

WIRRAL COUNCIL

HEALTH AND WELL BEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE :
19TH JANUARY 2010

JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES AND THE
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSITION SERVICE

Executive Summary

This report provides proposals to develop a Transitions Team with staff co-located from Childrens and Adult Services, as a further step to improving the experience of young people with disabilities as they move from children services into adult services. It is proposed that the new team will take social care casework responsibility from the age of 16 and support joint planning from the age of 14. It is proposed that the teams are drawn together as of 1st of January 2010 at Westminster House. In the following 3 month period, a more detailed Service Development plan will be developed, which all confirms the team's working relationship with Connexions and other key parties.

This item falls within the Social Care and Inclusion portfolio.

1 Background

- 1.1 Transition has been highlighted as an area of concern by the Government over a number of years. Transition will always be a time which provokes anxieties for young people and parents due to the fact that it involves changes in expectations of services and the people who will offer support. There are differences regarding the eligibility of people for services due to the different legislation under which services for children and adults are provided. Without effective transition processes, there is the potential for difficulties to arise as expectations of families exceed the skills and resources available.
- 1.2 Valuing People Now (2008) recommended that each local area has a multi-agency transition strategy. The guidance defines disabled children as including young people with special educational needs in its broadest terms as those young people who receive support at a school action and action plus level besides those in receipt of a statement. Transition Guidance was produced on behalf of the Government by the Council for Disabled Children in 2008. (Department of Children, Schools and Families/Department of Health transition guides : *(A transition guide for all services and Transition: Moving on Well.)*)
- 1.3 The National Transition Support Team currently monitor how the Council and NHS Wirral are working together to improve multi agency working, on behalf of the Government. In January 2009 we completed a Transition Self

Assessment Questionnaire; which has been further refined to extend expectations of partnership working and engagement with parents and young people; with a requirement to resubmit in December 2009. It is evident that for disabled young people and their families to experience positive support during transition a wide range of agencies, departments and processes need to work together effectively. The Self Assessment Questionnaire aims to capture a snapshot of how agencies, processes and systems work together at a specific point in time in a local area. Self Assessment Questionnaire 2 will identify progress made in the 10 months of Year 2 of the Transition Support Programme and will determine the revised level of targeted support that will be provided to local areas in the final year of the programme.

- 1.4 The Council and partners were required to submit its Transition Development Plan as evidence of its commitment to service improvement. The National Transition Support Team have identified 5 focus areas, which should shape our planning :
 - Participation of disabled young people and their families.
 - Effectiveness of personalised approaches.
 - Joint assessments processes within children's trusts and adult services.
 - Realistic post 16 opportunities for living life.
 - Strategic joint partnership working.
- 1.5 A new protocol was launched in April 2008 between Children and Adult Services to improve Transition arrangements; this followed extensive discussion with all agencies working with young people in transition and consultation with young people and their families. As part of the improved planning an Operational Group was developed to meet monthly; tasked with ensuring young people are being tracked through transition effectively. The success of which has led to being able to report significantly improved performance within the Annual Performance Assessment.
- 1.6 A second "Your Future, Your Choice" information event was arranged in October, with close co-operation between staff from Social Inclusion and Social Care branches of the Council, Learning Skills Council, Connexions and NHS Wirral. The materials produced for the event have been extended to form an information pack for use by young people, carers and professionals and are available on the I-choose Wirral website. Further work is clearly required on a cross agency basis to provide for a stepped improvement in the provision of information.
- 1.7 The service development proposals included in this paper are a first step towards a more integrated model and looks to provide social care support for young people with Learning Difficulties at this time. The longer term vision is for a Transitions Team made up of personnel from Children and Young People's Department, Department of Adult Social Services, Connexions and Health with input from Benefits Advisors, Housing and Employment sited within the new build Special Needs College on the

Twelve Quays campus. In the longer term it is envisaged that the Transitions Team will cover 13/14 to 25 years old and will provide support for all young people with Special Educational Needs / Learning Difficulties and Disabilities.

- 1.8 The ambition for the services is to aspire to the best support that enables young people to achieve as independent a life as possible as they move into adulthood.

