



Independent Review of Children's Social Care – reaction from the Disabled Children's Partnership – Monday 23 May 2022

We welcome the review's call for a reset of the social care system and for an immediate injection of additional funding. We asked the Care Review to take on board our longstanding campaign for the Law Commission to examine the complex and patchwork legal framework for services for disabled children, in order to strengthen and simplify it. We are really pleased that they have adopted this recommendation and we call on the Government to respond.

We are also pleased that the report recognises that the needs of disabled children and their families differ from other children and families accessing social care – and that disabled young people's transitions into adult services need to be improved. The review highlights that more needs to be done to strategically integrate education, health and social care for disabled children.

We were disappointed, however, that the review did not make more specific recommendations to ensure that families living with childhood disability can access the support they need from social care to be able to live a life which is as fulfilled as possible. This action is urgently needed – our research has revealed an annual funding gap of £573 million for disabled children's social care, and 43% of families with disabled children have to wait over a year to get respite care. The recent Special Educational Needs Green Paper said little about social care because the government was awaiting this review. The review now puts the ball back in the court of the Green Paper programme. It is vital that, in taking forward its SEND reforms and its response to this review, the government takes concrete steps to improve the support provided to disabled children and their families.