN Single Assessment and Plan

Beryl Perrin - Programme Manager CAN – Personal Budgets/ Support to Parents and YP  
 Gwen Pearson – NHS Commissioner – Single Plan /Support for Vulnerable Children  
 Brenda Bartlett – Assistant Director Integrated Children’s Services.  
 Tim Todd – Chief Executive , Young Devon (VCS)  
 Jenny Bates – Principal Education Psychologist – Learning and Development Partnership  
 Rebecca Beale – County Special Education Team  
 Head teacher Representatives for Schools Forum

Other capacity will be :

0.5 Early Response Manager	£	
0.5 14+ LS partnership manager	£	
0.2 Business Support Manager	£	
0.1 Early Years Lead	£	
0.5 CSET Casework Manager		
0.3 ICT lead +ICT systems change resource	£	
1.0 Programme Manager	£	

County Solicitor -legal advice.

**NHS DCC  
 Joint Commissioning Board**

Head of Commissioning

John Shaw

**Project Reference Group**  
 -Key Service Leads  
 -Finance Officers  
 -HR  
 -Parent Carer /YP reps  
 -Legal advice

**Design Development Teams**  
 See below

**Research and Development**  
 Project Management  
 Admin Support  
 Data and analysis  
 Communications  
 Research and Evaluation

Design Development Teams

Single Plan Assessment	Personal Budgets Banded Funding	Transition A/R/E	Support to Vulnerable Children	Support to Parents and Young People
<b>AP/GP</b>	<b>BP/JP</b>	<b>JP</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>BP</b>

AP – Anne Porter SEN JP – John Peart 14+LSST  
 BB – Brenda Bartlett - ICS  
 BP- Beryl Perrin CAN GP – Gwen Pearson NHS

**Evidence base**

We are basing our confidence in being able to achieve the outcomes of this bid on the following national and local evidence:

- The Individual Budget national pilot evidence
- In control – Devon’s continued membership of this organisation
- Budget holding lead professional pathfinder and programme
- Aiming High for Disabled Children – Devon’s Transformation programme

- Transitions pathfinder – including the role out of My life My Plan - Person Centred Planning.
- Early Support Plan – family held file
- Devon's current Fair Access to Short Breaks process for identification of a personal health and social care budget for short breaks.
- Development of 'Personal Passports' for some young people outlining best practice for individual young people with health and behaviour and learning plans.
- Engagement of all Schools through the Stepping Stones programme and Achievement Through Collaboration

We will re-design the Integrated Children's Assessment pilot Devon held in 2009-10. The initial evidence from this pilot supports the view that to achieve better outcomes for young people, within a best value framework, we need to join up a single assessment framework.

We have evidence that this reduces the assessment time, ensures that any interventions are timely and proportionate to the child's needs in different settings, reduces the stress on parents having to tell their story over and over and puts the family in control. It also allows for the right person to undertake the Keyworker role throughout the process, reducing the number of professionals interfacing with a family but being able to take a holistic view of needs and outcomes to be achieved in all area's of a child's life.

Key learning from previous work is to put the legal framework of all statutory partners and processes at the heart of the governance. We will use the identified capacity to test the strengths and limitations of the current frameworks. This will provide a clear future evidence base to inform any national changes that may be needed to ensure that technicalities don't get in the way of aligning assessment process and paperwork, budgets and timescales.

#### **IV – Core testing areas (Max 400 words per heading)**

Describe how this pathfinder will test key areas of reform. Text must include reference to all the headings listed:

**Impact on children and young people of all ages (0-25):**

Families in Devon have identified that a joined up approach to Early identification and assessment, a Family file – single plan held by parent – and knowledge of or actual holding of the service resources ( Individual budget) reduces the stress and anxiety for families and their children, increases flexibility for innovative service provision, increase the chances of positive outcomes and stability for families and reduces the overall costs to the statutory services in the longer term.