2 Current patterns of activity

- 2.1 There are currently 29 accommodated or previously accommodated young people with disabilities aged between 16 and 21 years who have a Pathway Plan as directed under the Leaving Care Act and who are allocated a Personal Advisor. These plans are produced at age 16 and reviewed at 6 monthly intervals in conjunction with their Social Worker from either Children and Young People's Department or Department of Adult Social Services. The looked after children population continues to move downwards given the continued investment in shared care and wrap around family support. However this will create the need for Department of Adult Social Services to review its commissioning arrangements to be able to provide more significant community and family based support packages.
- 2.2 There was a total of 24 young people who turned 18 years old in 2008 whose package of care and support were forwarded to Department of Adult Social Services. During 2009 18 young people were referred and accepted; 2010 will see that same number progressed.
- 2.3 There were 9 young people returned from college this July who are Fair Access to Care Services eligible. In July 2010 we are predicting an increase of 7, so that there are 16 young people returning to Wirral from college, with a further 11 in July 2011 and another 11 in July 2012.
- The brokerage project last year redirected 9 people who had been previously been considering out of area placements.
 - In looking at this cohort of young people returning in 2012 there were 4 young people who had no social care involvements, 2 whose specific needs were not able to be met in local college provision, 1 looked after child and potentially 1 other who may have needed to be accommodated.
 - For the 2011 cohort 5 of 11 young people had no social care involvement and 1 was attending an out of borough school
 - In 2010 cohort 8 of 12 young people had no social care involvement, there was 1 looked after young person and 2 others who if they had not gone to college would be likely to have needed to be accommodated due to adverse circumstances

2.4 In terms of young people

Aged 14+ there are

- 102 young people
- 14 looked after children

Aged 16+ there are

- 44 young people
- 5 looked after children

2.5 It is proposed that the new team should take casework responsibility at the age of 16 and support joint planning from 14.

2.6 It is key that the Children with Disabilities Team Manager retain all responsibilities for contacts and referral and assessment to ensure a clear accountability for assessment timescales, management of child protection activity and to ensure a family centred approach in cases where there are elements of family dysfunction and or issues with adolescents. In reviewing referral patterns there are few new referrals post 14 and a degree of stability within support plans is felt achievable by the ages of 15-16 for later referrals.

2.7 In considering the more complex young people most cases similarly achieve a degree of stability behaviourally in post adolescence. Most of the services that are vital to create this stability are clustered around the children`s team – the risk is without careful risk management that we may increase the potential for being accommodated.

2.8 Cases held by the current Transition workers are 16+. There will need to be a phased transfer of activity into the team – which is should competed in 3-4 week period

2.9 Caseloads for workers within Department of Adult Social Services will need to be established and kept under for a similar 3-4 month period. There are currently 84 cases of young people 18+ with the 3 workers identified to join the team.

2.10 In relation to our Performance Indicators we are able to report well above 90% of young people have a transition plan that are moving between children and adult services, which evidences increased efforts via the Transitions Operations Group system.

2.11 There are a number of areas that need to be developed and a summary of some of the key themes being developed are in Appendix 1 below.

3 Service development proposal

3.1 Initial scope of the team

3.1.1 It is proposed that the team will provide support to young people and young adults between the ages of 14 and 25. The services provided are to support children in need (and their families) who have severe or substantial disabilities, specifically:

- a severe or profound learning disability
- a severe physical disability
- a substantial degree of visual impairment / moderate and severe hearing loss
- a complex Autistic Spectrum with a Severe Learning Disability
- a complex medical health condition.

3.1.2 Most of these young people will leave school after the age 19 and transfer to the appropriate Adult team in the following year once key transitions are complete in terms of setting up local college provision, work or community based support. The two exceptions to this being where further work is required to

- establish an appropriate accommodation and support package
- setting up local support following completion of an out of borough residential college course

3.1.3 Young people with a complex Autistic Spectrum and Social Communication Disorder are currently being supported by the Children with Disabilities Service, and a further commissioning gap is evident within transition and Adult services for this group of young people which will require separate consideration.

3.1.4 Key priorities for this team / part of the service

- Ensuring each young person who may require adult social care / are Fair Access to Care Services eligible have a support plan to guide them through transition
- Supporting young people in receiving personalised budgets and support
- Ensuring joint funding assessments are completed in a timely fashion
- Identifying commissioning gaps in relation to accommodation, short breaks, college, other services ; to enable this support to be provided within Wirral and Merseyside
- Streamlining assessment processes across agencies – both those within the team and with other external and linked partners
- Ensuring that young people and their families receive good quality information on transition and the role of the team within Transition is well publicised
- Developing a lead professional system to ensure young people and parents are guided smoothly through transition
- Promoting the engagement of young people and parents in the processes of reshaping services
- Ensuring service thresholds and resource allocation are consistent with those within Department of Adult Social Services, and expectations are managed effectively in moving into adult provision.
- Supporting the Transition Strategy Group in the implementation of the Transition Development Plan.
- Support brokerage project and employment projects in developing increased local provision

