

The '*Effective and Meaningful*' Participation of Children and Young People with SEND

Shortland Palmer Consultancy

Special Educational Needs & Disability Reforms

The Government has reformed the legislation for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) within the **Children and Families Act**, the **Code of Practice** and supporting **Regulations**.

These outline responsibilities for local authorities and health services to actively engage children and young people and their families in both the reforms, and in the culture change required to embed participation in ongoing developments.

‘The Act places the views, wishes and aspirations of children, parents and young people at the heart of the system and requires a culture change in the ways in which professionals work with families and with each other.’

Edward Timpson, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children & Families

Project Objectives

- To review the SEND Pathfinder sites, examples of good practice and the requirements for participation within legislation.
- To identify and engage with stakeholders from education, health, social care, leisure and the voluntary and community sector (VCS).
- To facilitate the operational participation for the co-production of the Local Offer by children and young people with SEND.

Project Objectives (Continued)

- To co-produce a strategy for the ‘effective and meaningful’ participation of children and young people with SEND.
- To provide recommendations for the sustainable participation of children and young people with SEND.
- To provide a final project report including project process, research, strategy, recommendations and proposed structure to support the work going forwards.

Project Process and Key Learning

Phases ran from April to October, with implementation to follow.

Stakeholders were interviewed from Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC), Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) and the VCS.

Over 180 Children and Young people participated with the project.

Engaging with Young People in a familiar environment with people who knew them well proved to be highly successful.

Information on the population of Children and Young People with SEND is key.



Project Process and Key Learning (Continued)

CBC needs to actively evolve and develop participation.

Further development work is required to fully co-produce 'The Local Offer'.

Organisational commitment is needed to assure long-term sustainability.

A cultural shift is required to ensure that services are developed and designed with the involvement of young people with SEND.

Research: What Did We Learn?

REM MOVEMENTS
OR BODY
MOVEMENTS
THAT ARE
ACHIEVABLE

Culture change is required in the way children and young people are involved in decision making.

Children and young people are not accustomed to being involved in decision making.

BODY
LANGUAGE
WIGGING
FACIAL EXPRESSION
SQUIRMING

Code for Participation

- They have a right to be listened to in decisions that are being made that affect them.
- They should have information about services, support and their care in a way that they can understand.
- They should have support from someone who knows them well to help to express their views.



Code for Participation (Continued)

