

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15 MARCH 2018

TRANSITION FROM CHILDREN'S TO ADULTS' SERVICES - BRIEFING

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Summary

This report provides a briefing on how the transition from children's to adults' services is managed for children receiving specialist social care services, the options that are available to young people and how Medway Council continues to develop and strengthen its transition pathway.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 Consideration of this report is within the Council's policy and budget framework.
- 1.2 The information in this report is brought together to provide the context requested as a result of a request made by the Chairman, which was agreed at a previous pre-agenda meeting, for the Committee to be provided with a report looking at how transition from children's to adult's services is managed for children receiving specialist social care services.

2. Background

- 2.1 Medway's vision for Adult Social Care is '*We will support the people of Medway to live full, active lives, to live independently for as long as possible, and to play a full part in their local communities*'.
- 2.2 Our vision for Adult Social Care supports the delivery of Council Plan priorities, in particular 'Supporting Medway's people to realise their potential'; 'Older and disabled people living independently'; and 'Healthy and active communities'.
- 2.3 In response to the Care Act (2014) Medway Council is working to give people more choice and control over the support they receive from adult social care.

- 2.4 In order to promote independence, choice and control, adult social care seek to provide information, advice and support at the earliest stages of need, so that we focus on supporting individuals to maintain their optimum levels of independence in their own homes and communities.
- 2.5 We aim to ensure that every individual who receives support and care will experience this in a way that promotes and protects their dignity and allows them to feel respected and valued.
- 2.6 It is essential that empowerment and choice is readily available through a focus on personalisation. This is consistent with the core values of Medway Council which is committed to ensuring that we put people at the centre of everything that we do.
- 2.7 Currently the 0 -25 Disability Team has 110 young people allocated to the team who are between 14yrs and 18yrs old. So far for the year 2017/18 four young people transitioned to adult social care, three continue to attend school and one is attending college.
- 2.8 The Learning Disabilities Observatory highlights the expectation that over the next 20 years we will see an increase in the number of people with learning disabilities. This is expected to be accompanied by an increase in the complexity of needs as young people with learning disabilities with extremely complex needs are now living well into adulthood.
- 2.9 However the number of adults with a learning disability in the younger age group 18-24 is predicted to fall by 2021 and then increase as we move towards 2035, illustrated in Table 1.
- 2.10 Table 1: People predicted to have a learning disability by age group projected to 2030:

Age Group	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2025	2030	2035	change 2017-35
18-24	719	716	708	700	694	695	779	807	12.2%
25-34	996	1,013	1,026	1,033	1,041	1,036	991	1,031	3.5%
35-44	878	886	894	904	919	983	1,048	1,052	19.8%
45-54	929	921	913	902	889	862	892	968	4.2%
55-64	728	750	771	794	816	864	844	813	11.7%
65-74	556	565	570	572	577	583	676	744	33.8%
75-84	273	283	296	308	321	388	418	445	63.0%
85+	100	102	104	108	112	134	169	228	128.0%
Total 18 +	5,179	5,236	5,281	5,321	5,369	5,545	5,817	6,087	17.5%

Source: POPPI and PANSI, Crown copyright 2016, Figures may not sum due to rounding

