Support for families with disabled children – Southwark PCT

About the Care Quality Commission
The Care Quality Commission checks all health and adult social care services in England.

We also look after the rights of people who need extra support to stay safe. This includes people who are kept in care under a law called the Mental Health Act.

1. Introduction
We looked into how well health and other care services meet the needs of disabled children and young people.

This report tells you what we found at Southwark PCT.
Southwark PCT told us that these organisations provide services to people in their area:

- Advantage
- Pulse
- Chrysalis
- Southwark paediatric Speech and Language Service
- Paediatric Physiotherapy Service
- Paediatric Occupational Therapy Service
- Bowley Close
- Resources for Autism
- Salmon Youth Centre
- Disability Football

2. Findings

We asked Southwark PCT some questions to help us find out how well the needs of disabled children and young people are met in their area. You can read these questions and answers below.
**Question 1. Health Action Plans**

How many disabled children have been given a **Health Action Plan**?

(A Health Action Plan tells you about things you can do to be healthy and about help you can get).

Southwark PCT told us that most (over 50% and up to 80%) have a Health Action Plan.

(\% means how many out of 100. So for example, if 20\% of 100 people did something, it means that 20 did it and 80 didn’t).

**Question 2. Different services working together**

What do community services do to work together with hospital services?

For children with complex needs, Southwark PCT:

Told us that community services:

- Share information with hospital services to support children and young people going into hospital
- Share information with hospital services in an emergency about children and young people's needs and care plans
- Make sure they make plans for when children and young people leave hospital
Question 3. Treatment to help with speaking

Do the services that help children and young people with their speaking share the findings of their treatment with families?

Southwark PCT told us that:

Southwark paediatric Speech and Language Service shares all/almost all (over 80%) the findings with families.

Question 4. Involving people

After 1\textsuperscript{st} April 2010, have disabled children, young people and their families been involved in interviews, in working out how children’s needs are decided, and what training staff are given?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of service</th>
<th>Have disabled children, young people and their families been involved in:</th>
<th>staff training?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>interviews or how needs are decided?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advantage</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulse</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chrysalis</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Question 5. Getting treatment to help with speaking

Between 1st April and 30th September 2010, how many children have been recommended for treatment to help them with their speaking and, on average, how long have they waited for the treatment? (An ‘average’ shows the ‘normal’ waiting time for a service).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of service</th>
<th>Number of children recommended for treatment?</th>
<th>How many weeks have they waited on average?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southwark paediatric Speech and Language Service</td>
<td>1064</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To help you compare how long children waited for treatment, the average wait across the whole country was 12 weeks.
Question 6. Getting physiotherapy

Between 1\textsuperscript{st} April and 30\textsuperscript{th} September 2010, how long, on average, have children waited for \textbf{physiotherapy}? (Physiotherapy is a treatment that uses things like special exercises and massage to help people with their movement).

Southwark PCT answered that the average wait was:

5 week/s for Paediatric Physiotherapy Service

The average wait across the whole country was 7 weeks.

Question 7. Getting occupational therapy

Between 1\textsuperscript{st} April and 30\textsuperscript{th} September 2010, how long, on average, have children waited for \textbf{occupational therapy}? (Occupational therapy is treatment that aims to help improve people’s health and wellbeing through their everyday activities).

Southwark PCT answered that the average wait was:

10 week/s for Paediatric Occupational Therapy Service

The average wait across the country was 14 weeks.
Question 8. Getting short holidays
Between 1st April and 30th September 2010, how many children were recommended for going on a short holiday organised by a community service?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of service</th>
<th>Number of children and young people who were recommended for going on a short holiday?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resources for Autism</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmon Youth Centre</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Football</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question 9. Getting wheelchairs or special seating
Between 1st April and 30th September 2010, how long, on average, did children have to wait between being recommended for a wheelchair or special seating and getting it?

3 week/s for a lightweight unpowered chair, 0 week/s for a powered chair from Bowley Close

The average wait across the country for a lightweight unpowered chair was 8 weeks.
The average wait across the country for a powered chair was 10 weeks.

**Question 10. Age limits for equipment**
Do you have age limits for giving wheelchairs or other equipment?

Southwark PCT said they had the following upper age limits (no one older) and lower age limits (no one younger) to work out who it will give equipment to:

**Wheelchairs – unpowered**
The lower age limit is 3, the upper age limit is 19.

**Wheelchairs – powered**
The lower age limit is 6, the upper age limit is 19.

**Special seating**
The lower age limit is 0, the upper age limit is 19.

**Community aids**
The lower age limit is 0, the upper age limit is 19.

**Community equipment**
The lower age limit is 0, the upper age limit is 19.
3. Other reports
You can find out how well services meet the needs of disabled children and young people in other areas of the country if you go to our website. The link is: