

Local authority Chief Executives
Local authority Directors of Children's Services
Local authority Finance Contacts

7 February 2008

Dear Colleague

Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) - Funding allocations and short break pathfinder arrangements

1. I am writing to provide details on both the results of the short break pathfinder application process and short break funding allocations.

1.0 Short breaks

2. I would like to thank all local authorities that participated in the short break pathfinder application process for their commitment to transforming short break provision for disabled children. The selection process employed has sought a representative body of authorities spread across GO regions. Those selected as pathfinders are listed at Annex A.

3. Further information on the requirements of the AHDC - short break implementation programme ('the programme') will be issued through programme guidance in Spring. This will include a description of a short break 'Full Service Offer' which all local authorities will be expected to achieve within the 2008-11 period.

Pathfinder areas

4. With pathfinder status comes significant funding from 2008-09 (see Annex A) coupled to an expectation that your authority will work with the Primary Care Trust(s) in your areas to meet the Government's Full Service Offer (FSO) for short break services by April 2010.

5. The Department will also provide a one-off payment of £15,000 in