Devon has had Integrated Social Care and Health Teams including CAMHS, Physical, Sensory ,Learning Difficulties and Disabilities for over 10 years with community and parent keyworkers. In a pilot of fully Integrated assessments in 2009/10 we established a desire and will to empower more personal choice and transparency regarding the assessment and service provision for children with SEN and Disability. This will be revisited through the pathfinder.

Through the Aiming High programme our Person Centred Planning programme has empowered children in special schools and some in mainstream schools to participate in their personal plan development, changing organisational culture and empowering families to make individual choices including trialling the Seven Steps to Citizenship model for Transitions. Devon has 1300 families receiving a short breaks budget with over 600 taking all or part of this as a Direct payments. This Fair Access system for individual budget allocation, building on the BHLPI pilot will be developed to provide a personal plan pledge for community “offers” based around CAF plans.

The statutory Learning Difficulty Assessment at 16+ transition is being developed to ensure a greater integration of multi-agency assessment that will see more appropriate placements of learners. Educational placements post 16 utilising SEN funding, those accessing ALS funding within the FE sector and those requiring independent placements because of specialist need will be integrated into one decision making process. This process will cover both educational and health/social care assessment of need against provision to ensure suitability and cost effectiveness.

We will continue to build upon the single Personal budget framework using FASB – health and social care funding, with voluntary sector contributions including grants etc, family contribution, benefits checks (Devon Quids For Kids programme)

The Pathfinder will enable us to have a vehicle to join all these areas of work together and the link will be the Single Plan. Identification of levels of support through our Early Help Strategy will enable more families to get help earlier with the aim of reducing the number of statutory level assessments required. Joining up the education funding with health and social care is intended to give families a clear view of resources, choice and flexibility to utilise these and the Outcomes will be monitored through the pathfinder to see the impact on their circumstances.

**Person-Centred Planning Approach**

The Pathfinder will build upon the work already undertaken across Devon. We will further develop a programme of training, support, and development for all services in the principles of good person-centred approaches in transition.

We are currently developing ways of collating the information that comes from Person-Centred Plans to help commissioners and service providers understand, and respond to, what works for young people and their families, what could be done differently, and what is important to them for the future.

This also tasks schools with responding through their school plans, and making sure that they are best supporting young people and their families towards an independent adult life.

We are using Person-Centred Plans - and in particular the Core Promise that Ellen Tinkham School (developed in partnership with Adult Learning Disability Teams) in developing self directed plans. This has already led to a reduction in re-assessments, successful and creative packages, and adult teams who already know a great deal about the young person.

Staff in Devon as part of the pathfinder will continue to train facilitators for person-centred transition reviews, and we are developing tools and approaches that can be used in a variety of settings. This includes children in care, students in mainstream and special schools, and young people with emotional and behavioural needs. We will develop a database which can collate and track goals and outcomes from these reviews.

As all children under 5 identified with complex additional needs already have a Family Service Plan ( Early Support) this sets the basis for the single plan framework. The Early Years pathway

describes the use of the single plan along with resources from Specialist Child Assessment Centres, Early Years setting through the transition into school. School aged children have the CYP Integrated Care Plan which leads to a Transition plan from 14-19 , the key will be to continue this process for young people up to age 25 which has been endorsed by the new Peoples Director and the next stage of integration of services through Transition to 25 has now been approved. Work is currently under development on assessment processes to begin this integration and this will be a key Age Range and Employment activity.

### **Links between planning and assessment:**

Since 2007 Devon has developed an Outcomes based framework for its Strategic planning, and all service specifications for CAN services now have a Balanced Scorecard approach with a focus on the Outcomes framework. The Balanced Scorecard looks at Outcomes, Performance Indicators, Quality of Delivery and Perceptions as the matrix . Our strategy states that children young people and families should have access to a single comprehensive integrated service with all the information and access required.

