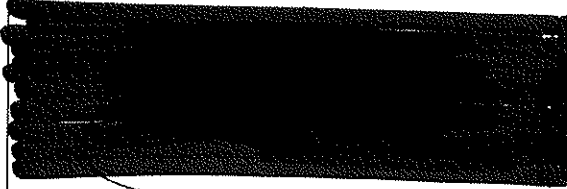









Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs

Pathfinder Application Form

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

I – Applicant details

Name(s) of local authority/ authorities Nottinghamshire County Council	Signature of Chief Executive(s) LA(s)   Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire County Council
Name(s) of local authority/ authorities Nottinghamshire County Council	Signature of Director(s) of Children's Services   Corporate Director of Children & Young People's Services
Name(s) of PCT(s) Nottingham City PCT Nottinghamshire PCT	Signature Chief Executive Officer(s) of PCT Cluster (s)   Chief Executive Officer, PCT Cluster   Director of Public Health, NHS Nottinghamshire

II – Background information

Please provide figures below for each LA area in the pathfinder

<p>Number of children and young people</p> <p>There are 179,500 children and young people aged 0-19 in Nottinghamshire as at September 2010.</p>	<p>% and number of children and young people with Statements of SEN</p> <p>1.2% of the number of children and young people on roll in Nottinghamshire schools or 1404 in total.</p>
<p>% and number of Looked After Children</p> <p>0.38% or 681 LAC aged 0-19</p>	<p>% & no. of LAC placed out of area</p> <p>0.11% or 197 LAC aged 0-19</p>
<p>% and number of Looked After Children placed in your area</p> <p>There are 484 Nottinghamshire CYP placed in Nottinghamshire, which equates to 0.27% of CYP aged 0-19.</p> <p>Currently, there is no mechanism to record the actual number of CYP from other authorities who are placed in Notts, although we are working at putting this in place.</p> <p>Our estimate is 0.30% or 536 CYP</p>	<p>% and number of Children in Need</p> <p>3.4% of young people aged 0-19 in Nottinghamshire, as at September 2010 or 6057 Children in Need in total.</p>
<p>Number of Tribunal cases and % successful</p> <p>2009/10 - 33 appeals of which 58% were successful. 2008/9 - 28 appeals of which 57% were successful. 2007/8 – 26 appeals of which 50% were successful.</p>	<p>% SEN statements completed in 26 weeks</p> <p>Results for the 2010/11 financial year are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% (excluding exceptions) • 99.4% (including exceptions)
<p>Please state whether this pathfinder is an NHS early implementer</p> <p>NO</p>	<p>Please state whether any partner in this pathfinder is already engaged in:</p> <p>a) piloting personal health budgets NO b) Piloting DfE Individual Budgets NO</p>

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

Large inequalities exist in Nottinghamshire, with some areas of high socio-economic deprivation. These areas have a high proportion of families living in poverty, where family members are less likely to be employed e.g. many parts of Ashfield, Mansfield and Bassetlaw. Pockets of deprivation also exist in relatively affluent areas. Approximately 12.5% of children/young people are eligible for free school meals, but this picture varies. About one in six children/young people in Mansfield are eligible, compared to about one in eighteen in Rushcliffe. 94% of children/young people aged 0-15 years are from White British backgrounds and 5.4% have Black/Minority Ethnic heritage.

III- Basic Information (see section x)

Describe how this pathfinder demonstrates the basics. Text must include all the headings listed (max 150 words per heading):

Partnership arrangements

Our proposal centres on developing a single planning process, called The One Project, as the basis for the pathfinder. An identified cohort of children and young people, who have complex needs, would be selected because of the high level of multi-agency involvement. The project will be steered by a Joint Strategic Commissioning Group (JSCG), which comprises senior representatives from the County and City PCT's and local authority colleagues from children and adult social care, as well as education. Representatives from the VCS would join this group following a formal tendering process and will therefore be involved in strategic decision-making. The Group will provide governance and oversee the joint commissioning of work. We aim to improve outcomes, reduce duplication and ensure that consistent and multi-agency processes are in place, co-ordinate strategies for using resources to make joint decisions about the needs of the population and how they should be met.

