

## SEN Consultation

The 12-week consultation on the strategy for developing and improving special educational needs (SEN) provision in Norfolk ended on 14 August. Overall, the level of participation in the consultation was good and the support for the proposals was very positive. We had a great response from a range of people, including parents, children and young people, Children's Services staff, schools and colleagues from other agencies. There were over 500 written responses and a further 400+ direct contacts made through the consultation events and other specific meetings or events that were arranged.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who were involved in the SEN Review, particularly those of you who gave up a significant amount of time to either lead or be members of the project groups that developed the proposals. We would also like to thank those of you who took the time to come along to the consultation events either as a visitor or to help organise and talk to parents and other visitors.

Overall the quality of responses that we had was excellent, both from the written responses and the consultation events. We had some really constructive and helpful comments and suggestions which have been taken on board.

Yesterday, the Elected Members at the Children's Services Review Panel received a report which detailed the full outcomes of the consultation and agreed our proposed next steps. Members of the Review Panel were particularly pleased with the way that we had carried out the consultation and the number of responses that we received. To read the full Children's Services Review Panel report, click on this link:

[http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/consumption/groups/public/documents/committee\\_report/c\\_hilserv060906item12pdf.pdf](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/consumption/groups/public/documents/committee_report/c_hilserv060906item12pdf.pdf)

During the period between September and December 2006 we intend to work with all key stakeholders, including staff in Children's Services, schools and other agencies, to develop a clear implementation plan detailing how the strategy for SEN will be delivered and how the various elements within it will be rolled out over an initial three-year period. We will be presenting a report to the Children's Services Review Panel in January 2007, which will contain full details of our implementation plan including the human and financial resource implications.

I hope that this update is helpful, we are currently in the process of writing a communication plan to cover this time period and will do our best to keep you informed throughout the process.

If you would like any further information or wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact, either Michael Bateman or Suzy Leverett on 0844 800 8001 or email: [senstrategy@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:senstrategy@norfolk.gov.uk)