3. Assessment for young people in Transition

- 3.1 Young people with a complex disability are managed by the 0-25 service. If a young person who has less complex needs, such as a social emotional or mental health condition their support will be managed by mainstream children's services.
- 3.2 The young person's transitions journey starts from age 14. The social worker will update the Child & Family Assessment annually and this will highlight current, long term and future needs. Where there is an Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP) in place this will be reviewed jointly with education, health and social care via the annual EHCP review.
- 3.3 The social worker will engage the young person and their family/carers at early stage in conversations with regard to potential options in relation to care needs, independent living, further education and employment opportunities as appropriate. They will liaise with all agencies involved to ensure a holistic approach in working with the young person.
- 3.4 A young person from age 16 would be assessed under the Care Act 2014 and where they meet the eligibility criteria for support for adult social care would be moderated into adult services.
- 3.5 Young people who are in education at a special school usually remain there until age 19 and from there, if it is appropriate for them to remain in education, could move on to a local college or residential college appropriate to their needs. All reviews and care services are delivered in a personalised way and each case is looked at on an individual basis. The young person, family and a social worker work together alongside relevant stakeholders to create a care plan that meets agreed outcomes.
- 3.6 Under the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Code of Practice Medway Council are required to commission an independent Information, Advice and Support Service (IASS).
- 3.7 The service provides parents/carers, children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities with free impartial information, advice and support. Support is delivered in a way that best suits the person and includes phone, email and face to face meetings in the home, community or IASS office in New Road Chatham. Access to the service is by self referral.
- 3.8 The IASS service provides support with education, health and social care, support to express views, wishes and feelings. The service also covers support at meetings with the school and local authority and help to complete SEND related paperwork and signposting to other support services.

4. Options that are available to young people

- 4.1 The Medway Family Information Service (FIS) is a resource which provides news, services and information aimed at supporting Medway families. It also contains information on the Local Offer.
- 4.2 The Local Offer provides help and support to children and young people who have SEND. It covers short breaks, transition to adulthood, family support, health and wellbeing, education, leisure & activities and housing. We will continue to strengthen the Local Offer through review and regular updating. We will also produce information leaflets on options for young people reaching 14, 19 and 25 years of age.
- 4.3 Flight is a Transitions service providing short-term accommodation and housing related support for four young people aged 18 – 25 with a learning disability and autism.
- 4.4 Young people who have been supported by Flight have predominately had mild to moderate learning disabilities and do not tend to exhibit complex and challenging behaviours.
- 4.5 The aim of the service is for young people to gain independent living and social skills and move on into independence within a two year period. This service is provided from two first floor flats at Longford Court, a Medway Council sheltered housing scheme in Rainham.
- 4.6 Staff at Flight also provide long term housing related floating support to tenants living in registered social landlord housing developed specifically for adults with a learning disability.
- 4.7 The service is fully utilised and operates a waiting list and a 100% success rate in supporting people into more independent living.
- 4.8 Shared Lives is a scheme which provides respite, short and long term care with accommodation for adults with learning disabilities and autistic spectrum disorder. The scheme enables people to live in the community within a family environment. Carers are recruited, assessed, trained and supported by the scheme to provide the necessary support for people who come to live with them and aims to support people to gain the confidence for independent living.
- 4.9 The number of placements offered has averaged 20 through 2017/18, including six who are 25yrs or younger. Additional funding has been agreed as part of the Council's budget for 2018/19 to support the expansion of the service, which provides a cost effective alternative to residential and supported living placements.
- 4.10 Supported Living is a concept that was developed as an alternative to institutional/residential care. The main principles of supported living are that people own or rent their home and have control over the support they get, who

they live with (if anyone) and how they live their lives. A range of providers are commissioned by Medway Council.

- 4.11 During April 2017 and Aug 2017 129 people were using supported living services of which 20 were 25yrs or under. Packages of support may vary from a couple of hours a week to support provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Supported living aims to promote independent living by helping service users to re-establish lost skills or to develop new skills.
- 4.12 *Appendix 1* lists a selection of available services that support transition to adulthood.