Work with a range of front line services:

We will build on established good practice through the Early Support model. Each child within the cohort will have an identified key worker and a lead professional. They will be responsible for creating and co-ordinating a 'Team Around the Child' approach. Individual support services will continue with their specialist interventions, but underpinned by a single plan, written by the multi-agency team, overseen by the lead professional. The plan will draw on the principles of the Common Assessment Framework and the Family Partnership Model to develop a flexible and family-friendly approach. The plan will describe the needs and interventions required by the individual child and the type of provision needed. Schools and settings will be actively involved in the process as members of the multi-agency team. Resources will be aligned for the children within the cohort, overseen by the JSCG, to facilitate joined up working by front line services.

Role of VCS sector:

Existing links with the VCS will be built on e.g. providing independent advice as part of the statutory assessment process or our commissioned arrangement with the Pre-School Learning Alliance to support parents to access suitable childcare.

VCS premises would form part of a range of community premises to enable health/medical checks to take place. This would provide opportunities for children to be seen playing and interacting in a comfortable and familiar environment for them and their families, to help inform the assessment process.

A key worker could be provided to the family through the VCS. In such cases a paid co-ordinator would oversee their work; ensuring they were suitably trained and a adopted consistent approach. The VCS would be important in advocating for parents in meetings, helping parents produce their core information as part of the assessment process and providing advice and support to parents with personalised budgets.

Engagement of parents:

We have a strong network of parent fora and support groups which will be used to obtain feedback on parental experiences/levels of satisfaction. Training will be available for colleagues in all sectors (including the voluntary) on the "Structured Conversation with Parents" approach fostered through the Achievement for All Project. The intention is to involve parents in planning at both an operational and strategic level. Parental representation will also be encouraged on the JSCG. Use of community premises will create a one stop shop for parents with professionals coming to a setting that parents are more comfortable with. This will avoid venues which may not be convenient or have positive associations for parents. A key worker aims to promote parental confidence and reassurance that they have an advocate, to co-ordinate and facilitate need identification, interventions and provision and empower them to make decisions in relation to the use of personal budgets.

Engagement of children and young people:

We will build on the County Council's existing participation strategy. We also build on our existing expertise in approaches to statutory assessment documentation, such as transition reviews and we will ensure that all paperwork is user-friendly and accessible and provides the opportunity for children and young people to engage in the new process. The key worker will support the child/young person to prepare for meetings, determine how they want them conducted, who they want to invite, what information they want to present and in what format. This will reflect the increased role of young people in the discussions and decisions that affect them as they get older.

Capacity to test and innovate:

We will identify children/young people from across the full age range, who attend a variety of settings including mainstream, special and independent special schools. Most, if not all, will have statements of SEN. This will enable comparison with the 'One Plan' produced through the pathfinder, in terms of process, provision and identified outcomes. Parents will have the security of a legally enforceable statement, whilst the 'One Plan' is piloted. There will be established lines of accountability from the key worker through the lead professional up to the JSCG. The JSCG will report to the Health and Well Being Board via the Children's Trust Executive. The JSCG will oversee the alignment of resources and take decisions about levels of individual budget allocations, based on a banded approach to funding. Bandings will be developed around the tiered intervention thresholds articulated in Nottinghamshire's Children's Trust "Pathways to Provision" document.

Project plans:

A 3 phased approach will be adopted, beginning with the identification of a cohort of children/young people with complex need. Phase 2 will extend the demographic of the group and include Looked After Children. Phase 3 would focus specifically excluded pupils with complex needs attending the county's pupil referral units. Each phase will be staggered over 6 month intervals during the pilot. Key milestones will form a published timeline. Published guidance on thresholds for intervention and funding bands will add transparency and manage expectations; where there is unresolved disagreement, VCS mediation services will be utilised, signposted by the keyworker. Information will be collated in quarterly reports for the JSCG, who will use the information to strategically steer each phase, unblock barriers to progress, requisition additional resources as required and evaluate the effectiveness of personalised budgets, as appropriate. We welcome opportunities to explore linkages with other pathfinders operating in our region.

Evidence base.

The pathfinder will draw on the national and local success of the Early Support model, detailed in the Manchester and Central Lancashire University research and our anecdotal feedback. It will utilise the good practice identified through the Achievement for All Project (particularly the 'Structured Conversation with Parents') and the person centred planning approaches developed through the Transition Support Programme, to determine service user satisfaction with the pilot. Evidence will also be drawn through our existing fora for obtaining parental feedback.

