

Report to: **Adult Social Care and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **13 November 2014**

By: **Director of Adult Social Care and Health**

Title of report: **Update Report: Supporting young people with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) in their transition from Children's to Adult Services**

Purpose of report: To provide an update on changes and work being undertaken in relation to the Transition Service, particularly the extent to which those with 'lesser needs' are covered by the service.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Consider and comment on the contents of this report

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report, other than the context of the County Council savings targets within the medium term financial plan: that the Council is required to make £60 million savings between 2013-16; and that Adult Social Care budgets will reduce by £27.8 million and Children's Services by £13.4 million in respect of this.

2. Background and Supporting Information

2.1. The Transition Service commenced in September 2011, primarily in order to improve the pathway and experience of young people with significant and complex disabilities and their families, in the move from Children's Disability Services to support from Adult Social Care (ASC). The service supports those young people 16-25 years with the most complex needs. Transition happens at different times for many of the services a young person may be in receipt of; education, health and social care all have different ages at which services and support change from children's into adult services which can make the process of growing up stressful and confusing.

2.2. In order to smooth that process, the Transition Service aims to be a single point of co-ordination for this move. As a means of developing life long plans that are sustainable, person-centred approaches and the use of personal budgets is the focus for young people as they move into adulthood. Currently, every individual supported by the Transition Service has a personal budget, with 82% of those people in receipt of a direct payment. The independent evaluation of the service in March 2013 reported a high level of satisfaction from young people and their families in their experience of the service. The Transition Service Pathway is attached as **Appendix 1**.

2.3. In February and March 2013, Children's Services Scrutiny Committee considered a report on supporting young people with SEND as they become adults. It concluded that *"The Transition Service appears to provide an excellent, "full" service to the relatively small group of those people with the most complex needs"*. At that time the service supported 112 young people; the current social care caseload in the Transition Service stands at 184. The Activity Scorecard for the Transition Service is attached as **Appendix 2**. However, the committee wished to gain a greater level of clarity regarding the move to adulthood of the wider cohort of young people with SEN who did not meet the criteria for the Transition Service/Adult Social Care, and understand what impact

the implementation of the new Children's Act and SEND reforms from September 2014 would have in terms of assisting this group of individuals.

2.4. As part of the service to that wider group, the SEN Connexions Service is commissioned by the Standards and Learning Effectiveness Service (SLES) within Children's Services and delivered currently via the Transition Service. This service supports a wider cohort of 1623 young people aged 16-25, with SEN, 230 of which either receive assessment and support from the Transition Service or working age ASC services. The service assesses education and support needs under the Learning and Skills Act (2000) or, from September 2014, under the new SEND Code of Practice.

2.5. It ensures all young people with a learning difficulty or disability who are likely to undertake post-16 education, training or higher education receive a robust assessment of their needs and makes appropriate provision to support those needs. This includes targeted placements in schools, specialist college provision and addressing issues of social exclusion such as supporting those young people who are at risk of being NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and who may require a supported pathway into employment. Under the new reforms, the service is completing Education Health and Care Plans for those young people with significant additional support needs.

2.6. The service also provides impartial information advice and guidance to young people and their families to assist them in making informed decisions about their learning opportunities and outcomes, and works closely with Children's ISEND services, schools, colleges and ASC to achieve this. It is anticipated that the Connexions Service will be managed from within the Assessment & Planning Service of Children's ISEND services from early 2015 to further support integrated planning for young people. The service will continue to have close operational links with the Transition Service and ASC. A summary of the Connexions Service key performance indicators is attached as **Appendix 3**.

3. ISEND reforms and future strategy for young people with SEND

3.1. The reforms to ISEND services from September have ensured that children, young people (up to 25 if they remain in education) and their families are at the centre of coordinated support from both Children's and Adult services, where appropriate, in the delivery of a tiered set of plans for young people based on an agreed set of outcomes for the individual. This ranges from SEN support plans in schools and colleges to Education Health and Care plans (EHCs) for those people with the most complex needs.

3.2. To support this new way of working, ESCC has developed its 'Local Offer' to young people and their families. The Local Offer is designed to be clear, comprehensive and accessible; to make services responsive to local needs; and is produced jointly with young people and their families, to provide an easily navigable route map regarding universal services, targeted services and specialist support available. It is web-based and has links to East Sussex '1 Space' to make it easier for people to find care, support and wellbeing services in the county. The directory has been designed to bring together into one place online groups and organisations offering services for people of all ages and all levels of need.

