

Mobility21 Project

Briefing pack

(DCSF Strategic Grant Number: CYPF0X)



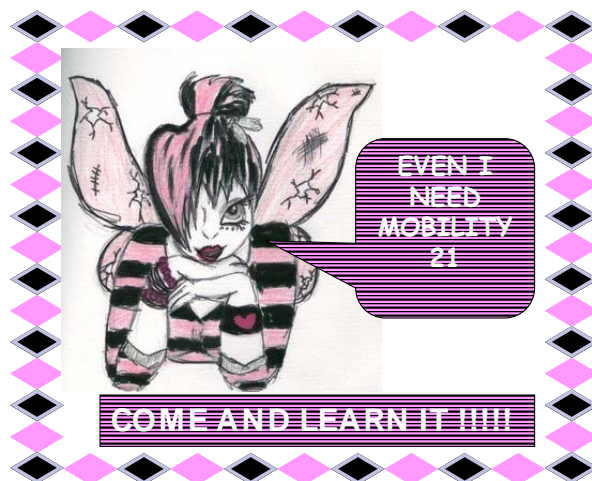
Picture of the prize winning poster / logo by Danny Springham (Aged 7) in the 7-11 age category of the Mobility21 web logo competition, 2007

End of Year Briefing for 2007-2008

Start Date: March 2007
End date September 2010

1. Aims of the Mobility21 Project

1. The M21 projects' principle aim is to develop national standards and a qualification structure for those working with visually impaired (VI) children and young people in the field of mobility and independence (M/I)
2. This was felt to be necessary because of the existing incoherence and confusion apparent in current provision. It is not clear what courses are available, what their value is and the extent that they equip practitioners to support children and young people in the development of mobility and independent living skills.
3. Workers in this area necessarily work in and across various life contexts with the children, young people, carers and supporters they work with. As a result the proposed standards and courses have to address home, educational and wider public environment contexts and the transitions between them.
4. Mobility and independent living skills necessarily touch upon educational, health and social care dimensions.
5. The Mobilty21 Project has adopted a 'social pedagogy' way of working in constructing the proposed standards and courses (a 'social pedagogue' is someone who works across home and education to facilitate social inclusion and independence both in educational settings and the wider community).



Picture of the prize winning poster / logo by Raeesa Moghul (Aged 13) in the 12-16 age category of the Mobility21 web logo competition, 2007

2. Progress in the first year

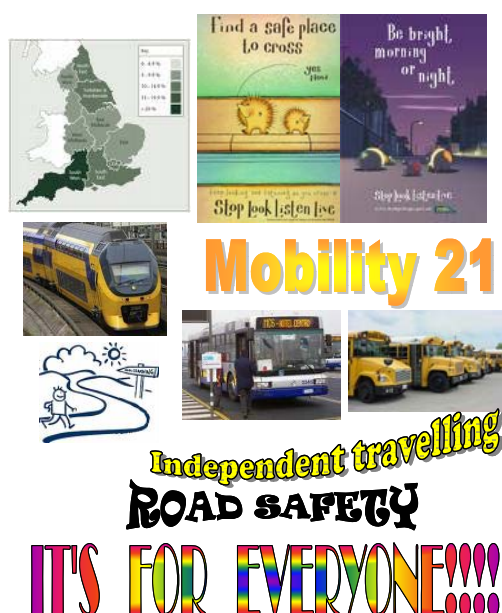
1. Project Steering Committee appointed drawing on expertise from across the Visual Impairment (VI) / Mobility and Independence (M/I) Professional and Research communities.
 2. Job description for key project worker developed (Research and Development Officer – R&DO) in consultation with Steering Committee and Chair of Mobility and Independent Specialists in Education (MISE) network.
 3. R&D officer appointed: Dr Karl Wall (in post, July 2007)
 4. Mapping of existing VI, M/I courses and provision.
 5. Mapping across existing Standards systems relevant to VI and M/I workers work
 6. Initial analysis of VI workers job roles and patterns of working
 7. Review of approaches to identifying potential awarding bodies for proposed qualification structure and its monitoring
 8. Project members joined the steering group for the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) Project to develop national occupational standards (NOS) for workers engaging with sensory needs
 9. Commented extensively on 1st, 2nd and 3rd drafts of proposed NOS standards for sensory needs.
 10. Project members joined steering group of South East Regional Special Education Needs (SERSEN) Project and related 'Getting there with success' project steering group
 11. Contributed to the development of the UK Vision Strategy document
 12. Developed initial mobility and independent living skills standards framework: initial consultation with Mobility21 Steering Group and associated networks.
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Picture of the runner-up poster / logo by Maya Kishigbat (Aged 13) in the 12-16 age category of the Mobility21 web logo competition, 2007.

