Key themes from discussion groups on Partnerships

1) Pregnancy to 5 years – the 2 year integrated review

- COMMUNICATION - for referral times/access to services; clear, easily accessible information and signposting; listening to parental concerns to support early identification.
- TRAINING for staff; sharing learning and skills across mainstream and special and vice versa
- 3-WAY PARTNERSHIP - parents, Health Visitor and setting; sharing information and assessments
- Importance of KEY PEOPLE
- Using the EARLY IDENTIFICATION of need effectively to intervene early too.

2) Transition points

- EARLY PLANNING – proactive not reactive. Good examples – summer schools for transition to secondary, extra visits, parents and children fully involved in planning.
- INFORMATION – easily accessible information to support families on options and practicalities.
- All professionals aware of LOCAL OFFER and use to support families effectively.
- CHOICE & OPTIONS for post 16 – availability of a range of good quality options discussed and experienced early (from year 9).

3) Statutory education – Inclusion

- SHARED RESPONSIBILITY – need to challenge effectively when inclusion not evident.
- LACK OF CONSISTENCY – across schools and other education providers. Knowledge of person centred approaches and practice differs across the county.
- FUNDING – seen as a barrier to creativity
- SOCIAL INCLUSION – needs equal focus
- ENTITLEMENT – too many part-time timetables etc
- TRAINING – for staff to increase confidence of parents and themselves in their ability to meet needs.

4) Post 16 – Education for Employment, Training for Life

- PLANNING – needs to start as early as possible and include opportunities to test interests/skills to help inform decisions. MULTI-AGENCY planning at Y9.
- ACCESS to skills based learning for work and independence (travel, money etc)
- PROGRESS – rate of progress and aspiration needs to improve
- VARIETY/CHOICE – more options post 16 required
- COMMUNICATION/INFORMATION
- CAREERS ADVICE from people who understand disability and have awareness of impact to enable them to advise effectively on options including work, university, apprenticeships, internships and further education.
- LINKS with employers