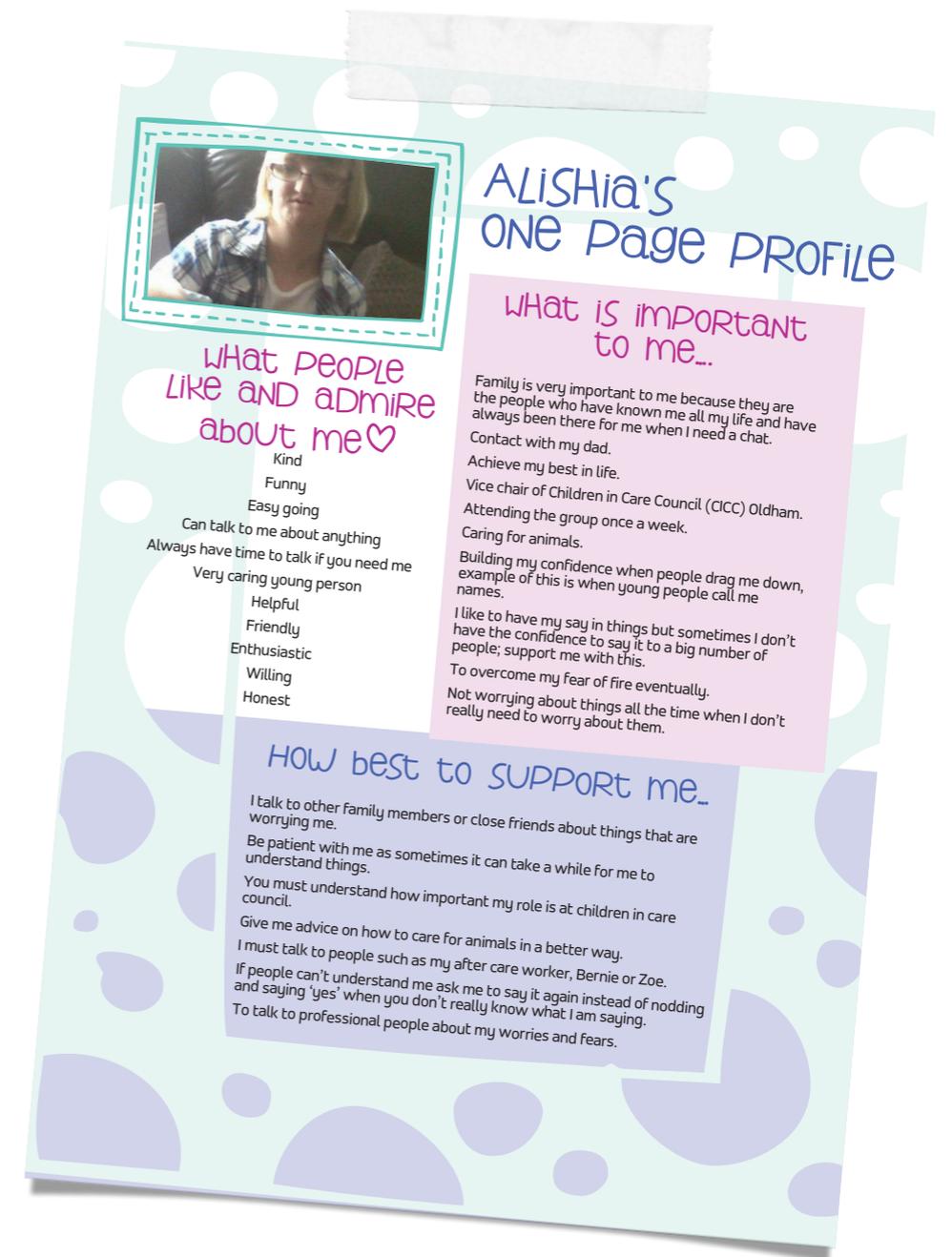


- They should be given the support and encouragement to practice and develop decision making skills.
- Young leaders should be nurtured and where possible consultation should be youth-led.
- Opportunities for children and young people to shape decision making should be fun, creative and varied.

Strategy and Recommendations

The focus is on building the capacity, confidence and skills of young people, parents & carers, and professionals to engage children and young people in decision making through sharing or resources and training.

Tools such as the 'About me' one page summary, or Mind of My Own (MOMO) app to help young people have a say in their Education, Health and Care plans or other assessments of need.



Strategy and Recommendations (Continued)

Allowing young people to decide who they bring into support them express themselves is important; this could be a friend or sibling, it doesn't have to be a parent.

Building on the success of engaging young people through the schools we are recommending a youth led outreach model of consultation and co-production.

A core group of young people would meet regularly consulting with their peers at school termly, using mixed methods to allow all abilities and interests to take part.

Strategy Objectives



Objective 1: Information and Communication.

Objective 2: Decision making about individual care.

Objective 3: Co-production and decision making about SEND services.

Achieving the Objectives...

