



## **Social Care Implementation Strategy – Statement by the Disabled Children's Partnership**

Social care plays a vital role in supporting disabled children and their families to live full and fulfilling lives. Children and families have a legal right to this support, but too often it is de-prioritised in light of the other pressures that children's social care faces. Moreover where it is provided, it is often only when families hit crisis point and the process can be stigmatizing rather than supportive.

We welcome the recognition of these issues and the focus on early help in the government's publication today. Early help makes all the difference to disabled children and their families, boosting their life-chances and in some cases preventing family break up and a child unnecessarily moving into residential care. However, implementation will be key, and there must be a specific and distinct focus on families with disabled children, including in the family support pathfinders. We are also very concerned that the government is investing insufficient funds to take forward the changes at the pace needed, given both the recommendations in the Independent Review and our own analysis, which shows an annual shortfall of over £500million for disabled children's social care alone.

Finally, we welcome the announcement of a review by the Law Commission into the legal framework for disabled children's social care. This is long overdue, given the complex nature of the current law and creates an opportunity to improve the system for disabled children. This is something that the Disabled Children's Partnership has been campaigning for over the last five years. We look forward to engaging in this review and it is vital that it is taken forward in full partnership with parents and young people.

**Disabled Children's Partnership**

**2 February 2023**