There is an established track record of joint working between health and the local authority e.g. published work with the Speech and Language Therapy Service. Whilst recent collaborative work with the voluntary sector has been shared through the CC4EO website.

The pilot will make links with the existing Disabled Children's Access to Childcare (DCATCH) project in Nottinghamshire to facilitate access for disabled children to named leisure activities with their carers.

IV – Core testing areas (see section x)

Describe how this pathfinder will test key areas of reform. Text must include reference to all the headings listed (*Max 400 words for each heading*):

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

As the majority children in phase 1 of the project will have statements of SEN it will be possible to use existing statutory processes, such as annual/transitional reviews to assess the impact for this target group. This will be extended in phase 2 to look at a broader demographic and include Looked After Children.

In phase 1, for children with statements, it will be possible to make a direct comparison between the outcomes that the child/young person achieves in relation to the objectives set out in the 'One Plan' and those documented in the statement. Including children/young people without statements will enable comparative analysis to be undertaken exploring the experience of the 'One Plan' for those who haven't previously undergone statutory assessment and those who have. It will also be possible to judge user satisfaction and evaluate experiences and processes.

The initial cohort will have complex needs, particularly in relation to their health and attend a variety of settings, including mainstream and special schools in the maintained and independent sector. It will be possible to review the impact of the 'One Plan' within a range of provision. Including LAC pupils will enable us to review the portability of the 'One Plan', to ensure services and provision are in place at the earliest opportunity following moves. Phase 3 will focus on excluded pupils whose needs have a greater social and emotional component than an explicit medical one. Comparisons can therefore be made about the impact of the 'One Plan' on a variety of different needs/circumstances. We recognise that staggering the phases at 6 monthly intervals will mean that the volume of information gathered and opportunities to assess impact will be more limited for phase 3 compared with phase 1.

The lead professional will provide quarterly updates to the JSCG on the impact of the pathfinder on the child/young person who they are supporting. The JSCG will track progress against agreed outcomes, unblock barriers and challenge performance. It will ensure that children/young people and families are integral to the planning and evaluation of the decisions taken. It will oversee admission to each pathfinder phase and be responsible for determining/publishing the banded funding criteria and providing guidance on the use of personalised budgets.

Children's educational progress will be monitored in order to enhance their ability to lead ordinary lives. We would also want to assess access to leisure opportunities through the DCATCH project.

Person-centred planning approach:

Our approach will be built around a person centred plan directly involving the child. There are processes in place to involve children and young people in the existing annual review and transition processes. One mechanism for assessing the impact of the reforms will be through the voices of the children and young people, who are experiencing the piloted changes. This can be achieved by applying good practice captured through the work on person-centred approaches to review meetings to the pathfinder as a whole. This will be supported through a combination of professional training and appropriate supervision. Supervisions will review not only the effectiveness of individual service arrangements and interventions, but also consider how this contributes to an integrated and joined up experience for the child/young person and their family. Overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the 'One Plan' will rest with the JSCG, and they will use individual service audits to establish the views of the constituent members of the team supporting the child.

Access to a key worker for each child/young person and their family is intended to foster trust and confidence through regular and sustained contact, enabling the child/young person and parent to be confident and assured that their views will be heard. The key worker will be actively supported by the lead professional.

The lead professional will act as a single point of contact for families for CAF and multi-agency meetings. They will co-ordinate the delivery of actions agreed by practitioners and will be tasked with reducing overlaps and inconsistencies in the services children/young people and their families receive. This will be someone with primary or statutory responsibility for addressing the child/young person's needs and will report directly to the JSCG at regular intervals throughout the life of the pathfinder.

Parents' views will also be crucial in understanding the impact of the proposed changes, particularly where, because of age or level of need, it is more difficult for the child to convey their views directly. The VCS and Parent Partnership Service already have well established mechanisms for obtaining parents' opinions e.g. surveys and focus groups and it will be important to utilise these. Evidence suggests that by adopting the Family Partnership Model from Early Support, improved communication with parents will be fostered, which will not only enable impact to be assessed through an on-going dialogue, but may also result in improved outcomes in itself.