The Pathfinder will establish this across all areas of the Single Plan and Personal budget bringing together the Education planning with that of health and social care which is well developed. The current CAN data map, which we will use, has identified 11200 children with additional needs and we can focus this on :-

- 4150 children receiving middle or high rate DLA.
- 7596 supported in mainstream schools identified through School Action Plus.
- 2155 in mainstream school with a Statement of SEN.
- 1008 children supported in Devon Special Schools.
- 174 supported in Independent special schools plus 89 in national independent placements.
- 2682 of the above are on the complex Joint Agency Record.
- 2200 of the above receiving access to Short Breaks Services.

So through the analysis of this data we are able to focus assessments as preventions at an earlier stage and highlight those young people who can be effectively supported through a CAF Team around the child process and those who will need a more complex single plan.

As an example by having a clear demographic view we have been able to set budget frameworks for eligible individual budgets for short breaks and a family will receive a short breaks plan following integrated assessment – the governance work including moderation and parent carer review regarding an individual outcomes framework leads to a robust service plan with personal budget attached for short breaks. This is Family and child centred based on choice and need and through the Pathfinder we will build on this personal budget framework to include education assessment outcomes as well. This will support a resource provision aligning school, community and individual resources. Schools will benefit from being at the centre of a partnership group –school, family, health and social care services.

### **Plans for more transparency about what is provided:**

Devon already produces detailed information for Parent Carers and other stakeholders. Through monthly dialogue with the Parent Carer Voice forums, budgets, service developments and operational delivery issues are discussed and shared. The Parent carer Conversation Events which take place in three areas twice a year have now received input from over 650 families. Commissioning intentions, Strategic plans and recently the impact of budget and service reductions were all presented and debated in this way including the recent Green paper consultation which received input from 140 families. Currently the Transforming Community Services planning is being consulted on in the same way.

The CAN data allows us to present demographic information set against the financial envelopes and allows parent carers to discuss and present areas of priority – parents and carers who engage are aware of all budget streams – understand the roles and responsibilities of budgets, understand and request best value – want to be able to ‘do more’ within current funding and have been influential in driving out inequities and waste across a large area like Devon.

The Pathfinder will enable us to develop this work using the SEN Framework which identifies how SEN funding is used in schools linking this to wider resources and how they could be linked .Through developing this active dialogue and using advocacy, Parent Partnership services,

schools and voluntary sector providers (especially Young Devon in Transition work) families will be supported to understand of levels of need, the role of universal services, expectations and agreement for family resource contributions and the complex interdependencies of funding ie the use of section 17 prevention funding and schools based SEN funding.

Our Parent Partnership Service has developed the advice and mentoring role of its officers , linking with Face to face, Parent carers Voice and other groups developing a supportive and local framework. We would look at increasing the ability of our voluntary sector partners especially Parent carers Voice as an employing parent led charity, to further establish a brokerage role to support families through all stages of assessment and support and to link more families through the schools Local Learning Community framework to have active engagement in the deployment of resources.

**The key professionals who will support new planning regime:**

**John Shaw - Head of Outcomes CAN**

As Head of Outcomes John will be the Lead for the Pathfinder Programme and will utilise the leadership framework of the Stepping Stones and the new Peoples Services Programme to deliver the workstreams for this Pathfinder.

**John Peart Head of 14+ Learning and Skills Strategic Team**

As Head of the 14-19 Strategy and DCC lead for the YPLA, John already leads much of the work regarding the re commissioning of 16-25 LDD placements, all the YPLA activity in Devon and will lead on the Age Range and Employment strand and support Banded funding planning and links with other areas.

**Anne Porter – Senior Commissioner SEN**

As Lead SEN Officer Anne commissions all SEN activity in Devon and has close links with the current County Special Education Team and Special Schools. She chairs Individual Education funding panels and works closely with health and Social Care officers . Anne will lead the work on the Single assessment element of the single plan – building on the learning from our previous Integrated Assessment Project.

