

REPORT TO: Health & Wellbeing Board
DATE: 3rd October 2018
REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Adult Social Services
PORTFOLIO: Children, Education and Social Care
SUBJECT: Transitions in Care – Transition Team
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide The Health and Wellbeing Board, with an update on the work The Transition Team have completed since February 2017, when the team was created.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board agree recommendations designed to continually improve the Transition process and its outcomes for young people and their families.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The background to the creation of the Transition Team, was a small project group that was developed in 2016, with Adult Social Care, Operational Director support, working with a cross section of families. A questionnaire was sent out to 136 families and staff across Children and Adult services seeking their views on the Transition process and their experiences. The outcome of the questionnaire, identified that the transition arrangements were not fit for purpose, due to :-

- A lack of identified leads in both Adults and children's services
- Inconsistent engagement with children by professionals and that same engagement occurring at different times (at 14yrs, 16 yrs & 18 yrs)
- A perception (in adult services) that notification of those children in Transition was very 'last minute' and working within SEND policies.

3.2 In February 2017 the Transition Team was established, with Principal Manager support from Adult Social Care, 1 Social worker from Children services and 2 Social Workers from Adult Social Care. Working alongside Positive Behaviour Support Service and Continuing Health Care, complex needs, children's Nurse. The aim of the team is to have a joined up approach to transition from education, health and social care with increased and targeted co-ordination and communication from all agencies from a younger age. The age range, is to work with young people aged 14-25 years, depending on complexity and how much support they will require to go through the transition process. A transition Action plan was developed, based on the experiences of a young man and his family, which identified all the key areas that required improvement, before changes could be seen.

3.3 Initially all Operational managers across agencies met on a weekly basis to develop a Transition Protocol, (See Appendix 1), Assessment and Care planning documentation, including 'My Transition Plan', (See Appendix 2) and develop a referral and allocation process, which is through the normal, Halton Borough Council, contact centre, from families/professionals direct to the transition team or through the school reviews, which a member of the team will attend all reviews. A database of all young people who meet the criteria of having an Education and Health Care Plan has identified 294 young people, who will be eligible for support from the team and to date we have 125 young people, who have an allocated social worker, supporting their present and planning towards their future. As well as completing Carers assessments, with all families. The transition team are supported within the performance management system across children and Adult services.

3.4 The Transition Team, is a leading member of Halton's multi agency and carer led, 'Preparing for Adulthood', group, which supports and identifies, new and potential services that young people can access, across Halton, Including Education, employment, training and housing options.
In November 2017, a 'Transition' Event took place in Halton Stadium, with 'Halton Only', services present and a presentation by the one of the young people supported by the Transition Team.

3.5 In September 2017, The Transition Team, was awarded £92,827 from the DOH, following a bid to be involved with the 'Named Social Worker', national project, which ran until April 2018. The named Social Worker programme supported sites to make changes to social work practice and wider system conditions that will improve outcomes and experiences for individuals with learning disabilities, and for the people around them. In practice, the model has varied from one place to another but the ambition for all the sites was to :

- provide excellent person-centred support for individuals with learning disabilities and the people around them;
- Equip and support social workers to be enablers of high quality, responsive, person centred and asset based care;
- Build more effective and integrated systems that bring together health, care and community support and deliver efficiency savings.

The Transition Team employed 1 Social Worker and 1 Advanced social worker, and across the team we worked intensely with 17 young people aged 17/18 years, with complex needs. The NSW's took a proactive approach to working with young people, working alongside the children's health nurse and schools to identify the young people who needed support the most and prioritising them for intense intervention. They also worked closely with 'Halton Speak Out' and 'Bright Sparks', to understand what 'good transition' looked like from the young people's perspective and produce a video to support engagement. (see Appendix 3 for full evaluation of the pilot).

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

An accessible review document has been developed by the Transition Team, which

has proved successful, when coming to the review stage on how the young person feels about the support they have received from their social worker. (See appendix4)

- 4.1** The Transition Team to link into future Strategic and Commissioning plans across children's and Adult social care, to ensure all future gaps in service and service planning is identified.

5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The Evaluation of the NSW pilot identified a cost-benefit analysis which was completed by York Consultancy for the wider community, not just ASC, Revealed a Financial Return on Investment of 5.14 which means a £5.14 saving for every £1 spent on NSW support.
- 5.2** A continuation of the Transition team to work within the existing staff structure and continue with the approach of the NSW pilot, will require additional funding of £92,000 a year.
- 5.3** Identifying and developing local services to support families to stay local and preventing young people with complex needs going 'Out of area', to expensive specialist Provision

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

To Transition Team is supporting young people and their families, to have opportunities within their own community and working with housing and Occupational Therapy services, to ensure the right access and equipment is available .

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

The Transition Team is jointly providing and developing bespoke training and creative support plans, to find ways of supporting young people to access further Education in a meaningful way, whilst ensuring they stay local and not going to expensive , 'out of area', education and residential provision.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The Transition Team and the Children and Adult specialist health teams are working in partnership, to ensure that all young people are accessing the health services they require and preventing hospital admissions, to acute medical wards and secure mental health provision.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The Transition Team have worked on several cases, to support young people with Complex needs and behaviours that will challenge with the PBSS and the police, to support individuals, with person centred support plans from entering the criminal justice system/secure services.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The Transition Team, is working as a key member of the 'Preparing for Adulthood', Group, which is stimulating the local market to provide job and work place training opportunities.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 There is a risk of not being able to manage the intensity and demand of the on-going work with individuals and the rightly high expectations of the young person, families and other professionals have from the Transition Social Workers, after the funding ends.

7.2 Negative financial impact on the pooled budget

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Equal access for young people with complex needs to access their community, Education and training opportunities with support.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None within the meaning of the Act.