Links between planning and assessment;

Linkage between the planning and assessment processes will be established on two levels. The day-to-day case work in response to the needs of the child/young person and their family will be co-ordinated by the key-worker, in conjunction with the lead professional. They will be responsible for establishing with the family and the other agencies forming the team-around-the-child, what the long-term objectives and priorities are for the child/young person and for ensuring that outcomes are identified which will enable success against those objectives and priorities to be measured.

The intention is that a range of professionals will observe and engage with the child and their family on the same day. Rather than producing reports in isolation, professionals would be able to enter into a dialogue with each other which would be based on an experience of observing the child in the same environment, at the same time.

As the 'One Plan' is intended to follow the model of the Family Plan from the Early Support Programme, it will be seen as a flexible document which will evolve over the life of the child to reflect their changing needs. Assessment and planning will be organic, on-going elements informing the provision made rather than a discrete exercise intended to produce a snap-shot picture of the child at a given point in time, to inform the process of writing a statement or subsequent reviews of the statement each year.

The commitment to this approach is articulated through the terms of reference for the JSCG. The group will be responsible for not only holding individual services and partners accountable for the performance and delivery of the individual 'One Plan', but also for contributing to the priority outcomes identified in the joint commissioning strategy. They will provide a mechanism for unblocking cases that have become stuck and develop a strategic understanding of how all outcomes for children and families can be met locally. They will ensure that there is a sharper focus on the end user and that there is a more commercially-minded approach to procurement and commissioning.

Our learning through the pathfinder will inform our future local offer. The challenge beyond the pathfinder project will be to establish a structure which enables a strategic steer to be provided for all the children who in the future require a 'One Plan', without each case needing to be referred to and monitored by the JSCG.

Plans for more transparency about what is provided:

The key worker and lead professional structure will provide greater transparency from the outset. They have a crucial role in co-ordinating provision and services for the child/young person and their families, clarifying information and helping rationalise meetings/appointments. The keyworker will advocate on behalf of the family and act as a critical friend to the multi-agency team both in terms of the provision being made, but also in the way that information is produced and conveyed to parents e.g. ensuring that it is family friendly and integrated.

The membership of the JSCG will be extended to include VCS and parent representation to promote an understanding of and an engagement in decision making at the strategic level, as well as at an individual case level.

The JSCG will provide a clear steer to the professionals within each individual service about the strategic vision, the shared priorities for action/agreed outcomes and the resources that are available. The JSCG will report formally to Nottinghamshire Children's Trust, who will in turn report to the Health and Well Being Board. This offers strong lines of accountability and will allow the pathfinder to respond in the light of any changes to PCT structures and the pathfinders for primary care, formerly GP Consortia.

There are a number of different documents already in existence which have relevance for the pathfinder project. The "Pathway to Provision" and the "Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy" documents set out thresholds for service involvement. There is guidance on person centred planning and on conducting structured conversations with parents arising from the Achievement for All project, which Nottinghamshire was involved in. There is also literature produced by Adult Social Care about assessing and allocating personal budgets, which will be a valuable starting point for developing personalised budgets for 0-25 year olds. An aspect of the project will be to distil the key elements of these various documents into a single publication which can be shared and discussed with parents by the key worker and lead professional at the outset of involvement with the child/young person and their family. A template for this already exists in the form of a Parent Information Pack, which was developed to describe educational entitlement, assessment processes and the local offer in terms of the provision and settings available under the current statutory SEN framework.

The key professionals who will support new planning regime:

The professionals that need to be engaged at the micro level will vary depending on the individual needs of the child and their family. The exact composition of the multi-agency team going forward will be determined at an initial meeting convened by the professional with the substantive involvement of the lead professional and/or the key worker (if one has already been identified). This will be done in consultation with the child/young person, as appropriate, and their parents and will inform the decision about which other professionals should be invited to that first meeting. The children/young people who would be involved in phase one of the pathfinder will each have significant involvement from health, social care and education. This will therefore enable us to explore how effectively these three key agencies can be brought together alongside the voluntary sector, parents and educational settings to plan and support children/young people, building on the principles and good practice established through the Early Support Programme.

