

ADCS response to the Special Educational Needs Green Paper

9th March 2011

Responding to the publication today of the SEN Green Paper, *Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability* **Matt Dunkley, Vice President of ADCS**, said:

“The analysis of the problems in the current system will be recognizable to anyone who has worked in or experienced provision for children with special educational needs. The green paper recognizes that children with special educational needs and specific disabilities often face more complex and interrelated problems that are best dealt with holistically and through co-operation among professionals in different public agencies. Reforming the assessment and planning process to encourage this approach will certainly improve the situation. A single assessment process for all children and young people, from birth to 25, must be supported by a single funding arrangement if the process of transition to adulthood is to be made smoother.

“We do have some concerns about the potential for added cost and bureaucracy in some of the proposals, as well as about resources - both in terms of the current cuts to inclusion support services flowing from the funding settlement, and how a reformed system will work fairly to apportion a finite budget. The solutions presented are clearly at an early stage of development, and we look forward to working with the Department to build a sustainable, transparent and easily accessible system that accurately identifies those who need additional help from specialists and provides them with the support that they need.”

For more information, please call Rebecca Godar, ADCS press officer on 0161 838 5763 or 07595280388

Notes to Editors

- 1) The Association of Directors of Children's Services Ltd (ADCS) is the professional leadership association for Directors of Children's Services and their senior management teams in local authorities.