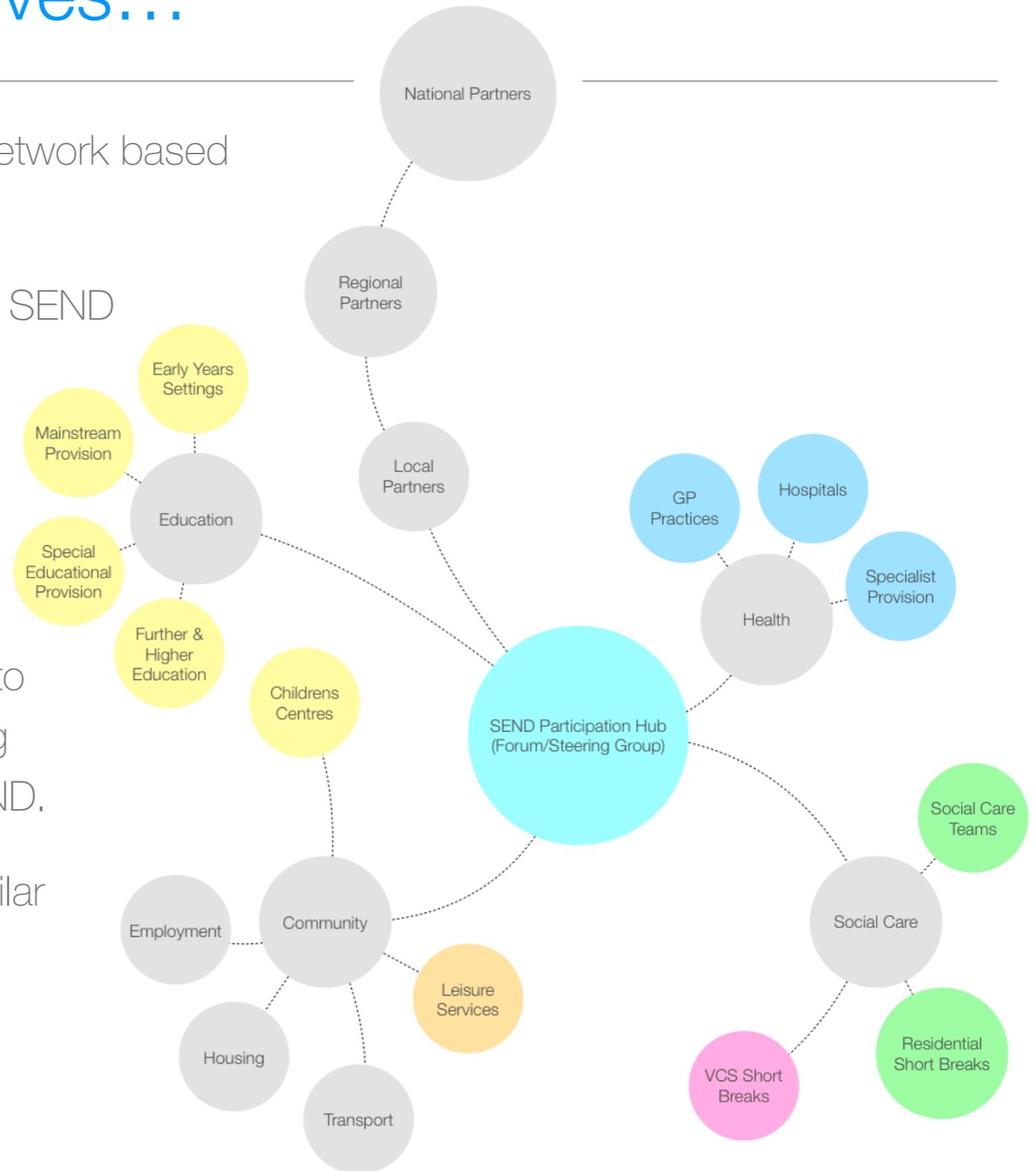
Establishing a SEND Participation Network based on a hub and spoke model.

ALL children and young people with SEND have a one page 'About me' profile.

Training workshops developed for professionals, parents and carers.

A Participation Charter to promote awareness and encourage sign-up to the vision and values of empowering children and young people with SEND.

Use of Mind of My Own app, or similar to support self advocacy in decision making.



‘Fundamental to making this work and managing expectations on all sides is open and honest dialogue with parents, children and young people.’

Dan Poulter, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health

Questions?