

Local Offer (Version 4 - April 2014)

Appendix 2– Wigan’s case study of family’s experience of early years multi-disciplinary service

XXXX's story

XXXX's story began when I was eight months pregnant. I had not felt any baby movements for a few hours and was beginning to get worried. In hospital there were concerns, I had a c-section and XXXX was born. I was elated but also shocked because the doctors were worried and he had to have some scans. Then they told us he had bleeds on his brain and for 24 hours I was a complete mess. We thought about brain damage and wondered what this would mean and what he would be able to do.

Once we went home from hospital, the doctor referred us to the physiotherapist and we began to see the physio and OT in clinic. They showed us how to help XXXX with his movements – he liked some of the exercises but got upset when he had had enough. We had lots of questions and the staff did their best to answer them. We did not have a diagnosis yet and we were really hoping that with some physio he would be ok.

After a few months, the staff suggested that we attend a period of group therapy. We were unsure what to expect but it was good to see other children with problems even though they were not all the same as XXXX. It was a relief to see that we were not on our own. In the group we got to know other people in the team and to understand what they did. We saw the speech and language therapist who helped XXXX with his communication skills, not just his speech and the development support worker who uses play activities to encourage XXXX to play with the other kids and touch things like paint which he hates.

When XXXX was one, the doctor told us that he had cerebral palsy. We knew that something was not right compared to other children but nothing prepares you and I cried when we heard it was the worst case scenario. I hate to think what would have happened without the groups – he has really come on in leaps and bounds.

We are getting to the point now where XXXX is ready to go to nursery and we have lots of questions about what will be right for him. We want to him to be happy and to have as many chances and opportunities as any other child.