

Report to: **Children's Services Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **19 September 2011**

By: **Director of Children's Services**

Title of report: **Transition from Childhood to Adulthood for Disabled Young People in East Sussex.**

Purpose of report: **To advise Members of the development of the new Transitions Service and the planned improvements to the Transitions Process from Children's Services to Adult Social Care.**

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Committee is recommended to note (1) the latest developments of the Transitions Service (supporting young disabled people between the ages of 16-25); and

**(2 the key governance work streams and issues related to those developments.**

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## **1. Financial Appraisal**

1.1 The Budgetary allocation for the delivery of the service has been agreed jointly between Children's Disability Services and Adult Social Care from within existing budgets- the breakdown is as follows:

• Adults Contribution full year:	£177,800.00
• Children's Contribution Full year:	£129,700.00
• SEN Careers support:	£164,200.00 (1.6.11 – 31.3.12)
• TOTAL:	<b>£471,700.00</b>

1.2 It is anticipated the service will commence in September 2011. Due to the slippage in commencing the service from April 2011 there will be an opportunity to make some in-year one-off savings on the divisional contributions to the budget, depending on when staff commence in post.

1.3 Funding and resources for core services such as education; transport; respite care etc will initially remain as they are within each division and young people within the Transitions Service will continue to access these services as appropriate. Agreements and protocols have been finalised to enable a more seamless access to services from both divisions between the ages of 16-25.

## **2. Supporting Information**

### Background & Aims of the new Transition Service

2.1 In order to provide a smoother transfer and lessen anxiety for families and young people it was agreed at the Transitions Project Board in June 2010 by the Director of Adult Social Care and Assistant Director of Children's Services to develop a Transitions Service for disabled young people and their carers from 16-25 years, in a partnership arrangement between Children's Services and Adult Social Care, adopting a Case Worker model to ensure consistency, focus and clarity throughout this period and central coordination of the transitions process.

2.2 It was also agreed that:

- The service will have clearly defined entry criteria.
- The service will be operationally managed via Adult Social Care with robust joint governance arrangements in place with Children's Services.
- Initially it was envisaged intake into the service would start on 1 April 2011 for those young people who are currently 17, 18, 19 in Children's Services plus 20, 21 year

olds already in Adult Social Care and receiving services. This plan was unavoidably delayed due to a formal consultation in Children's Services regarding a re-structure.

- Transfers into the service will now begin from September 2011 and will be those young people who reached their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday in the 11/12 academic year and every September thereafter. Those young people already with an allocated Adult Social Care worker from 18 will continue to receive their care and support via Adult Social Care.
- Five members of former Connexions staff have been transferred to the team under TUPE arrangements and will be working with young people from Year 10 onwards to improve education and training transitions.

Full Aims & Objectives for this service are attached as **Appendix 1**.

#### Key Priorities for the Transitions Service:

2.3 To improve the experience and life chances of young disabled people and their carers it is vital that the Transitions Service engage with young people at a much earlier stage to consider realistic and appropriate options. This early intervention is crucial in order to:

- Offer young people a wider range of accommodation options including increased access to supported accommodation as opposed to solely residential care.
- Support the move to self-directed support and personal budgets.
- Raise expectations across stakeholders in respect of education, training, work placements and employment.
- Engage key partner agencies such as Health and Housing to assist them to also appropriately support young people during the transition period.

#### Protocols & Governance:

- Protocols are completed for the Entry Criteria into the service. The revised Transitions Pathway illustrates how young people will be supported through their transition in a more timely and person-centred way and is attached as **Appendix 2**.

#### Safeguarding and Child Protection:

- For the first year following the transfer of cases into the Transitions Service, existing Child Protection cases will be retained with Children's Disability services. For new Child Protection concerns for the 16 and 17 year olds within the Transitions Service, Children's Disability Duty Services will take lead responsibility for the investigation with a Transitions worker allocated to maintain consistency. This arrangement will be reviewed as part of the year-one evaluation exercise. This protocol will be signed-off by the Assistant Director for Children's services, advised by the Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance. Of the 68 young people turning 18 who are due to move into the Transitions Service from September there is currently one young person who has a Child Protection Plan.

#### Looked after Children (LAC):

- A protocol is being finalised to allow the Transitions Service Manager delegated authority to oversee the management of Looked After Children via statutory legal processes. This will again be signed-off by the Assistant Director for Children's Services, advised by the Head of LAC. There are currently seven young people who are LAC due to court orders and these will be overseen via Children's Disability Services for the first year, pending evaluation.

### **3 Conclusion and Recommendations**

3.1 The Transitions Service will be subject to a full external evaluation following its first year of operation and the outcomes and recommendations of this evaluation will be implemented under the auspices of the Transitions Multi Agency Steering Group.

3.2 It is anticipated that the new service will provide a better experience of the transition from childhood to adulthood for young disabled people and their families.

3.3 The committee is recommended to note the development of the Transitions Service as outlined above and consider in the light of this report whether further scrutiny is needed.

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Local Members: All

Background Documents

None

## **APPENDIX 1:**

### **Aims & Objectives of the Transitions Service-this service model will aim to:**

1. Improve satisfaction rates among children, young people and families with the services provided, as measured through levels of service user complaints, and service user feedback/forums.
2. Support greater numbers of young people into independent living through appropriate supported accommodation.
3. Increase the range of local community services that are flexible and more personalised.
4. Increase the numbers of young people aged 16 and 17 with Self Directed Support.
5. Co-ordinate a consistent approach to implement person centred approaches to transition.
6. Provide a consistent and equitable service across the county with improved decision making and care planning and reducing the tensions and difficulties that currently exist during transition between services.
7. Provide a Service that will establish transition pathways for all young people with additional needs as described in the Transition Service access criteria.
8. Provide a Service that will support staff to acquire a range of skills, knowledge and expertise that will improve the service to young people and their families.
9. Provide specialist staff who will be better placed to plan with the young person and family and identify options that are cost effective and, appropriate for the presenting need thus reducing high cost placements and leading to better outcomes and improved resource management.
10. Provide a Service that will work with all partner agencies to ensure the best possible outcome for each young person.
11. Provide a person-centred process with earlier intervention by staff with specialised knowledge and expertise around transition issues resulting in improved outcomes for the young person, an improved service, targeted support and more young people being supported in the local community
12. Provide improved outcomes for young people and families that will be measured annually thus enabling ESCC to improve its performance in relation to national and local performance targets. To ensure these improvements are sustainable.

