

## Press Release

**EMBARGO until Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

### **Survey finds local authorities failing to comply with their legal obligations to parent carers/young carers.**

A survey of over 40% of English social services authorities by the Cerebra Legal Entitlements Research Project at Cardiff Law School has found serious failing in local authority 'short breaks' statements that they are under a duty to publish.

Findings included:

- Over 90% failed to advise parent carers and young carers of their right to an assessment;
- More than 85% gave no clear explanation as to how the amount of support provided is decided;
- In excess of 80% failed to explain what families could do if they were dissatisfied with the support they were receiving;
- Over 60% failed to mention transport support – to enable the disabled child to attend the short break support;
- In more than 50% of cases, it was difficult to locate the actual 'short break statement'.

The report contains advice on how short breaks statements and local authority websites can be improved – particularly the value of having a logical point to start a search (such as a home page with an entry such as 'social care' or 'carers') and the need for a national standard 'template' for all authorities to use.

The report contains some positive findings and of the authorities surveyed, the report singled out the **Isle of Wight** as an example of best practice and gave 'honourable mentions' to **Camden, Hampshire, Liverpool** and **Cheshire West and Chester**.

The full report is attached can be accessed at <https://w3.cerebra.org.uk/help-and-information/legal-entitlements-research-project/>

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#### **For further information contact**

Professor Luke Clements [who supervised the research] [l.j.clements@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:l.j.clements@leeds.ac.uk)

Professor Julie Price [Head of the Pro Bono Unit, Cardiff] [PriceJA1@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:PriceJA1@cardiff.ac.uk)

Tracy Elliot [Head of Research & Education at Cerebra] [TracyE@cerebra.org.uk](mailto:TracyE@cerebra.org.uk)