**Beryl Perrin - Programme Manager CAN**

Beryl is lead officer for Physical Sensory learning Difficulties and Disabilities and led our Aiming High for Disabled Children's programme. As a Change Champion for Parent participation, demographic data and Individual budgets Devon has led a lot of the work which will link into the development of personal budgets and Beryl also leads on Support to Parents and Young People.

**Gwen Pearson – NHS Commissioner**

Gwen is the lead NHS Children's Strategic Commissioner and works with a range of public health and locality NHS commissioners across the wide geographical area of Devon. She links with the four Acute hospital Trusts and is working on the developing relationship with GP practice clusters and is the specialist commissioner for CAMHS.

**Sally Slade – Director Integrated Children's Services**

Sally is the Director of Devon Integrated Children's Services which delivers an Integrated service including all public health and community nursing ( including Palliative Care), CAMHS and services for children with Physical Sensory Learning Difficulties and Disabilities. She is the senior Devon County Council lead in this area of work and is co-ordinating Devon County Councils position on the next phase of Transforming Community Services for children's services which are currently hosted by Devon County Council.

**Brenda Bartlett – Assistant Director Integrated Children's Services.**

Brenda is the Assistant Director of Integrated Children's Services and will have a focus on the delivery of integrated assessment services, linking the Common Assessment and Team around the Child ( Early help work) with the single plan. Brenda also will lead on services for vulnerable children as we are already running a programme of person Centred Planning developments for



Children with disabilities in care , which includes a training programme for Independent reviewing officers and aligning the reviews with statutory processes.

### **Becky Charmichael – NHS Lead Commissioner Children’s Public Health**

Becky leads on Children’s Public health Commissioning and is part of the aligned commissioning for CAN working closely with Children’s Centres commissioning and mental health.

### **Jenny Bates – Principal Educational Psychologist**

Jenny is the lead educational psychologist and has worked on developing assessment and early intervention strategies for children with SEN and will support the development of the single assessment framework and liaison with schools.

### **Keith Bennett – Head Teacher Marland School**

Keith is the head teacher of Marland residential and day Special BESD school and chair of Special Heads Association Devon. Keith has been a key Head teacher link on the Stepping Stones programme and will liaise with Devon Education Forum regarding the pathfinder developments.

### **New single plan with focus on outcomes:**

The Pathfinder and Single Plan workstream will identify the protocols and processes, the legal requirements for working within current legislation to bring together the following work :-

- Devon Integrated Children’s Services working protocol which supports an Integrated Service plan for children with additional needs. When a family are offered an assessment the individual child, the Parent Carers and siblings are all offered an assessment of their health and social care needs in their own right. The outcomes for each are then identified in the assessment and any service plan will deliver against the agreed outcomes which are reviewed with the family. The plan is supported through an eligible short breaks plan ( Fair Access Short Breaks Plan) and we are aiming to develop this to include a service resource framework which aligns to outcomes for all areas of provision to include the school and early years settings elements as part of the Pathfinder.
- Common Assessment and Team around the child approach - individual outcomes are identified at an early stage and a continuum of provision can be accessed which includes the local offer all the way through to highly complex care plans. All these are supported by the notion that families can take control through both the provision of resources through Individual budgets and as being their own Parent Carer Keyworker. In this way there is a focus on support at the most local level and early intervention to prevent crisis.
- The Single Plan will develop current working practice to include the SEN statutory assessment outcomes including school provision, support levels and IEP outcomes. The Devon SEN framework is already used to support schools in utilising their notional SEN allocation and also their detailed arrangements which in Devon has seen 60% of the SEN funding now out in schools budgets. Linking this together through the CAF and Statutory single plan will maximise the utilisation of this funding aligning it with health and social care provision based upon clear Outcomes agreements for children and their families.

### **Alignment of resources:**

The current Integrated Children’s Services is supported by a formal agreement between NHS Devon and Devon County Council for an aligned budget totalling more than £25,000,000.

