

The Outcomes Duty -A summary

A statutory duty (Sections 1–4) on top tier local authorities (LAs) in England to improve the *Every Child Matters* outcomes for all under fives and reduce inequalities in achievements, through helping them to access integrated, pro-active early childhood services.

In discharging these duties, LAs and their partners in the NHS and Jobcentre Plus will work together and have regard to statutory guidance.

LAs must improve the well-being of young children and reduce inequalities in relation to -

- ***being healthy*** - physical and mental health and emotional well-being
- ***staying safe*** - protection from harm and neglect
- ***enjoying and achieving*** - education, training and recreation
- ***making a positive contribution to society*** - support for the vulnerable and positive outlooks
- ***social and economic well-being*** - parents in employment

Raising Standards –Improving Outcomes.
Statutory Guidance.
Early Years Outcomes Duty
Childcare Act 2006

www.surestart.gov.uk/improvingquality/guidance/raisingstandards



The Outcomes Duty - The vision

The vision is for parents, from the time they know they are expecting a baby, to see a coherent pattern of accessible child health, early years provision and family support services ahead of them, some free at the point of delivery, some subsidised according to income. A good start in life is essential if children are to fulfil their potential, and high quality early childhood services will result in better outcomes for young children, their families and society.

The Early Years outcomes duty underpins this vision, making it a priority to –

- a) provide the best start for all children, promoting social mobility so that children are able to fulfil their potential regardless of their family income or background
- b) reduce inequalities by focusing on children most at risk of poor outcomes because of deprivation and disadvantage
- c) deliver integrated early childhood services in ways that provide a seamless experience for parents and children, that meet their individual needs, and that make a real difference to the life chances of all children.



The Outcomes Duty – The Legislative Requirement

Section 1 of the Act places a duty on English LAs to reduce inequalities and improve the well-being of all young children in their area and gives the Secretary of State the power to set statutory early years targets. Section 1 also requires LAs to act in the manner which is best calculated to meet these targets. The Childcare Act defines “well-being” in terms of the five *Every Child Matters outcomes*.

Section 2 sets out that integrated early childhood services must include:

- early years provision
- relevant social services functions of the LA
- relevant health services
- Jobcentre Plus employment services
- the information service for parents and carers under s.12 of the Act



Section 3 sets out the key aims and features of:

- how these services must be planned – pro-actively involving parents and other providers
- how they must be delivered – integrated to maximise access and benefits to users
- what must be achieved – identifying and actively encouraging those who could most benefit from services but who would otherwise be unlikely to use them.

The Outcomes Duty – The Legislative Requirement

Section 4 requires the key local partners who are essential to success, to work in partnership with the LA. It places PCTs, SHAs and JCP partners under reciprocal duties to work with LAs in making arrangements to improve outcomes, reduce inequalities and meet statutory early years targets.



Section 16 of the Act amended the Children Act 2004 so as to bring all the new LA duties in Part 1 of the Act within the remit of the DCS and Lead Member for Children's Services and thereby into children's trust arrangements and the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP).

DCS lead



What success looks like for young children

Every child supported to fulfil their potential according to their own efforts and abilities. Their experiences in the early years have a major impact on later life and are all important in giving young children a sound basis to enable them to take full advantage of later opportunities to learn and develop. Raising the standards and quality of early childhood services will improve the five ECM outcomes of each child and reduce inequalities between them.

The Children's Plan - the Government's vision for making Britain the best place in the world for children to grow up



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In the workshop

