

From: Peter Oakford, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services
Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health
Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director of Social Care Health and Wellbeing

To: Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee – 11 January 2017

Subject: **LIFESPAN PATHWAY UPDATE**

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Social Care Health and Wellbeing Directorate Management Team

Future Pathway of Paper: None

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This paper provides Members of the Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee with an update on the developments relating to transition arrangements for disabled young people and the progress made implementing the Lifespan Pathway for young people with disabilities.

Recommendation(s): The Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee is asked to **NOTE** the content of the report and **SUPPORT** the on-going Lifespan Pathway work.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Previous reports have been presented to the Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee (21 April 2015 and 16 January 2014) relating to the developments for transition arrangements for disabled young people. This paper provides an update to the Committee on the progress of the work undertaken since it was previously reported and is intended to build on these reports rather than repeating the background information contained in them.
- 1.2 The Disabled Children's Service became part of the new Disabled Children, Adults Learning Disability and Mental Health Division (DCALDMH) within the Social Care, and Health and Wellbeing Directorate on 1 April 2015.
- 1.3 A programme was established in April 2015 to look at the pathway for children, young people and adults with a disability to improve the transition points for all individuals:
 - 0-25 Disabled Children and Young People Service
 - 26+ Adults Community Learning Disability Teams

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 This programme is being delivered within current resources and is ensuring that a service is developed that is value for money whilst delivering the outcomes and improvements required from the DCALDMH Transformation Programme.

3. Policy Framework and Policy Context Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes

- 3.1 The Lifespan Pathway supports:

- 3.1.1 Strategic Outcome 1: We want children and young people in Kent to get the best start in life. It further supports the supporting outcomes:

- We keep vulnerable families out of crisis and more children and young people out of KCC care
- Children and young people have better physical and mental health
- All children and young people are engaged, thrive and achieve their potential through academic and vocational education
- Kent young people are confident and ambitious with choices and access to work, education and training opportunities; and

- 3.1.2 Strategic Outcome 3: Older and vulnerable residents are safe and supported with choices to live independently. It further supports the supporting outcomes:

- Families and cares of vulnerable people have access to the advice, information and support they need
- Vulnerable residents feel socially included
- Residents have greater control over the health and social care services that they receive

- 3.2 **The Children and Families Act 2014** requires Local Authorities and Health Services to plan services for children and young people 0-25. The Care Act 2014 has a focus on improving transition for young people prior to becoming an adult.

- 3.3 **The Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (2013 -2016)** focuses on the need to improve outcomes for young people with a disability including transition to adulthood. Deliver greater local integration and co-ordination of education, health and care services and plans for children and families in Kent ensuring this is extended to young people aged 25 and promote positive and seamless transitions at all stages between the ages of 0-25.

- 3.4 **Transition** should also be seen in the context of the transformation agenda to ensure a streamlined commissioning framework across children and adult services and enable a consistent practice that is person centred and encourages independence. For some young people a successful transition and the support to develop independence skills can reduce longer term dependency on long term services.

4. Developing the Lifespan Pathway

4.1 Assessment Phase

4.1.1 Current team structures create a transfer point at age 18, with a range of destinations into adult teams but an inconsistent offer of support during this time.

4.1.2 From April 2015, an assessment process started to look at how to integrate services to deliver a seamless continuity of support for children, young people and adults with a disability, providing more joint service delivery and commissioning opportunities.

4.1.3 Other Local Authority models of transition were researched and lessons learnt. The purpose of the assessment phase was to understand the strengths and challenges for young people moving through transition and future proposals to improve the process.

4.2 Design Phase

4.2.1 Local teams and parent consortiums were visited and workshops were held to understand the current pathway and the transition to adult services.

4.2.2 Parents wanted more appropriate information earlier; understanding services earlier to support the planning process before the young person reached the age of 18. Parents and carers were in favour of the proposed 0-25 service and wanted positive transitions at all key stages, especially a more successful transition to adult life. Parents agreed that the proposed 16-25 transition teams would help young people achieve their ambitions and would improve outcomes.

4.2.3 Design workshops used detailed customer journeys to define a radically different pathway and from April 2017 we are recommissioning with our partners to make the new pathway a reality.

4.2.4 The following design principles were agreed:

Principles	Outcome
Lifespan Pathway to have the same boundaries across all teams in the pathway	0-15, 16-25 & 26+ teams have been designed with the same boundaries OT boundaries different – see proposal
Boundaries to be CCG aligned where possible	1. WK 3. Ashford & Canterbury & Coastal 2. DGS&S 4. South Kent Coast & Thanet
Equitable caseloads across the pathway; dependant on active : less active cases	0-15 teams; 30 caseload (20:10) 16-25 teams: 40 caseload (30:10) 26+ teams: 40 caseload (30:10)
Entry Point to transition service 16 with a flexible exit point	Entry point 16 Exit point 26+ birthday (difficult to plan budget; resources with a flexible exit point)
Co-location of 0-15, 16-25, 26+ where possible	See accommodation strategy
Ensure least disruption to partnership working	Proposed structures have been shared with health partners to discuss having same boundaries
Continue to provide a SG function work 18+	SG function to be hosted in 26+ teams and in reach to 18-25 SG alerts in 16-25 team
New service to be delivered within current cash limit	staffing costs for new structure are within cash limit (see costing)

4.3 What will be different in the new Lifespan Pathway?

4.3.1 **A new Lifespan Pathway Service:** there will be a new 0-25 Service, with four Disabled Children's Teams across the county working with children aged between 0-15. In addition there will be four Young People's teams working with young people aged between 16-25. Young people with complex physical disabilities will also be included within new teams. The new pathway will remove artificial transition points and ensure a smooth pathway through services from young people services into adulthood (26+). A specialist team will mean young people will become more settled before entering adult services.