Devon County Council education services funding is already highly devolved into schools budgets (as outlined above) and is informally part of aligned packages of support. The Pathfinder

will give us the formal programme to investigate the single resource planning approach and agreement is in place to pursue this alignment.

Current practice regarding the allocation of resources is aligned to include multi agency funding agreements from Education Health and Social Care for very complex children and this notion of joint working is supported by multi agency engagement in panels looking at resource allocation. The Pathfinder will develop formal protocols for resource allocation to negate the need for panels and to embed the notion of multi agency response into service provider delivery and working through the Pathfinder with schools and other settings we will identify areas of alignment which will develop clarity for families regarding a notional personal budget. We will develop transparent "Resource Pathways" which will relate to "The Service Offer". This will link actual pooled resources with aligned resources forming a transparent personal budget framework( both notional and actual but individual to the child).

In our work with the voluntary and community sector we already have a range of pooled budgets and voluntary statutory partnerships. We have a Consortia of voluntary organisations contracted to provide Young carers Support, a pooled budget between NHS Devon and DCC to provide a Joint Equipment Store and process for children's equipment, and now a formal pooled budget and Voluntary Statutory partnership agreement between NHS Devon DCC and a leading Voluntary provider Vbranch House to provide specialist Physical Disability Education, therapy provision, wheelchair and Augmentative Communication Equipment and building and hosting Specialist Child Assessment centres which is seen as innovative practice as it brings in at least 50 % Value added to the contract price.

We will seek to further this practice of innovative use of resources through creative commissioning, procurement and resource allocation aligned to a single plan.

#### **Join-up between key agencies:**

The Pathfinder is endorsed by the Joint Commissioning Board for Devon. We will formally align the following work in progress and propose a formal alignment to meet the Core testing areas.

- The joint NHS DCC strategic commissioning board has a clear commitment to further develop and integrate services through our Peoples Services and by developing a wider market place for providers from the voluntary and community sector. This Board has representatives from GP clusters and council members and includes the Director for Public Health , Strategic Director for People and the Director of NHS Devon Commissioning and they have endorsed the development of this Pathfinder work
- The historic Children's trust framework has set the culture for aligned strategic thinking and planning which has included utilising very effective parent carer engagement across the provider sector as well as the commissioners and has led to a highly inclusive dialogue with all school across Devon. We would develop this relationship through the pathfinder work looking at innovative school based practice as evidence to support the plans such as Targeted mental health in Schools programme "Thrive" outcomes.
- An integrated assessment and plan pilot in 2009/10 identified many of the issues relating to delivering an integrated approach to managing the current assessment processes. This learning will be developed in the Pathfinder over a 6-9 month period which will enable us to deliver the support for cultural change in staff teams and schools and transparency for families that the original pilot did not have the scope to achieve. Devon Schools working with the LA and the Stepping Stones programme have developed workstreams looking at Early Years and Primary, BESD, Education Other than at School, and Special school re commissioning so we have a track record of wide scale engagement with schools including Academies as partners
- Joint Agency Teams were set up in 2001 Devon and they are now part of the Integrated Children's Provider service, currently hosted managerially by DCC providing assessment service support and intervention including long term case management including Public health, CAMHS and Physical Sensory Learning Difficulties and Disabilities. This includes Portage and Specialist Child assessment , all children's therapy services and nursing specialism including palliative care. As a Peoples Directorate DCC is set towards further integration in children's services and includes all educational support services in a new specification options appraisal for future providers. The Pathfinder would allow us to develop these ideas and would enhance our market development with the VCS sector.

- The Learning and Development Partnership ( a Local Authority Company) are also commissioned to support sector wide developments and are working through the Stepping Stones programme linking improvements in Quality teaching and Learning through curriculum and support development as well as providing specialist support to mainstream schools regarding SLCN, ASD HI and Vi services. Often families want these services at a local level and linking these through a single plan will give far greater transparency to all stakeholders and enable families to maintain community based provision. This will shape future commissioning intentions for these services.