3.1.5 Proposed team membership will include:

- Team Manager
- Social Workers – 2 from Children and Young People's Department and 2 from Department of Adult Social Services
- Support Workers – 1 part time from Children and Young People's Department and 1 from Department of Adult Social Services
- Administrative Support – Team Support Officer.- 10 hours support is envisaged

3.1.6 The Connexions service is in the final stages of their commissioning process, which should conclude shortly. Meetings have now been arranged to discuss the potential secondment of Connexions staff into this team. There is an in principle commitment to co-location of staff, which will need to be worked out once the service level agreement has been confirmed. The service is likewise committed to ensuring input into the strategic and operational planning for a stepped change across the whole Learning Disabilities agenda; and ensure this ties together at a District / Locality level. Tracking of young people is a clear strength that the service will seek to bring to the wider agenda.

3.1.7 The Continuing Care co-ordinator will work closely with the Team Manager in relation to joint funding, future commissioning and support effective health action planning. From a Special Educational Needs perspective the Educational Advisor for Medical and Physical difficulties will similarly support individuals on a case by case basis.

3.1.8 Additional Agencies are being consulted for their linked involvement

- Housing
- Benefits Advice
- Further Education and Schools input
- 14-19 team for work experience
- Employers and Training for employment

Otherwise links will be maintained with:

- Advocacy
- Brokerage
- Enablement – Home Assessment and Reablement Team service
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services 16-19 team
- Voluntary and Community groups for vulnerable young people

3.1.9 It is proposed that the team would be hosted initially within the Adult Learning Disability Service. That this would be reviewed within the first 6 months as the Transition Strategy Group engages with key stakeholders in looking at service development. A Service Plan will be developed which looks to set out team objectives and milestones in moving to a more integrated model.

3.2 Professional and Management accountability

- 3.2.1 Initially the Team Manager will be receiving joint supervision from the Service Manager Adult Learning Disability and the Service Manager Children with Disabilities on a monthly basis. Supervision will be provided on a monthly basis using the standard supervision formats shared across Departments. Supervision Audits will be completed in line with new Supervision Procedures in Children's Services.
- 3.2.2 The Team Manager will have a 2 weekly planning meeting with the Service Manager Adult Learning Disability to arrange for case transfers and confirm commissioning decisions initially.
- 3.2.3 Continue attendance at Children with Disabilities management and Department of Adult Social Services Learning Disability Service management team will be planned for on a monthly cycle .
- 3.2.4 Within the first year of the service it is proposed that there will be a Steering Group comprised of the Service Managers from Children and Adults Social Care, and the Team Manager, with key partners. They will report into the new Transition Strategy Group who will make recommendations to the Learning Disability Partnership Board.
- 3.2.5 All cases involving child protection activity and looked after children will remain allocated to a qualified children's worker to ensure clear professional accountability. Any cases involving adult protection activity or statutory mental health assessment will remain allocated to a qualified adult worker to similarly ensure clear professional accountability.
- 3.2.6 Parents will be involved via the Wirral Family Consultation Forum and the Engagement & Involvement Group. Parent representation will be sought to the new Adult Learning Disability Partnership Board and to the new Transition Strategy Group. Parent representatives similarly are engaged within current key strategic groups within the Childrens Trust Board governance arrangements. Further planning will be undertaken with WIRED and via around securing the views of disabled young people via the Engagement & Involvement Group around current transition processes.
- 3.2.7 The team will undertake all assessment activity and care planning after 16 within Department of Adult Social Services formats to facilitate joint working. A key priority for the team will be progressing a lead professional model and developing a joined up approach to assessment – which brings together key information – person centred planning and health action planning.
- 3.2.8 There is no proposal to realign budgets at this time. IT requirements are currently being established for social care partners

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications associated with the proposal to develop the Transitions Team; these are already Children's and Adult Social Services employees who will be co-located in the Westminster House Office. The proposal to co-locate the Team is intended to deliver a joined up service which will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of services for older young people as they transition into adulthood.
- 4.2 Within the Transition programme Wirral received a nominal allocation of £10k in this year. Future allocations depends on performance and this money is used to develop the Transition service. Where further plans are considered to develop and expand the remit of the Transition Team resource implications will be considered and identified at a future date.

5 Staffing Implications

It is proposed that the Adult Learning Disabilities Service will host the co-located team. Staff from Childrens Social Care will be seconded to the service under a service level agreement for each staff member.

6 Equal Opportunities Implications/Health Impact Assessment

Social care services are provided to the most vulnerable people in the Borough. Services are provided following a fair and open assessment process and improvements in the transition process will enhance the life opportunities of young people with disabilities.