3.3. With input from the relevant ASC staff, there is a draft ISEND Joint Commissioning Strategy in place to support the implementation of the reforms. Within the strategy one of the key commissioning intentions is to continue to develop and refine the offer to 16-25 year olds, in partnership with East Sussex Parent and Carer Council, colleges, ASC and other key stakeholders, to ensure that the needs of this group are met within available resources.

4. Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendation

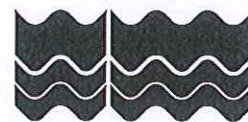
4.1. The Transition Service will continue to provide direct support to those young people with the most complex needs in East Sussex. In the next three years it is anticipated that a further 100

young people will move into the service from Children's Disability Services and require a high level of support from ASC. This will continue to place a significant pressure on the Community Care Budget as there will be no extra money available to meet the needs of this cohort and savings targets will need to be met across the local health economy. However, the ISEND Reforms and Local Offer will ensure that improved signposting and information is available for a much broader cohort of young people, providing access to targeted college placements, supported employment schemes and a range of housing options.

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Adult Social Care

The Transitions Pathway

Year 10
Age 14-15

June & July: Referral meetings are held

Those young people who do not qualify for the transitions service are informed about other sources of support

Years 11&12
Age 15-17

Transfer forms are completed

Any young people who do not qualify for the transition service are told about other sources of support (but their details are kept in case their needs change)

Information packs are sent out to families after young person's 16th birthday

The Transitions Service has a duty team and they will be your initial contact between the ages of 16 and 17. Those young people who are 'looked after' by the local authority (LAC), those who have protection plans in place, and those with multiple or complex needs, will normally have priority and be the first to meet with their worker

Year 13
Age 17-18

Worker makes contact with families

Worker visits all families for introduction and to get an initial picture of the young person's needs

Person-centred plans are started

The Adult Social Care assessment is completed and a carer's assessment offered (if eligible) Needs assessment and Resource Allocation System (RAS) are completed. Family told what their 'indicative budget' is (an estimate of what the personal budget will be)

Continuing Healthcare application made (if appropriate)

Key to abbreviations

RAS The Resource Allocation System (RAS) is a computer system that uses lots of different information to work out the approximate value of a personal budget.

If deemed eligible for assessment, this will be undertaken by a staff member from social care and continuing healthcare

If eligible for full funding social care may no longer be involved and full support may be provided by continuing healthcare

Support plan is started

Timetable for change of services agreed

From the age of 18 if the YP has finished education, or 19 if they are still in education, services and funding are changed as assessed needs require.

Year 14
Age 18-19

At age 19 the young person is referred to the locality service if settled

The young person comes back into the transition team if any changes to their support plan are needed. A second RAS is completed once the young person leaves education completely

25th birthday

If not done already, the young person is referred to the relevant locality for the final time

**Appendix 2
Transition Service Activity Monitoring**

Data Requested Date	17-Mar-14	10-Apr-14	20-May-14	13-Jun-14	11-Jul-14	13-Aug-14	10-Sep-14	13-Oct-14
CASELOAD								
Total number of cases on caseload	158	156	165	161	165	172	174	184
Caseload broken down by CIN and LAC								
Number of cases on caseload that are Children in Need (CIN)	128	124	132	131	132	139	142	152
Number of cases on caseload that are Looked After Children (LAC)	17	17	17	17	17	18	18	19
Number of cases on caseload that are both Children in Need (CIN) and Looked After Children (LAC)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of cases on caseload where it is unknown whether they are CIN or LAC	13	15	16	13	16	15	14	13
Caseload broken down by age								
Number of children on caseload that are aged 15	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	1
Number of children on caseload that are aged 16	35	31	33	32	30	27	22	28
Number of children on caseload that are aged 17	38	32	35	29	34	44	49	48
Number of children on caseload that are aged 18	45	50	52	49	48	43	40	43
Number of children on caseload that are aged 19	26	29	31	33	35	38	42	40
Number of children on caseload that are aged 20	12	11	11	14	15	16	17	20
Number of children on caseload that are aged 21	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
Unknown age		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
INFORMATION PACKS								
Number of information packs sent	95	94	98	89	98	94	96	98

Appendix 3

Connexions/SEN Key performance Data:

Caseload	Total
Total number of the SEN Connexions case load:	2024
Of that caseload, numbers aged 16-25 years old	1623
Numbers of 16-25 year olds, case managed within the Transitions Service or elsewhere in ASC	230
How many of those are 16-25 years are NEET	101
Of those that are NEET, what percentage are eligible for support from ASC	10% (10 young people)