

From: Peter Oakford, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services

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To: Children's Social Care & Health Cabinet Committee, 21 April 15

Subject: **Transition Update**

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Social Care and Public Health Committee (16.01.14)

Future Pathway of Paper: None

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This paper provides Members with an update on developments relating to Transition arrangements for disabled young people

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and support the on-going transition work.

Introduction

1.1 A report was presented to the Social Care and Public Health Committee on 16 January 2014 regarding the transition arrangements for young people in education and social care who would meet the eligibility criteria for Adult Social Care. The report included a number of recommendations for further work. This paper updates the Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee on the range of work undertaken since the report. It builds on that report rather than repeating the background and information contained in it.

1.2 Members of the Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Committee were asked to agree the planned actions for the Transition Steering Group – particularly:

- research and analysis to explore the strengths and weaknesses of different configurations of transition services;
- further work regarding adult social care services providing care leaver support to disabled care leavers who meet eligibility for adult social care services;
- monitoring and review of a pilot project to streamline Direct Payments for young people going through transition;

- continued preparation for the changes in the Children and Families Bill (2013) which will have implications for transition arrangements in Kent.

1.3 Members were also asked to receive a report back in 12 months with an update on the transition work. This report provides an update on the work.

2. Research and analysis to explore the strengths and weaknesses of different configurations of transition services.

2.1 The Transition Steering Group commissioned Gina Walton, Change Implementation Officer, to undertake a review of arrangements in other councils; to scope current activity in Kent; and to understand the transition process within KCC and Health (Mental Health and commissioning for young people were out of scope). Her paper was completed in February 2014.

2.2 Eighteen councils were explored as part of the desk top research with 5 detailed models of transition arrangements looked at. There was a wide range of approaches with no consistent pattern and no preferred or ideal model of delivery.

2.3 Data was also collected, over an 18-month period, about young people going through transition to Adult Social Care in Kent. This included young people turning 18 (268 young people) and those turning 19 (292 young people). Information was gathered about the source of referrals, whether they were already known to Social Care, and the outcome of the referrals.

2.4 The various transition pathways within KCC, both Social Care and Education, and in Health were outlined and the issues highlighted.

2.5 Having considered and analysed the information gathered, and with 2 major pieces of legislation affecting transition coming on to the statute book, the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014, it was recommended not to proceed to a wholesale restructuring of services at this time, but to take a more incremental approach.

2.6 Penny Southern, Director of Adult Learning Disability/Mental Health, has led on developing an Integrated Pathway describing the journey for those children and young people up to the age of 25 who have a range of disabilities and the services required to support them at different stages of their development. This has been reported to the 0-25 Transformation Board, and can be seen at the end of the document. Some of the further work arising from understanding the pathways is being managed through the work streams developed by Adult Services and Newton Europe (the Transformation Partner):

- Alternative models of care
- Care Pathways
- Short Breaks

2.7 A new division has been created within the Families and Social Care Directorate with the management of the Disabled Children service coming together with

Adult Learning Disability/Mental Health with effect from 1 April 2015, under the Directorship of Penny Southern. Mark Walker will be the Assistant Director for the Disabled Children Service and Chris Beaney will be the Assistant Director for the Learning Disability Service. There will be no initial changes to either the Disabled Children or the Learning Disability team structures or locations.

- 2.8 This new division will assist with the planning and delivery of a smoother transition for young people reaching 18 who require ongoing support into adulthood, and increase the opportunities for joint commissioning across the age barrier to create more seamless services. It will also help to address the feedback from families about the cliff-edge experience of their young people reaching the age of 18 and the service changes, as well as the requirements of the 0-25 agenda. The support services in Specialist Children Service in relation to Safeguarding and Children in Care will remain available to the Disabled Children Service.
- 2.9 Transformation workstreams have already been set up within Adult Learning Disability as noted above in 2.6. Following the realignment with the Disabled Children Service a design team for Short Breaks has been established to look at the current Disabled Children and Learning Disability Short Break Services, redesign the LD Short Break Service to meet the needs of people with a LD across the county in a more effective way, and review the transition from children's to adults short breaks services to develop a better pathway for young adults.
- 2.10 Further work streams will be set up to progress changes to Day Care, Integrated Commissioning and the delivery of the Integrated Pathway. These workstreams will then determine whether and how any structural changes to the teams are required to deliver better outcomes, especially for young people going through transition.

