

Children, Young People & Education Committee**6 MARCH 2024**

REPORT TITLE:	ALL AGE DISABILITY REVIEW - IMPLEMENTATION
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF CARE AND HEALTH

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present the progress to date on the implementation programme following the All-Age Disability Review that was approved at the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee on the 13 June 2023. The implementation programme detailed in Appendix 1 covers:

1. High level thematic area
2. Workstream lead
3. Specific project
4. Key actions
5. Timeline
6. Status of progress / completion

The projects within this work programme are interlinked and are part of a continual improvement journey enabling improved outcomes for people with disabilities that are underpinned by the Council's Coproduction Charter where appropriate.

The report supports the Council Plan: Wirral Working Together 2023-27, specifically the 'Promoting Independence and Healthier Lives' and 'Early Help for Children and Families' themes.

This report is a non-key decision. It affects all wards.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Children, Young People & Education Committee is recommended to note the significant progress to date of the implementation programme following the All-Age Disability Review as in Appendix 1.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 There is a greater reliance in Wirral on more traditional care services, which leads to Wirral being a higher spend Council on disability services. This can also mean that outcomes achieved for people with disabilities do not always help them to achieve aspirational targets or to be as independent as they could be. This can be improved through better alignment, joining up planning, and collaboration between services, as evidenced in the report following a review of Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCPs) as detailed in appendix 2. The experiences of people supported across the life course would be greatly improved by focussing upon their aspirations and life goals in a more effective and clear manner.
- 1.2 A high proportion (22.2%) of people in Wirral live with some kind of disability (as defined by the Equality Act 2010). This is 2.8% higher than across the Northwest and 4.9% higher than England. This proportion is projected to increase, for example Delivering Better Value (DBV) analysis forecasts Special Education Needs Disability (SEND) caseloads in Wirral to increase from 2,700 in 2023, to 4,200 by 2028. Whilst not all of these young people will require support for Adult Social Care, a number of these young people will transition and with that we are likely to see increased expenditure.
- 1.3 Effectively supporting young people and their families through transition from Children's to Adult's Services will reduce reliance on more traditional and intensive accommodation-based services. It will enable effective planning to meet housing and employment needs alongside education and training opportunities. This should contribute to improving outcomes for individuals and families.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Not to implement the priorities from the All Age Disability Review. This would not deliver the best outcome for people with disabilities and their families/carers.
- 2.2 Not to implement the priorities from the All Age Disability Review. This would not deliver cost avoidance opportunities and will impact on the delivery of efficiencies identified for this service area set for 2025/26

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In June 2023, the All Age Disability Review identified several key priorities in the implementation programme which were approved at the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee. See Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Four main themes emerged from the All Age Disability Review, which were:-
 - Starting earlier from aged 14 - better joined up planning/collaboration;
 - Improved housing options and choices;
 - Better training, volunteering and employment options and choices; and
 - Improved, accessible & relevant information for people, parents, and carers.

