

Response to Internal Audit

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South, Lead for CYPWD

**Supporting Children with Disabilities and their care givers
through the use of Direct Debit**

*Local Offer SEND
Short Breaks and Activities
[www.essex.gov.uk/parent-
carers-of-disabled-children](http://www.essex.gov.uk/parent-carers-of-disabled-children)
New Post at the Children and
Families Hub to review all
requests for a service.*

**Audit Recommendation.
Guidance and Information
provided to Parents Young
People**

A Child and Family Assessment is undertaken to ascertain needs. This is a holistic assessment considering all aspects of the family system. Where a child is deemed to be a Child in Need (CIN) s17 Children Act 1989 a CIN plan will be implemented.

If a Direct Payment is recommended a Direct Payment Tool is undertaken and the case presented to a forum chaired by a SM. The forum will quality assure the plan for the child, ensure it is best value for the Local Authority and most importantly meet the needs of the Child and or Carer.

CIN plans are reviewed quarterly, and C&F assessments are updated annually. Children are visited 6 weekly and performance data is reviewed monthly to ensure visits are timely

Assessment of Needs



The Direct Payments team who process the payments were historically sending out expenditure sheets to families and monitoring how the DP was spent, this activity ceased but no alternative was provided.

Where the DP is administered through Purple (commissioned service) they will monitor unspent monies and claim back for ECC.

Where families choose to manage their DP through a personal bank account the responsibility to check this has now fallen to the Social Worker.

In adults a DP monitoring team are successfully monitoring Direct Payments. C&F are waiting for a response to see if this function can extend to Childrens.

Currently all DP packages of support are annually reviewed as a minimum with Service Manager oversight.

Monitoring and Review



Next Steps

Review Internal Audit

Continue discussions with Adults DP monitoring Team

Additional Team Co-Ordinator for YPWD