3. Focus for the coming year (2008-2009)

1. Establishing consultation framework using MISE network and related VI and M/I professional networks and organisations.
2. Consultation on proposed standards framework with key stakeholders: M/I workers, children and young people (C &YP), parents / carers / local authority and service providers.
3. Develop VI accessible and age relevant versions of standards materials; undertake their dissemination and receipt of feedback.
4. Contact and establish working relationships with key stakeholders including C&YP across a range of degree of visual needs, ages, genders, cultural contexts.
5. Receive and collate feedback arising from consultations.
6. Undertake detailed iterative development of specific standards within the proposed standards framework informed by consultation and feedback.
7. Identification of potential awarding body and regularity system.
8. Mapping of available VI and M/I curricula, learning resources and practices via existing VI and M/I related professional networks (e.g. MISE).
9. Course creation, commissioning and development of course materials including on-line, video and text based materials.
10. Commissioning and development of problem-based learning scenarios to be used in the proposed courses.



Picture of the runner-up poster / logo by Paul Willis (Aged 15) in the 12-16 age category of the Mobility21 web logo competition, 2007

4. Current work (March 2008)

1. Working with MISE members, the Project organised and delivered a one-day conference on the proposed Standards framework and the standards themselves. Participants were asked to comment on:
 - (a) The proposed standards framework.
 - (b) The detailed structure of each standard.
 - (c) What level the proposed qualifications should be pitched at?
 - (d) How progression between the proposed courses / qualifications might be achieved?
 - (e) How current qualifications might fit into the proposed framework?
 - (f) How practical experience of working with children and young people should be prioritised in the new qualifications (as distinct from a focus on working with adults in a rehabilitation context)?
 - (g) What forms of supervision / mentoring might be needed during the course and qualification periods.
 - (h) How mentors might be identified and recruited as associate tutors for the proposed courses?
 - (i) How progression routes might be mapped to promote recruitment and retention in the profession.
2. MISE Conference participants gave extensive and detailed feedback to the points raised above in point (1), which is currently being analysed and will be presented to MISE members subsequently.
3. Participants at the MISE conference were recruited to join various activities in support of the Mobilty21 project including: commenting on and editing of course materials; acting as curriculum advisers; undertaking resource evaluations; supporting mentor role specification development; acting as focus points for parent consultation groups; working with C&YP consultation groups using the regional structure of MISE.
4. Project team members have been involved in organising an activity day as part of the 'Getting There with Confidence' project organised by SERSEN. This occasion will also be used as a C&YP and Parents / Carers consultation activity and resource gathering opportunity, which will contribute to the development of the proposed courses and allow

important feedback from C&YP and their carer's on the proposed standards and courses.

5. The project team are establishing links with a range of organisations with an interest in the standards such as rehabilitation worker's groups and drawing on the experience of existing qualifications and course providers.
6. The project team have begun commissioning video and problem base learning materials and the writing of the proposed course outlines.

Next monthly update available for addition to this briefing pack:
March 31st 2008.



Picture of the runner-up poster / logo by Philip Bottomley (Aged 15) in the 12-16 age category of the Mobility21 web logo competition, 2007