3. Practice Guidance re Leaving Care

- 3.1 Practice Guidance was written in April 2014. Adult Social Care will take on responsibility for meeting the local authority responsibilities for the Care Leaver when they transfer to adult services at age 18, if they meet the eligibility criteria for ongoing support from Adult Social Care. This applies to all Adult Social Care teams. Andrew Ireland sent a communication to all Adult Teams to confirm the requirement to fulfil the leaving care responsibilities for care leavers. Those young people who have additional needs who do not meet adult eligibility criteria will be provided with support from the mainstream Leaving Care service with additional specialist advice and guidance as required eg with regard to sensory impairment.

4. Outcome of the Direct Payment Pilot Evaluation and Extension of Contract

- 4.1 The support service for Direct Payments for disabled children is commissioned externally from the Parents Consortium in Dartford.
- 4.2 A pilot project was undertaken between 1 October 2013 and 30 September 2014 by the Disabled Children Direct Payments Support Service (DPSS) to support 200 young adults aged 18-25 years. The purpose of the project was to support the young adults over the year with all aspects of the setting up and the on-going management and support of their direct payment.

- 4.3 Over the 12 month period 211 clients were referred to the service.
- 4.4 Families who were involved in the pilot appreciated the continuity of worker through what is often a very stressful and complex time. This also supported the Care Manager in the transfer of the care package as the DPSS Support worker already knew the family.
- 4.5 There were some technical issues which have been addressed through the pilot project. For example, the Direct Payment Support Service needed access to SWIFT, the Adult Social Care client database, which has been provided and this has made it easier to manage the interface with Adult Care Managers. The Service was also provided with secure Kent e-mail addresses to protect personal client information being exchanged with KCC staff.
- 4.6 The DPSS has needed to adjust their ways of working to take more account of the young adult client's views rather than working solely with their families.
- 4.7 There has been a divergence in payment rates between Adults and Children's Services. The hourly rates set for disabled children were originally benchmarked to the Adult Direct Payment rates. These have changed in Adult services but not in the Disabled Children service, so this requires further work to ensure they are re-aligned.
- 4.8 Given the need to plan any future contract jointly, the pilot has been extended for a year. This will enable procurement times for the contract to be synchronized and consideration can be given to joint commissioning the service.

5. Children and Families Act 2014 and Care Act 2014

- 5.1 The Special Educational Needs provisions in the Children and Families Act 2014 with the introduction of Education, Health and Care Plans has implications for transition, as young people could potentially have an EHC Plan up to the age of 25. Whereas previously Statements of Special Educational Need finished either when the young person left school at age 16 to move on to college, or at the age of 19 if in a special school, EHC plans can be taken on to college if the young person continues to have an Educational need. The plan has statutory force.
- 5.2 The Disabled Children Service, Adult Social Care and colleges have been on the implementation steering group led by Education for the new SEN legislation in the Children and Families Act. The steering group has also helped to shape the Local Offer which is now on KCC's website, and all the processes that sit alongside the EHC planning process. The new legislation relating to EHC plans came into force on 1 September 2014. Young people leaving school or transferring to college are being prioritised for transfer of their Statement to an EHC plan in this academic year and transfer reviews are on schedule to deliver this target.
- 5.3 The Care Act 2014 makes provisions for the Adult Care and Support Needs for adults from the age of 18 with specific requirements about ensuring young people going through transition have their needs assessed prior to becoming 18. If they already receive a support package this must continue until

arrangements are made within Adult Services to ensure no gap in provision during the transition to adult care and support. So for a group of young people aged 18-25 there is an overlap, being entitled to support through both pieces of legislation, and it will be important to ensure that there is no duplication of processes. A draft Transition Policy and Practice Guidance document has been produced for staff on the changes and training has been provided.

- 5.4 There are also provisions in the Care Act for adult carers and young carers. Local Authorities must assess the needs of adult carers where there is a likely need for support after the young person turns 18 and it is of significant benefit to the carer to do so. The same applies to young carers: Local Authorities must assess the needs of young carers as they approach adulthood. There is work being undertaken with the Voluntary Sector providers who undertake the adult Carers assessments and those who work with Young Carers to ensure that the requirements of the legislation are understood and to commission any further work arising from the legislation.
- 5.5 The emphasis in both Acts is on outcome focused, person-centred practice when considering assessment, planning and support as well as co-production with disabled young people and their families and multi-agency approaches to planning and commissioning. Much of what is included in the Care Act on transition puts good practice on a statutory footing.