**Value for money and assessment of cost:**

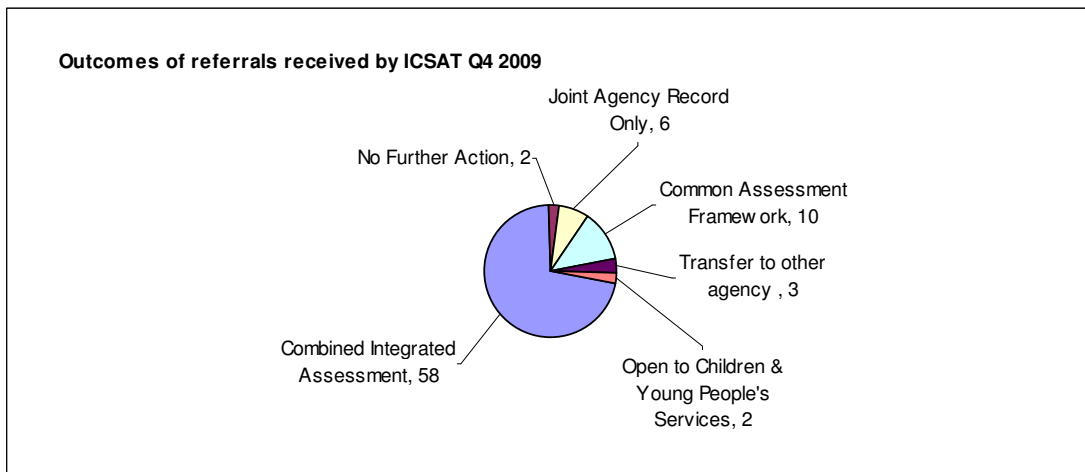
The Pathfinder will review our previous work regarding a single assessment and plan and it will use some of the following data and other sources to support the design of the new Single Plan protocols and the research and analysis approach which will need to underpin the developments .

In the pilot project in Eastern Devon (43% Devon child population) initial projections were developed for potential impact of a single assessment. The Pathfinder pilot would revisit these and develop the methodology to include the personal budget plans and a single plan up to age 25.

An example of the data were historic referrals made to CSET and IAT (social care and health) separately creating duplication of effort in carrying out assessments. Numbers of duplicate assessments historically and the introduction of the pilot ICSAT in Q42009.

Quarter	Q4 2007	Q1 2008	Q2 2008	Q3 2008	Q4 2008	Q1 2009	Q2 2009	Q3 2009	Q4 2009 (ICSAT)
No of duplicate Referrals	16	21	30	23	43	48	41	21	0

All referrals were screened on receipt and where appropriate redirected the chart below shows referral outcomes of all cases into the new process.



Issues regarding value for money and efficiency were :-

- Configuration of the business support function was not working effectively and was duplicated .
- Difficulties achieving the national indicator (NI103) on timeliness of assessments. Reconfiguration of the process to request advice from professionals on day one rather than day 42 aimed to reduce time delay and ensure that all cases in a new process would be completed well inside the indicator deadline.

Quality improvements that were identified to deliver better outcomes included:

- Reduction in overall number of assessments undertaken
- Combined Assessment ensuring that parents and professionals are only asked for information / advice on one occasion.
- The new process ensured that assessments can identify an appropriate holistic package of care.
- Removal of duplication leads to better use of staffing capacity within existing resource.
- More effective screening of referrals and signposting to appropriate resource eg via Early help pathway into CAF/TAC

The table below shows a conservative projection (for the 43% area population of the previous pilot) of the financial benefits .

	Number of statements at start of year	Number of statements due to cease	Number of new statements anticipated	Number of statements at end of year	variance from previous year	Financial implication of variance if statement is -6 at a value of £6739pa	Effect of reduced number of statements
2009/10	1538			1441	97		
2010/11	1441	174	150	1417	24	£	£
2011/12	1417	171	140	1386	31	£	£1,
2012/13	1386	145	130	1371	15	£	£1

The Pathfinder would interrogate these projections based on current knowledge and would develop a cost benefit analysis as part of the Project Plan.