In phases 2 and 3 of the project it may be less apparent at the outset which services and agencies need to be involved with the child/young person. This will enable the pathfinder to test the effectiveness and flexibility of its planning arrangements. It is acknowledged that the membership of the multi-agency team may alter over time to reflect the changing needs of the child/young person and their family. This may include swapping the lead professional, if another service takes on the more substantive role and therefore has a greater day-to-day involvement and understanding.

Individual service commitment to the multi-agency approach, in terms of both personnel and resources, is endorsed at a senior level through the JSCG. A crucial element of this is the alignment of resources to support the children in the pathfinder, to remove the danger that services work within their own parameters rather than as a fully integrated multi-agency team.

The JSCG will receive regular updates from the lead professionals about each of the individual cases within the various cohorts. This will enable the JSCG to monitor service engagement, to act as a forum for resolving complex issues around individual cases, as well as enabling it to consider the broader strategic implications of the piloted approach. This will include assessing the effectiveness of innovations, such as personalised budgets and banded funding.

New single plan with focus on outcomes:

The intention behind the 'One Plan' is to create a document that is based on a collaborative approach which places the child/young person and their family at the centre of the process. Professionals will come together with the family, supported by the voluntary sector key worker, who along with the lead professional will be responsible for co-ordinating the production of the plan. This contrasts with the existing model of statement writing and other assessments, where professionals produce their reports in isolation and parents may be involved to a lesser or greater extent.

The document will be based on the Family Plan and Family Support File that was piloted through the Early Support Programme. It will need to be developed to extend its use for statutory school age pupils and beyond, but the basic structure is one that encourages and facilitates child and parental involvement in the process. It also has the capacity to incorporate the views of the child and young person directly into the document in a way that has not hitherto been possible through the statement and other assessment processes

The desired outcomes will be formulated with the child/young person and their family, from the start of the planning process and these will form part of the 'One Plan'. The outcomes will vary from family to family, but there will be some basic principles that we would expect to be included namely:

- an aspiration to reduce the number of meetings and assessments;
- more flexibility about where meetings are held according to the needs and desires of the family;
- more timely information and interventions;
- more joined up working;
- more personal choice and control over resources;
- improved educational progress; and
- increased access to leisure opportunities, through links to the DCATCH project.

Alignment of resources:

This will be overseen and steered by the JSCG. It will be responsible for developing and implementing a joint commissioning strategy against agreed, shared priorities for action. This will involve jointly commissioning services and interventions for the target groups in the pathfinder project. As well as the lead professionals for each child/young person involved in the pathfinder, who will be routinely reporting to the JSCG, a number of groups will also link into the JSCG. These include groups considering transition issues, transport issues and health issues specific to the special school population. This will enable the JSCG to maintain an awareness and understanding of the broader issues when making decisions about how to use the total resource (money, people and/or buildings) in an efficient, effective, equitable and sustainable way.

Health, social care and education in Nottinghamshire have been successfully involved in multi-agency working through the Early Support programme. This was initially rolled out for 0-3 and then 0-5 year olds and is in the process of being extended to seven year olds. The pathfinder will provide the impetus for this to be broadened further to incorporate 0-25 year olds. This will build on an extensive multi-agency training programme that ran from 2007 to 2010. The approach is known and used by Health staff, particularly in the south of the county, and also by social care, children's centre staff and members of the School and Families Specialist Support Service within education. The next stage will be to extend this to incorporate schools (maintained and independent, mainstream and special) and colleges of FE/HE.

The JSCG will consider more effective and flexible uses of resources, whether human or financial, for example through the joint use of premises and facilities such as Children's Centres and special schools.

Join-up between key agencies:

The model for joining up the key agencies will be through a team-around-the-child approach. There is already good evidence of this working effectively in Nottinghamshire through the Joint Access Teams that support the Common Assessment Framework processes, and the work undertaken through the Early Support and Transition Support programmes.

The key worker and the lead professional will both be instrumental in ensuring that the key areas for support are joined together. If and where they encounter difficulties in achieving the required level of engagement, then they will have recourse to the JSCG, which will be able to exert the necessary pressure at a senior level.

The 'One Plan' will set out clearly, what needs to be undertaken, by whom and by when and what the mechanism for reviewing whether the desired outcome has been achieved will be.