4.3.2 The Adult Community Learning Disability Service will meet the needs for adults with a learning disability and / or physical disability aged 26+. There will be four teams across the county that will work with adults to ensure they achieve positive outcomes and lead to improved independence. These teams will be integrated with Health and in-reach to the 16-25 Young People's teams.

4.3.3 **In-House Provision:** We previously had a separate children and adults in-house service which we have developed into all age in-house provision units that provides a range of support to children, young people and adults; including Short breaks, Day Services, Kent Enablement and Recovery Service, Kent Pathways Service, Independent Living Service and Shared Lives. The service is currently undergoing an assessment to determine future requirements to meet the needs of the Lifespan Pathway and gaps within the market.

4.3.4 **Short Breaks:** There has been significant improvement in the support available for parents of disabled children through the short breaks programme and the

development of the Multi-Agency Specialist Hubs and the Early Support Programme which has improved the coordination of services for many families and provided them with more effective support. Parents had remarked about the difference in the services provided for Short Breaks between children's and adults – on their 18th birthday they receive a totally different offer. As a result of this the short break offer has been re-designed so that the pathway and the commissioning of more flexible services for young people promotes access to services to ensure young people's needs are met.

4.3.5 There will now be a countywide accommodation short breaks service for those aged 16 and above with disabilities and additional complex needs. The countywide service will be for 6 adult short break units – 4 KCC and 2 external providers. These will be invested in to give modern facilities like our 5 children's short break units. The children's and adults short break service will work closely together, meaning a smooth transition between services.

4.3.6 **Systems:** The programme will have the potential of having one system for the 0-25 pathway services. Initial scoping has taken place to understand the business processes required for the 16-25 pathway and a business case for using Liberi (the Specialist Children's Services Management Information System) for the 0-25 pathway has been taken to Project Advisory Group (PAG). Building and testing the extended system will take place during spring 2017.

4.3.7 **Commissioning:** as part of the development of the new Lifespan Pathway a commissioning strategy is being developed that will meet the needs of people with a disability throughout their lifespan with a particular focus on the 0-25 pathway and linking in with the Learning Disability Integrated Commissioning Project which will result in services being commissioned beyond a person's 18th birthday.

4.3.8 **Partners:** Kent Community Hospital Foundation Trust (KCHFT), Kent and Medway Partnership Trust and the Council already operate as integrated teams for people with a learning disability (Community Learning Disability Teams) aged 18+. As part of the Lifespan Pathway development, KCHFT are reviewing their operational boundaries so as to align with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) boundaries. KCHFT is formally consulting with their staff about these changes; it is anticipated the changes will take place in April 2017 to align with the implementation of the new structures within the Council. Further work will need to be explored about how the NHS delivers a service to children and young adults and the impact on transition.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Children and Families Act 2014 and The Care Act 2014 both have a focus on improving transition to young people becoming an adult. The establishment of the new 0-25 Pathway and in particular the 16-25 teams will ensure this happens.

6. Equality Implications

- 6.1 The Equalities Impact Assessment undertaken, and attached as Appendix 1, identified positive impacts for young people and their families preparing to transition to adulthood by providing the clarity required for young people with the most complex disabilities as they transition through the proposed 16-25 pathway and through to the adult teams.
- 6.2 There is service user engagement planned to ensure appropriate communication to mitigate against the potential for disabled service users and their families being confused about any changes to their workers and teams, particularly for those aged 16-25 if there is a transfer into a new team. This engagement will ensure they are aware of how any changes will affect them. Information for service users and their families is supported by documents available in EasyRead. An example of this is included as Appendix 2.
- 6.3 As part of the change to team structures there may be some changes to the occupation of offices across the county. This is being planned with property colleagues to ensure a smooth transition at the commencement of the new service in April 2017.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The Lifespan Pathway will bring about the following benefits:
- The outcomes for children, young people and adults will improve
 - Improved transition for young people moving into adult services, removing some of the duplication of assessment as a young person moves through each phase
 - Families will have a better experience of transition due to a smoother pathway with fewer changes at significant points in a young person's life
 - Young people and their carers remain with the same team
 - There will be additional support to families to avoid crisis
 - The Lifespan pathway will support transformation and families in crisis which will result in appropriate long term care
 - Information, advice and guidance about services available will be provided earlier in a young person's life
 - Working with families and individuals to develop the right services at the right time
 - Commissioning appropriate integrated services at the earlier age of 16
 - More young people will be supported into work and apprenticeships through improved education advice and support at key stages
 - Young Person's team (16-25) will have expertise and knowledge of adult services
- 7.2 The Lifespan Pathway will start from the 1 April 2017.

8. Recommendation(s)

8.1 Recommendation(s): The Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee is asked to **NOTE** the content of the report and **SUPPORT** the ongoing work of the Lifespan Pathway.

9. Background Documents

None

10. Contact details

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