#### **Use of mediation:**

Devon is part of a consortia of south west authorities that commissions Wessex Mediation – Dispute resolution service. The service provides independent and impartial mediators to help when parents/carers and the education services, including schools, cannot agree on how to meet a pupil's special educational needs. It is a process that gives the parties involved in the dispute a way to find a resolution that they can live with. The mediator provides the opportunity to resolve disputes but does not influence the outcome.

Devon Parent Partnership Service supports Parent Carers and signposts to those who feel that their needs are not being met to the mediation service if their services are required. On a return rate of 22% a parent partnership questionnaire noted a significant improvement in confidence and knowledge, 77% were more confident and 71% more knowledgeable. This evaluation supports the view that DPPS is a service which empowers parents by building their confidence through an independent and impartial way and we would further develop this service framework and working with our Peninsula and south west partner authorities would look to expand the status of the mediation service.

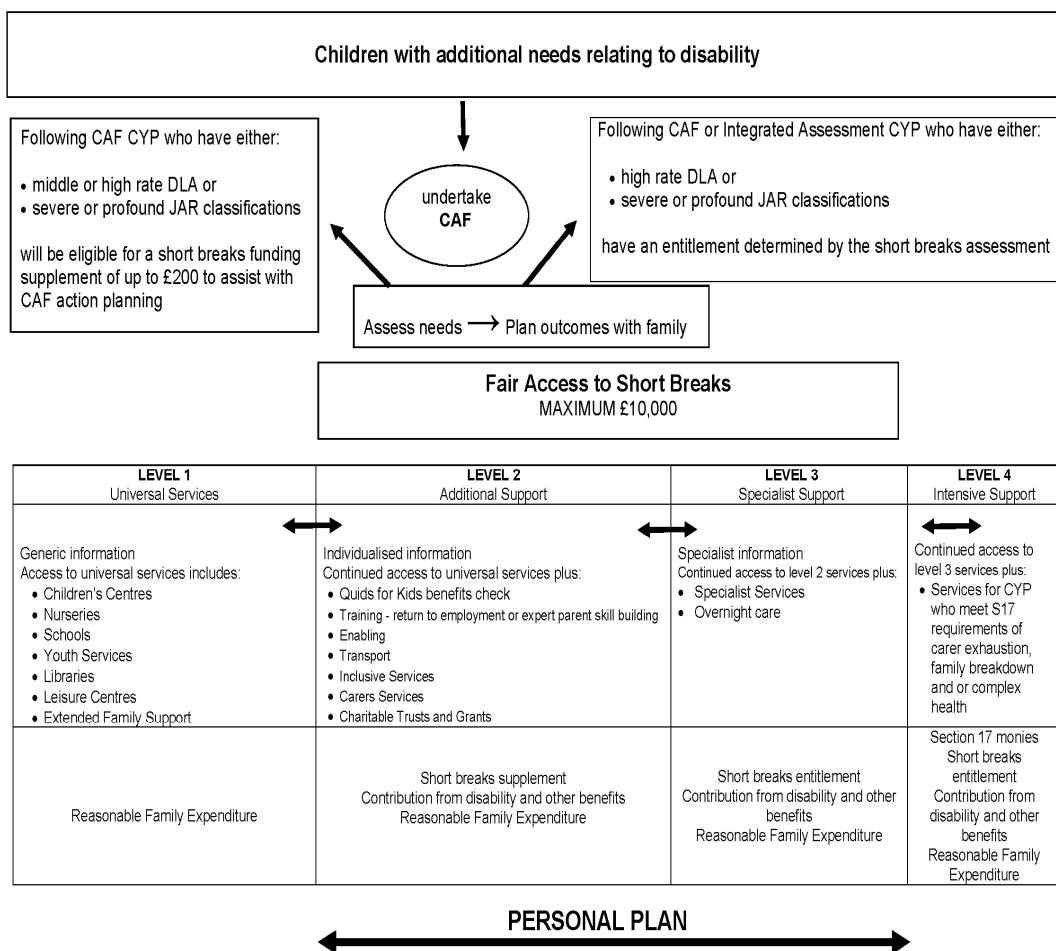
The Devon Parent Partnership Service has despite a smaller financial allocation than other comparator areas delivered above the national average which shows how well embedded and linked the service is with frameworks of support including mediation and other parent carer support groups such as Face to Face and Parent Carers Voice. In the national survey the service funding per SEN pupil shows Devon PPS at a funding level which is low, 115th from 130 returns and well below the national median and mean. Numbers of Parent/ Carers using Devon PPS are above the national median with a return 40th from 129. Service funding per parent carer user is on the national median but below the national mean. Devon PPS therefore is delivering a service that provides value for money in comparison with other PPS nationally.