The strategic lead provided by the JSCG will be crucial in driving the pathfinder forward, both in terms of articulating a shared vision, but also by pooling resources. The sharing of funding and resources will encourage professionals to think outside their immediate service area. By bringing planning and assessment together on a multi-agency basis, professionals will be encouraged to make links with colleagues from other disciplines and to explore opportunities to work together to achieve common objectives.

The first cohort of children/young people will be specifically selected because their complex needs which means that they will already have significant involvement from a range of key services – health, social care and education. The decision to take this initial focus is evidence of the inherent commitment of these services to working together to address the needs of these children and their families. One of the future challenges will be to establish the same approach where the child/young person is seen as a lower priority for involvement by one of the services/agencies. This will be where the leadership and direction of the multi-agency strategic partnership that is the JSCG, underpinned by the Children's Trust Executive will have a vital part to play.

The existence of the JSCG even before the invitation to local authorities tender to become a pathfinder is evidence of the recognition within Nottinghamshire of the need to move to a joint commissioning model. It also demonstrates the commitment at the top of health, social care and education in the county to progress more joined up and integrated ways of working.

Value for money and assessment of cost:

There will be an emphasis on early intervention. Value for money can be achieved by ensuring that inputs are made at the earliest opportunity to secure outcomes against clearly identified needs. Close monitoring/review at individual case level, and at JSCG level will reduce the potential for situations to deteriorate unchecked, negating the need for urgent, often more serious and more costly interventions.

The integrated multi-agency approach is designed to reduce duplication of meetings and plans. This will generate savings in terms of the time spent by professionals and parents attending meetings and reduce the associated bureaucracy and paperwork.

Using volunteers to act as key workers will provide families with the support of somebody who is independent, and who may have experience of accessing services as a parent/carer themselves. The costs associated with providing this service will obviously be less than if the key workers were salaried staff, but it will be important to ensure that sufficient and appropriate training is made available to enable key workers to undertake their role efficiently and effectively. It is proposed that a paid co-ordinator should oversee the work of these volunteers.

Increasing parental satisfaction through greater involvement and say in the provision made for their child, enabling access to streamlined services and a 'one stop shop' approach, should reduce the potential for dispute and delay. Expectations should be more manageable because discussions will have taken place at the outset to determine the long term goals and objectives for the child/young person e.g. if a parent believes that a special school might be appropriate for their child's secondary education, this can be considered at the earliest opportunity, rather than being a surprise at the point of Year 6 transition. Where dispute does arise, a clear and established route to mediation will secure better value for money because resources will not be diverted to prepare for and attend tribunal hearings.

Aligning resources should facilitate savings by enabling them to be targeted and deployed in a more efficient manner. Similarly support to use of personalised budgets will help parents direct funding where they determine they need it most. There may be additional opportunities to pool some resources, whether financial and/or human, which would provide the opportunity for savings based on the needs and preferences of the children/young people and their families.

These assumptions would be explored fully through a cost benefit analysis commissioned by the JSCG.

Use of mediation:

Mediation will operate on two levels within the pathfinder. On a day-to-day basis it is intended that the key worker identified for each family will have a key role in mediating between the various different parties, whether that be between parents and one of the services, the child and their parents or amongst the multi-agency team. As the team around the child approach is intended to be a collaborative one in which there is a shared understanding of the needs, approaches and outcome, it is envisaged that key worker would be mediating in the basic sense of clarifying information, promoting understanding and listening and supporting.

Where there was a fundamental disagreement between the parent and the multi-agency team which could not be resolved through discussion with the key worker and the lead professional, then parents would be encouraged to use independent mediation. This facility would be commissioned from the voluntary sector by the JSCG and would need to be a separate organisation from the one providing the key worker to prevent any perceived conflict of interest. We would be interested in exploring with other pathfinders in the East Midlands the possibility of jointly tendering for an organisation to provide this mediation service. There would seem to be a number of potential benefits to this. One might be in terms of a cost saving through an economy of scale and another would be a consistent approach to dispute resolution across the region which could facilitate the transferability of plans.

With the agreement of another pathfinder(s) who might engage in the joint tender mentioned above, feedback from the mediation process could help identify issues common to both pilots and others that might be specific to one. Both sets of information would be very useful in helping refine processes and wherever possible make them more family-friendly.

