

Support and Aspiration: Progress and next steps



Department
for Education

The Green Paper consultation

- **Around 2,400 responses were received to the Green Paper consultation from a wide range of individuals and organisations. There was:**
 - Strong support for the Green Paper's analysis of problems and issues;
 - Strong support for proposals – with people keen to know more detail;
 - And recognition of tight financial climate and reform elsewhere.



The vision for change

- **Our vision is of a system in which:**
 - Children’s special educational needs are picked up early and support is routinely put in place quickly;
 - Staff have the knowledge, understanding and skills to provide the right support for children and young people who have SEN or are disabled wherever they are;
 - Parents know what they can reasonably expect their local school, local college, local authority and local services to provide, without them having to fight for it;
 - For more complex needs, an integrated assessment and a single Education, Health and Care Plan from birth to 25; and
 - Greater control for parents over the services they and their family use.



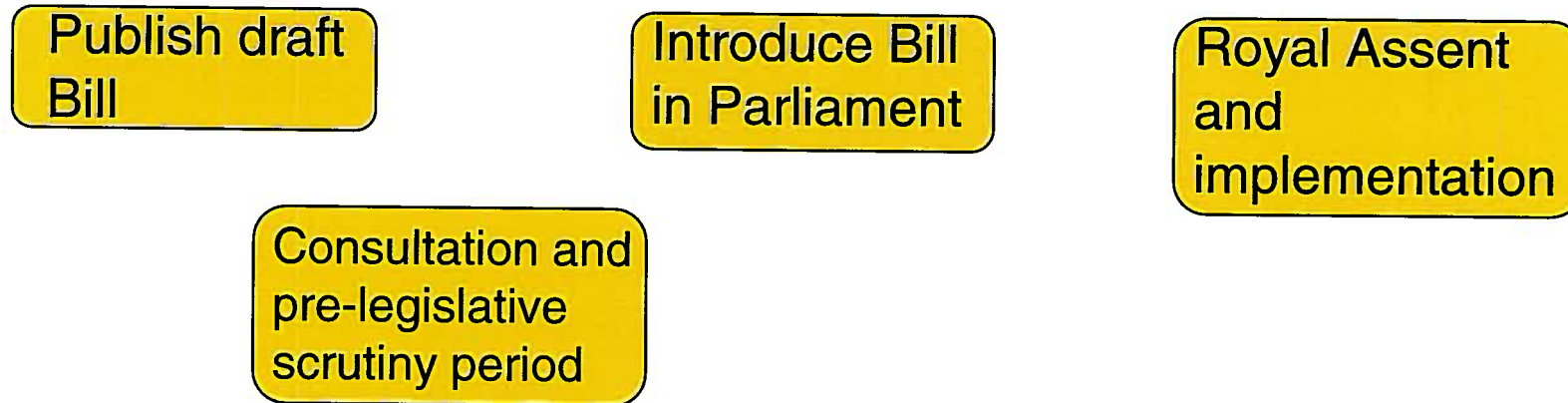
Green Paper commitments

- **By 2014 we will introduce:**
 - A single assessment process which is more streamlined, better involves children, young people and families and is completed quickly;
 - An Education, Health and Care Plan which brings services together and is focused on improving outcomes; and
 - An offer of a personal budget for families with an Education, Health and Care Plan.



Timescales

We intend to introduce legislation through a **Children and Families Bill** in this session of Parliament to implement the changes to the law required for our Green Paper reforms.



Summer 2012

Spring 2013

Spring 2014
onwards



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for Education

Overview of legislation

- The legislation will draw on lessons learnt from the pathfinders. Building on the reforms to the health services and drawing on the recommendations of the Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum;
- It will include provision to ensure that services for disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs are planned and commissioned jointly and that there are clear duties on all of the agencies involved;
- Lessons learned from the pathfinders and the evaluation will inform how the reforms are implemented, subject of course to legislation securing Parliamentary approval.



Testing the best ways of achieving our reforms – our commitment

- In 2011 we set up a **pathfinder programme**. Twenty local pathfinders involving thirty one local authorities and their health sector partners are testing the key reforms.
- The pathfinders will help us to consider what else can be done to support the reforms and enable us to share widely what works.
- This is about changes in the ways that education, health and social care **professionals** work with children, young people and families and in the ways they work with each other: not just legislation.