Our Pathfinder would continue to develop the engagement framework through the networks already established and would look to have Devon Parent Partnership Service leading the further development of mediation and especially Individual Parent Support advisors ( parent to parent support) to enable families to have timely and effective support throughout the single plan journey.

**Transferability of plan:**

Devon has developed the Fair Access to Short Breaks framework which has established a standard for resource identification and allocation which is already transferable across the Devon County area. We would look at expanding the short breaks plan and use the flow chart to map all services including education and other services across the pathway. This would link to the work regarding the banded funding plan which is to be looked at nationally which would need to recognise that the provision of resources to local authority areas varies nationally and these variations or “weightings” would need to be taken into account..

The Pathfinder will investigate how the framework can be adapted to align the education support funding and other associated health funding costs for a plan . We would develop this as part of the Personal Budget section of the pathfinder. The FASB framework takes into account all aspects of family potential income identified through access to universal services, eligible benefits, local offer (CAF/TAC), assessed eligible short breaks support, Section 17 prevention and specialist support services. The framework is being developed to include the notional budget areas of education support funding and health support funding and resource which would be part of the Family held plan. This Family Plan including a banded allocation for health and social care support could then in principle form part of a transferable plan.



## V – Optional areas ( see Annex x)

Please rank from 1 to 5 (1= favourite to test, 5 = least favourite) the optional testing areas in order of preference. It is acceptable choose more than one 'favourite' option: please make sure your ranking reflects this. Please note that we will prioritise applications from pathfinders wishing to work on children's personal budgets. Please indicate how many additional options your pathfinder could reasonably test.

Number of options	5
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Personal Budgets	1
Banded Funding	4
Age Range & Employment	2
Support to parents and young people	3
Support to vulnerable children	1

At the senior management planning day all representative felt that Devon was at the stage that could go for a Whole Systems approach and would want to bid for all these areas of work. As outlined in our bid the direction of travel for many of these areas is already developing and the huge opportunity would be to formalise this approach and look at being a Full Service Pathfinder which would meet our Strategic Objective over the next three-five years. Despite reducing the size of central children's services the County Council has identified that the officers named would work on these developments as core business and that implementation if planned and phased effectively over the period of the pathfinder would be achievable within the provider frameworks we currently have. We would be able to discuss this position with DfE to outline how we see our ability to deliver in these areas in more detail.

## VI - Contact details

Please provide a lead contact for the pathfinder as a whole and for each local authority and PCT cluster engaged in this bid

### Lead Pathfinder Officer

Name of local authority	Devon County Council
Name of lead contact	[REDACTED]
Position of lead contact	[REDACTED]
E-mail of lead contact	[REDACTED]
Tel of lead contact	[REDACTED]
Address of lead contact	[REDACTED]

### PCT 1

Name of PCT	NHS Devon
Name of lead contact	[REDACTED]
Position of lead contact	[REDACTED]
E-mail of lead contact	[REDACTED]
Tel of lead contact	[REDACTED]
Address of lead contact	[REDACTED]