Information about the mediation process will be included as part of the core local offer that is communicated to families from the outset of engagement with the team around child.

Transferability of plan;

The 'One Plan' produced for each of the children and young people participating in the pathfinder will be a more comprehensive document than the existing statement of SEN. It will be based on the Family Plan document devised through the Early Support Programme. As such it will explore a much broader range of needs and support than the education focused statement and reflect the greater involvement of a range of services and individuals. Within the various phases of the pathfinder it is envisaged that different agencies will have a greater or lesser involvement with the individual children and their families. By auditing at an individual agency/service level we intend to capture feedback about the effectiveness of the 'One Plan' as working and evolving document from their particular perspective. This will be reviewed by the JSCG, which will comprise senior representatives from those individual agencies and services. The JSCG can then make strategic decisions about the development of the 'One Plan' if it is felt that there are deficiencies in the document.

Phase 2 of the project would include Looked After Children. These children are often subject to changes of residence at very short notice, which can result in school moves to a new local authority area. This will allow us to test how helpful the 'One Plan' is when there are a change of one or more of the following home, school and local authority i.e. where the plan is tested by a neighbouring authority. Similarly the third cohort which will focus on excluded youngsters will enable us to assess the value of the 'One Plan' for supporting reintegration into mainstream education, where appropriate or other types of setting, training or employment.

The development of the 'One Plan' will be informed by existing planning documents such as the East Midlands Regional Protocol for Looked After Children, which amongst other things set out financial responsibilities and monitoring arrangements for these children/young people.

Through a more integrated team around the child approach it is expected that, except in emergency cases where immediate moves may need to be made, any new setting, carer or professional would be introduced into the planning/review meeting process as soon as any change became apparent. In this way the 'One Plan' could be updated to reflect the changing circumstances prior to any move taking place to ensure that the document remains accurate and relevant to the receiving party.

Value for money and assessment of cost of change.

Nottinghamshire's pathfinder will build on a number of existing initiatives and developments, including the Early Support Programme and Adult Social Care's "Putting People First" initiative, which has already done significant work on the development of personal budgets and self-directed support. Principles and good practice have been identified through these projects. The pathfinder will extend the target audience for these initiatives beyond early years or adults and disseminate the principles and good practice widely across all the relevant service areas, underpinned by a comprehensive programme of training and support.

Training around the principles of multi-agency working has already been developed through the Early Support Programme. Similarly there are established training programmes focused on person centred planning and structured conversations with parents. Resources can therefore be devoted to extending the reach of these programmes rather than having to develop the programmes in the first place.

The time scales governing the pathfinders will inevitably place constraints on the projects, therefore the more it is possible to utilise existing projects, training and literature as the basis for the pathfinder, the more that can be achieved in the time available and consequently the better return for the money invested.

The JSCG is an established multi-agency strategic partnership, which is committed to the principle of developing and implementing a joint commissioning approach.

Some obvious efficiencies should be gained through the project; reducing the duplication of meetings and plans being two examples. The pooling of resources coupled with the articulation of a shared vision through the JSCG should promote a more integrated multi-agency approach, limiting the potential for delays whilst individual services check budgets and priorities. Greater understanding of and participation in the processes by children/young people and their parents, including the use of personal budgets should reduce dissatisfaction and the need for additional meetings, mediation and or tribunal hearings.

To test these hypothesis control groups of children/young people with similar needs profiles will be established for each of the phased cohorts in the project. The children/young people in the control group would be individuals whose needs are being addressed under the existing statutory processes. Comparisons would be made between the experiences of the children/young people and their parents in the project and control groups, as well as the various professionals involved.

An assessment of the cost of change will be made using existing corporate leadership structures and the County Council's SEND Monitoring and Accountability Board.

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	1
Age Range & Employment	5
Support to parents and young people	3
Support to vulnerable children	3

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	Nottinghamshire 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]

Local authority 1

Name of local authority	Nottinghamshire 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]

Local authority 2

Name of local authority	
Name of lead contact	
Position of lead contact	
E-mail of lead contact	
Tel of lead contact	
Address of lead contact	

PCT 1

Name of PCT	NHS Nottinghamshire County
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]

PCT2

Name of PCT	NHS Nottingham City
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]