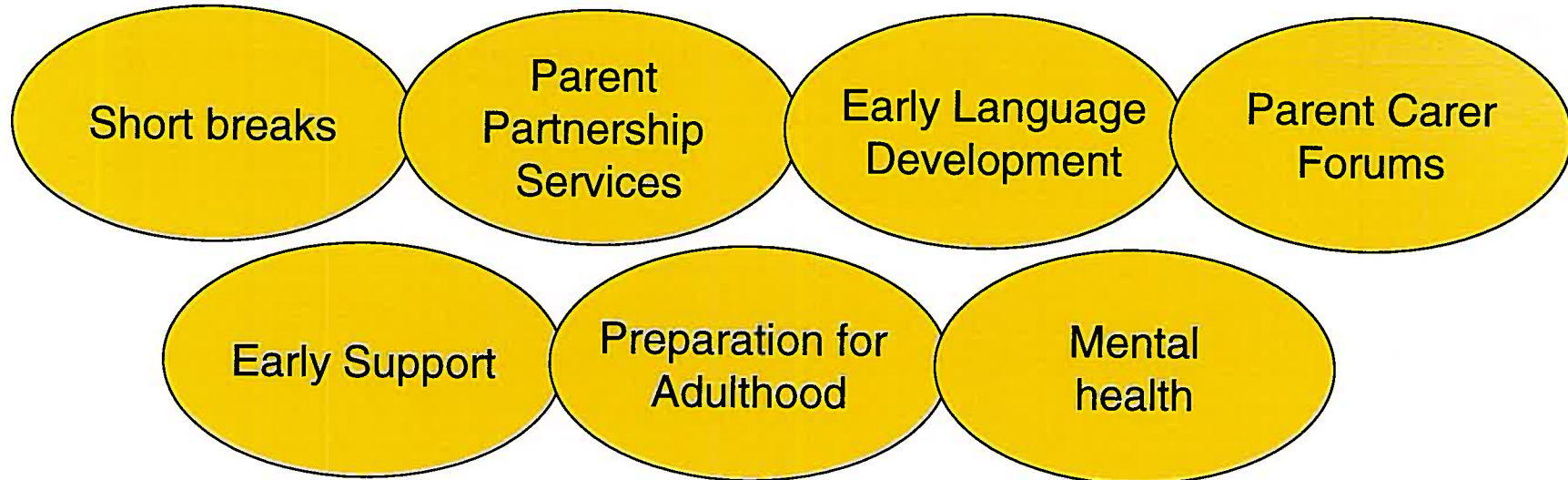
A better deal for children, young people and families

- **The reforms are about strengthening protections, not taking them away:**
 - Parents will not lose the legal protections offered by the current statement of special educational needs in the new system; we plan to extend those protections to young people over 16 in further education;
 - Families of children with an Education, Health and Care Plan will have the option of a personal budget for their support but will not be forced to take up that option. The support in the Plan will be provided regardless of how they choose to receive it;
 - Our plans to move from two school-based categories of SEN to one will not reduce the funds for schools to support children with SEN, and this is not a number-cutting exercise.



Expert support for our reforms

- We are working with the **Council for Disabled Children** to build on and share the expertise in the voluntary sector.
- **£6 million a year over two years** is being provided to a range of different organisations who will support local areas in putting into practice some of the approaches we know work well. These include:



- National Network of Parent Carer Forums providing advice to Government and conduit for voice of parents across the country.



Next steps

- **We are committed to achieving the ambitious programme set out in the Green Paper:**
 - We will establish a Young People's Advisory Group to help shape the next stages of our reforms nationally and drive young people's participation at local level.
 - Practice developed by the pathfinders will be shared widely with other local areas by the pathfinder support team, working with the Council for Disabled Children. An interim evaluation of the pathfinders will be published by October 2012, with a final evaluation report following in 2013. www.sendpathfinder.co.uk
 - We intend to introduce legislation in this session of Parliament to implement the changes to the law required for our Green Paper reforms from 2014. The lessons learned from the pathfinders will inform each stage of the legislative process.