6. Other Work pertaining to Transition

- 6.1 The Kent Emotional Wellbeing Strategy for children, young people and young adults aims to offer early help and support to them and their families if they are experiencing emotional difficulties; better access to support; and a positive transition to adult services. Many disabled children and young people require these early preventative services, and the needs assessment identified those with autism and/or ADHD as a vulnerable group within the strategy and they will be the focus of specific ongoing work in the delivery plan.
- 6.2 The Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have commissioned the South East Commissioning Support Unit (SECSU) to develop an all-age neuro-developmental pathway ie those people diagnosed with autism and/or ADHD. This work has started, with the aim of having more streamlined, efficient diagnostic and post-diagnosis support services. This should have an impact for disabled young people and adults across a wide spectrum of need, and links to the Emotional Wellbeing Strategy.
- 6.3 A paper produced by KCC Skills and Employability went to the Cabinet Education sub-Committee in December outlining the proposed Adult Learning and Skills Strategy to be launched in May 2015 with the aim of improving participation in training and employment amongst under-represented groups. This includes disabled young people. The strategy seeks to increase the number of apprenticeships and employment for disabled adults, and builds on the existing work to deliver the 14-24 Skills and Employability Strategy.
- 6.4 The Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy launched in 2014 has a focus on transition. One of the key aims is “to ensure that transitions are well managed, so that there is continuity of support and young people are well prepared. A key transition is into post 16 education or training, and at age 19 into employment and early adulthood. These transitions are challenging and

our aim is to ensure young people with learning difficulties and those with disabilities up to age 25 are engaged in purposeful education and training, so that they are able to move on to skilled employment and adult life with support from adult social care services for those who need it.” The changes arising from the implementation of Education, Health and Care Plans and the 14-24 strategy aim to deliver this.

- 6.5 Kent Supported Employment, who have in the past worked only with adults, have brought their age of involvement down to 16 and are preparing to run 4 pilots with young people in special schools. This project will prepare them for the world of work and support them through meaningful work experience with the aim of increasing their aspirations and opportunities to become employed and independent, thus intervening at an earlier age rather than waiting until they have left school or college.
- 6.6 There is joint working between SEN and Adult Social Care via a panel to consider all applications for Independent Specialist Placements for young disabled people leaving school, with the aim of ensuring better provision in Kent colleges and reducing the demand for expensive out of county independent placements, that do not necessarily prepare young people for adult life.
- 6.7 The Learning Disability Partnership Board has updated the “Becoming an Adult” booklet, with the content determined by young adults themselves. The booklet is suitable for use with people with a range of disabilities, not just Learning Disability, and is being widely used by Care Managers and schools. The Becoming an Adult group is about to undertake a survey of disabled young people going through transition to find out their views on planning for the future.
- 6.8 There have been transition workers in the Adult Learning Disability teams for a number of years. This model has now been extended to OPPD who have designated staff from January 2015 to have responsibility for transition for vulnerable young people leaving care as well as those with a physical disability currently managed in the Disabled Children Service.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 From all of the above it is clear that there is much work going on to ensure that transition is managed well for young people with very varied needs. It is also clear that this is an area of work that cuts across Directorates, Divisions and Cabinet Committees and therefore requires a high level of joint work and planning to ensure that young people with additional needs receive the support they require, but always with the aim of making them as independent as possible as young adults.
- 7.2 Although there has been progress in improving the transition experience of disabled young people, there continue to be a number of challenges ahead to ensure services are compliant with the legislative changes and to ensure joint work, planning and commissioning across services and agencies, and will be the subject of ongoing work.

8. Recommendation

The Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee is asked to:

1. note the contents of this report.

2. Support the ongoing work on transition, specifically:

Embed the Care Act changes relating to transition

Implement and embed the changes to the Disabled Children and Adult Learning Disability teams

Continue to develop the working arrangements with SEN in regard to EHC assessments and transfers

Conduct the questionnaire of young people going through transition

9. Contact details

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