5. Strengthening the transition pathway

- 5.1 In January 2018, the 0-25 Social Work team transferred form adult services to children's services and became part of the Integrated 0-25 Disability Service. This service brings together the Special Educational Needs Team, Educational Psychology Team, Physical and Sensory Support Team and Early Years team. The Integrated Team will work with children and young people aged 0-25. This integrated team will ensure better joint working and better planning for young people to prepare for adulthood.
- 5.2 In December 2017, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission carried out a five day joint local area SEND inspection in Medway. The SEND Local Area Inspections were introduced in May 2016 and aim to establish how effective the local areas are in implementing the special educational needs and disabilities reforms set out in the Children and Families Act 2014. The effectiveness of transition arrangements were considered within this inspection. The inspection findings were published on the 8th February 2018 in the form of a letter addressed to the Director of Children and Adult Services.
- 5.3 The SEND Inspection Outcome Letter recognises that there has been some good developments to support young people aged 14-18 who are preparing for adulthood, such as an increase in the number of Supported Internships available. The report also highlighted a need for better and more individual planning with young people to ensure educational options offered lead to employment and more independent living if appropriate.
- 5.4 We are working in partnership with the CCG to produce a Local Area Written Statement of Action for 2018 which includes outcomes to be met and actions to be taken to strengthen transition.
- 5.5 We will ensure that the long term needs of a young person who has SEND are identified and using the Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) we will work with young people and parents to develop a robust Preparing for Adulthood Pathway. This will include annual meetings from Year 9 with young people to ensure that they are assisted to identify their long term aspirations. Details of the support they require, to achieve their aspirations, from health, social care and education to be identified in their EHCP.

- 5.6 We will ensure that young people who have SEND have access to good quality advice and guidance regarding future employment opportunities, apprenticeships, supported internships and further and higher education courses.
- 5.7 We will develop and publish the Preparing for Adulthood Pathway on the Local Offer and ensure it is available to young people who have SEND from Year 8.
- 5.8 We want all pupils to have an EHCP and parents to report that transition from secondary school to post 16/19 placement was well planned and that they feel supported to cope with challenges of the next stage of their child's education.
- 5.9 We will carry out annual reviews prior to transition points to consider the transition plan for each child and young person including the actions and support required to ensure smooth transition.
- 5.10 We want young people who have special educational needs aged 14 – 25 to receive the education, health and social care support they require to allow them to progress towards adult independence and employment where appropriate.
- 5.11 We will seek the views and feedback of parents and carers, including those who do not currently access a service, proactively and in a range of ways.
- 5.12 A project is underway to support the return to borough of young people placed in out of area educational residential placements and high cost residential placements through the provision of a range of housing options to meet identified need. In addition, and as a consequence of providing a range of housing options, the project aims to reduce the requirement to place young people in out-of-area residential schools or residential placements due to the lack of suitable housing.
- 5.13 The plans are to develop appropriate provision locally. The Programme Management Office have been working with Medway Council's Housing team, support providers and housing associations to secure local provision to meet the needs of young people with special educational needs. One specialist provider for clients with Learning disabilities and Autism is due to complete the build of an 8 bed supported living unit in Brompton and another two providers are currently in the process of putting offers on properties which will be adapted to support our client's needs. We are also working with a housing association to secure new build flats in the Halling area but this is subject to successful outcome of negotiations.
- 5.14 To date, four young people have been successfully re-housed into supported living services resulting in them being able to live closer to their families and friends.
- 5.15 To complement the provision of housing, the project has also developed a supported living information page which will be uploaded onto the Local Offer.

5.16 To provide stakeholder input and oversight on the project a Steering Group has been established which has representatives from the Special Educational Needs Team, 0-25 and Adult Social Care Teams, Housing Strategy, Public Health and Transforming Care.

5.17 Adult Social Care, as part of the recent restructure of staffing, have invested in three social work posts, which will focus on supporting a smooth transition from Children's to Adult Services. These social workers will work closely with colleagues in the 0-25 disability team to ensure that all opportunities for choice and independence are explored.

6. Risk Management

6.1 There are no specific risk implications for Medway Council arising directly from this report.

7. Financial and legal implications

7.1 There are no specific financial or legal implications for Medway Council arising directly from the report.

8. Recommendations

8.1 It is requested that the Committee notes and comments on the report

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Information from the Local Offer Website

Background Papers

Useful weblinks:

Medway Family Information Service:
<http://medwayfisd.com/kb5/medway/fis/home.page>

The Local Offer:
<https://www.medwaylocaloffer.com/kb5/medway/localoffer/home.page>

Medway Information Advice & Support Service (IASS):
<http://cyp.iassnetwork.org.uk/service/kids/>