- 3.3 The implementation programme set out in this report are aligned with the themes in section 3.2.
- 3.4 Each of the projects within the implementation programme has made significant progress and is on target for completion. A summary per project is detailed in 3.5 to 3.13.
- 3.5 **Coproduction of an All Age Disability Strategy 2024-2029.** A draft Strategy has been completed and is tabled for approval at the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee in March 2024. This Strategy has been coproduced with people from across Wirral, including people with disabilities, their parents and carers, practitioners, commissioners, volunteers, and other people who work in health and social care. The framing of the strategy has been based on desktop research into best practice examples. This has been tabled as a separate committee report.
- 3.6 **Coproduction of a 'Preparing for Adulthood' Transitions Protocol.** Transitions Protocols clearly set out the processes to be followed by professionals to support young people and their families to have a positive experience of transitioning to adulthood. A positive transition experience contributes to optimised outcomes for individuals. A comprehensive Transitions Protocol should consider transitions within and across education, health, and social care. To ensure each area is given sufficient focus, the development of a Transitions Protocol for Wirral is being approached in phases, beginning with transitions into Adults Social Care. In collaboration with experts by profession and experience, a framework for transitions has been considered and a set of principles coproduced, as detailed in Appendix 3. The framing of the protocol has been based on desktop research into best practice examples, as detailed in Appendix 4. This work is scheduled to be completed by February 2024 and is not available at the time of report writing.
- 3.7 **Capturing Thomas' experience storyboard.** A real-time story board of the benefits of personalised and systematic transition to and from services by Thomas and his family has been completed, as detailed in Appendix 5. We appreciate that not everyone's circumstances are the same, and Thomas' Story highlights that planning care and support around each individual can lead to greater outcomes. After all, Thomas fully moved into his apartment 3 weeks ahead of schedule. Undoubtedly, these benefits are not exclusive to housing transitions and person-centred planning is not a new idea. While Thomas made the move to his own apartment at 24-years-old, we know from other places that planning earlier gives individuals the best chance to achieve their personal goals.
- 3.8 **Conducting an Education, Health, Care Plan Desktop Review (EHCPs).** A snapshot into 25 anonymised EHCPs across age 14 – 18 years old has been completed, as detailed in Appendix 2. The review assessed for the coverage of the following areas:-
- Any evidence of input from Adult Social Care
 - Plans for training, volunteering and employment
 - Plans for housing options once 18 years old

This enabled us to establish a baseline of current practice, and to identify tangible opportunities for age-appropriate improvement in line with the incoming All Age Disability Strategy. It also analysed the costs of care and support packages for each individual, to make recommendations for improved outcomes for children, young people and their families and to forecast potential opportunities for cost avoidance. This report detailed in Appendix 2 should also be considered alongside the preparing for adulthood Transitions Protocol which is currently in progress.

- 3.9 **Contribute to the development of a Cheshire & Merseyside Learning Disabilities and/or Autism housing strategy.** A draft strategy and easy-read version have been completed and is tabled for approval at the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee in March 2024. This has been tabled as a separate committee report, Wirral have made significant contributions to the development of the strategy ensuring the feedback received from coproduction events for the development of the All-Age Disability Strategy have been incorporated to specifically focus on improved housing options and choices. The delivery plan will be developed and coproduced at a local level and should be captured in the wider programme to maximise opportunities and minimise duplication.
- 3.10 **Coproduction of a supported employment, volunteering and training strategy.** A draft strategy is on target for completion and is tabled for approval at the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee in July 2024. As part of strategy, there will be:-
- Clear vision, objective and outcomes underpinning by a one-page charter outlining ambition for Supported Employment in Wirral
 - Approaches to reducing barriers
 - Map of current supported employment options in Wirral and opportunities to improve
 - Demand and trajectory model, impact metrics and targets
 - Implementation plan
- 3.11 **Production of a demand analysis and management report.** Building on the work to date, a detailed report is on target for completion by end of March 2024. The report will:-
- Detail the current service model for young people transitioning into and preparing for adulthood
 - Determine the demand trajectory from Children's into Adults' Social Care
 - Make recommendations for improved 'ways of working' model for capturing a person's needs, strengths, aspirations, and desired outcomes as they prepare and transition for adulthood
- 3.12 **Coproduction of EHCP pathways** from Education, Health & Childrens Social Care into Adult Social Care. This work is scheduled to completed by June 2024.
- 3.13 **Coproduction of age-appropriate information, advice and guidance** for young people, parents & carers and professionals on Preparing for Adulthood (delineated by age 14-18). This work is scheduled to be completed by June 2024.