7 Community Safety Implications

Social care services assist in managing risks appropriately and therefore enable people to maintain their independence safely within the community.

8 Local Agenda 21 Implications

None arising from this report.

9 Planning Implications

None arising from this report.

10 Anti Poverty Implications

None arising from this report.

11 Social Inclusion Implications

Improvements in the transition process will ensure that young people's needs to maintain independence and take an appropriate part in their local community are addressed.

12 Local Member Support Implications

People who use social care services live in all parts of the Borough.

13 Background Papers

- **A Transition Guide for all Services** – a view of all the services that need to work together to ensure appropriate support for disabled young people life.
- **Transition: Moving on Well** good practice guide on effective transition from children's to adult services for young people with complex health needs.

Both can be viewed and downloaded from

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources-andpractice/IG00322/>.

14 Recommendations

- 14.1 That Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the content of this report, and the formation of a new Transitions Team.
- 14.2 That further discussions are held with Connexions service on joint working arrangements.

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Appendix 1 Active work in planning the development of Transitions

	Issue	Considerations
1	<p>Ofsted Within our current planning it will be necessary to ensure full compliance with OFSTED requirements in relation to statutory assessment requirements.</p>	<p>This will shape views on the point of transfer of casework responsibility, which is proposed remains at 16.</p> <p>There will need to be a clear line of accountability in relation to s47 and statutory assessment activity</p>
2	<p>Experience Children with Disability Services have a number of multi agency teams within its current service configuration – including Learning Disability, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Occupational Therapy Service, Social Communication Service – and have developed a number of multi agency models of working.</p>	<p>Co-location only provides the full benefits when different professionals work in proximity.</p> <p>Continued work is required at this time with regards to assessment activity between social care, health and Connexions.</p> <p>Sustained work will be required to ensure that the new team continue to tie into the networks within children services.</p>
3	<p>Strategic positioning / Governance The Core Offer approach in Aiming High for Disabled Children provides the overarching approach to services; Transition forms one of the key strands. This agenda covers the whole Learning Disabilities and Difficulties / Special Educational Needs / Health and not solely Learning Disabilities Services.</p>	<p>The Learning Disability Partnership Board is being reformed and will need to ensure effective links across the whole Transition agenda including Learning Disabilities – Special Educational Needs & Health transitions.</p> <p>The Transition Strategy Group is likewise being reformed currently, to provide a more strategic steer to the programme.</p> <p>Activity at both levels will be essential to provide an underpinning for operational activity, and to ensure more integrated Pathways are developed.</p>
4	<p>Planning Flows from children services at individual and operational levels. Transitions Operational Group has been driven from children` s services to date.</p>	<p>Expectations need to be reshaped which can only be achieved by joined up planning with Connexions, Health and schools</p> <p>Transitions Person centred reviews have been introduced within schools, but will require continued investment.</p>

5	<p>Partnerships Progress within the Transition agenda has been made in regards to closer working between services – via Transitional Operational Group, and via the Brokerage project and enhancing information provision.</p>	<p>The marketing communication effort has to date benefitted from significant Learning Skills Council investment, which needs to be broadened across the partnership to be sustainable.</p>
6	<p>Personalisation Remains a key agenda in both children and adult services. In children`s services the Aiming High agenda is driving forwards refocusing of short breaks activity to personalise and provide for early intervention. Adult commissioning will of necessity need to link to that in children services.</p>	<p>Childrens services will also need to ensure that Personal Support Planning models being piloted in Department of Adult Social Services are rolled out effectively and link into Personal Budgets.</p> <p>The Transitions Strategy Group has recognised the need for more integrated commissioning activity, which will need to lead by joint commissioning approaches.</p> <p>Increased Adult joint commissioning activity will be required within the framework of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment; to stimulate the local market in key areas such as college, short breaks, person centred provision.</p>
7	<p>Engagement Childrens services have been actively seeking to ensure parents views help to drive service development. The Wirral Family Consultation Forum provides a good base to support service development in the area of Transition.</p>	<p>The Special Educational Needs Parent Partnership services have been recently reconfigured which should also support communication with young people. The service will need to ensure that the distinct voice of young people is recognised as they emerge into adulthood.</p> <p>The service will need to develop its links into the Enabling & Fulfilling lives Group too.</p> <p>Parent led person centred planning remains an area to develop</p>
8	<p>Management capacity Operational capacity is at this time being provided by children`s social care. As a more significant realignment is being considered this needs to come with a formalisation of the role. There needs to be clarity on the level of operational responsibility and other service development tasks</p>	<p>The proposed steering group structure provides an opportunity to realign management accountabilities as part of a stepped approach to a more significant realignment of services</p>