

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**

Date: **21 October 2011**

Title of Report: **Transitions Service**

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

Purpose of Report: **To update the Panel on the new Transition Team**

Recommendation: **The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to note the contents of the report.**

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:	£471,700.00

1.2 The service became operational from the 1st October 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

2.1 Background & Aims of the new Transition Service:

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.

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 began in October 2011 for those young people who reached their 16th birthday in the 11/12 academic year and will continue 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.

2.2 Key Priorities for the Transitions Service:

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.

2.3 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.

2.4 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 October there is currently one young person who has a Child Protection Plan.

2.5 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. The protocol will cover:

- Training for the manager and team in relation to legislation, Operational Instructions, LAC policy and procedures
- Joint supervision and peer support arrangements between the Children's Disability managers and the Transition Team

3. **Conclusion and recommendation**

3.1 The service is now operational with staff in post and case transfers underway. Agreements and protocols have been finalised to enable a more seamless access to services from both the Children's Disability Service and Adult Social Care, for young disabled people between the ages of 16-25.

MATT DUNKLEY
Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Liz Rugg, Assistant Director, Children and Families, Tel: 01273 481274
Local Members: All
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None