3.14 The implementation of the priorities will contribute strong evidence to support Care Quality Commission (CQC) assessment, in particular: -

- Working with People: assessing needs, supporting people to Live healthier lives, equity in experiences and outcomes
- Providing support: care provision, integration and continuity, partnerships, and communities
- Ensuring safety: safe systems, pathways, and transitions, safeguarding
- Leadership: governance, management and sustainability, learning, improvement, and innovation

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications to this report as the priorities implemented from All Age Disability review will look to align, pool, or repurpose existing resources to ensure improved outcomes for people with disabilities.

4.2 Earlier planning and improved ways of working will effectively manage future demands of children and young people as they prepare for adulthood. This will enable cost avoidance opportunities to be achieved through employment, housing options and community integration. These benefits can be used to offset the savings target for 2025-2026 as part of the current financial plan.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Council has a legal duty to assess the needs of people who may need care and support, to promote independence and wellbeing, and can apply discretion as to how to meet those needs identified.

5.2 All pieces of work as in line with statutory requirements, including The Mental Health Act 1983, The Care Act 2014, The Health, and Care Act 2022, Childrens and Families Act 2014 and the Equality Act 2010 and SEND code of practice.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 Recognising the current capacity challenges within the Council, resources have been realigned to support the deliverables of this strategy. Successful recruitment and selection have taken place to appoint an All Age Disability Strategic Manager and Officer. As the implementation progresses, if additional resources are required these will be subject to a separate report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 There is a minimal risk that priorities listed in 3.10 – 3.13 are not completed in a timely manner. These are mitigated by All Age Disability Partnership Board who provides oversight and monitoring function. Progress report of impact is reported to the Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee, Children's, Young People and Education Committee and Wirral Place Based Partnership Board as required.
- 7.2 There is a risk that improved 'ways of working' are faced with cultural habits and challenges. This will be mitigated by the coproduction of pathways from Education, Health & Children's Social Care into Adult Social Care for young people with disabilities to enable them and their families prepare for adulthood goals and aspirations.
- 7.3 There is a risk that key stakeholders do not engage in the change requires to improve outcomes for young people with disabilities as they transition through into adulthood. These are mitigated by strengthening relationships and reporting progress to the Adult Social Care & Public Health Committee, Children's, Young People and Education Committee and Wirral Place Partnership Board as required.
- 7.4 There is a risk that the preparing for adulthood demand trajectory not managed effectively within the resources available. This will be mitigated by joined up planning, collaboration, and regular monitoring by senior leadership teams.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Stakeholders and experts by experience have been engaged in the coproduction of All Age Disability Strategy.
- 8.2 Coproduction and collaboration will remain at the heart with key stakeholders and experts by experience when implementing change as a result of this programme of work.
- 8.3 The All Age Disability Review Implementation progress report will be shared also to the Children, Young People and Education Committee and Wirral Place Partnership Board.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been produced and will continue to be updated as part of the implementation of the proposed deliverables in Appendix 1. This is located here: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>
- 9.2 Consideration will also be given to the need for an EIA for any individual areas of work within the review where this is identified.
- 9.3 The PDF file may not be suitable to view for people with disabilities, users of assistive technology or mobile phone devices. Please contact the report author if you would like this document in an accessible format.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Consideration will be given to environmental and climate implications in the planning and implementation of the review, and in its recommendations.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Care provider organisations employ significant numbers of Wirral residents who contribute to the local economy. People with a disability having greater opportunity to reach their aspirations for work, housing, leisure, learning and volunteering will positively impact on the vibrancy and development of local communities and economies.

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APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 Work Programme Summary
- Appendix 2 Education, Health and Care and Plan Desk Review Report
- Appendix 3 Coproduced Transitions Protocol Principles
- Appendix 4 Transitions Protocol Best Practice Review
- Appendix 5 Thomas' Story

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Wirral Adult Care and Health Market Position Statement:
<https://www.merseysidemarketpositionstatement.co.uk/#section-1>

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered at the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee in accordance with Section 2.2(a) adult social care matters (e.g., people aged 18 or over with eligible social care needs and their carers).

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee	13 June 2023
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee	6 March 2023
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee	14 June 2022