

Minutes of a meeting of the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 1 February 2024 in Council Chamber - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 4.35 pm
Concluded 7.55 pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	BRADFORD INDEPENDENT GROUP
Jamil Humphreys Ahmed Godwin Kausar Mitchell	Coates Nunns	Elahi

NON VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Susan Crowe	Bradford District Assembly Health and Wellbeing Forum
Trevor Ramsay	i2i patient involvement Network, Bradford District NHS Foundation Care Trust
Helen Rushworth	Healthwatch Bradford and District

Observers: Councillor Pollard

Councillor Jamil in the Chair

45. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

In the interest of transparency, Cllr Elahi declared that he worked for Horton Housing Association.

46. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted to review decisions to restrict documents.

47. REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no referrals received by the Committee.

48. **PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD AND TRANSITIONS PATHWAYS TO ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

The report of the Strategic Director, Adult and Social Care (**Document “S”**) informed the committee of the ongoing work to support 16–25 year old young people with complex disabilities and their families in Bradford whose support would continue to be provided from adult social care as they transition from children’s services.

A powerpoint presentation was provided to the Committee which gave an overview of the service. It was reported that the service vision was co-designed by service users and sets out the core principles embedded in policy and practice.

The presenting officer reported that preparation for adulthood service worked within children and young people ranging from year 16 to 25 to provide a range of support solutions around the following 4 areas.

- **Higher Education and/or employment** – Exploring different education and employment options. Support for becoming self-employed, apprenticeships, internships and/or planning for college/university
- **Independent Living** – Having a choice, freedom and control over their life. Control over where they live and who supports them if they do require support.
- **Community Inclusion** – To be an active part in their local community. Have friends and real relationships. Be an active citizen whose rights to participate in democratic and political life were respected.
- **Health** – To live as healthy a life as they want.

It was reported that the service had implemented a strength-based approach which kept the needs of each individual at the heart of the support planning, working alongside young people so that they had a say on what they wanted for their future.

A Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) social worker would be allocated at aged 16. The social worker would act as the key support in terms of transition, working toward the PfA outcomes and working with the young person, family and professionals regarding the changes in legislation, rights of the young person and helping to develop a plan as the person moves toward adulthood.

The presenting officer reported that there were strong working relations with the Childrens Trust, which was structured around a Transitions SLA (Service Level Agreement) that set out the role and responsibility of the two services, and how they should work together, while also setting out governance arrangements to address issues.

In a recent OFSTED inspection, in response to a focus Group on the Preparation for Adulthood arrangements and the Into Employment Programme for young disabled adults, OFSTED confirmed that there was an effective post-16 education and training offer as well as a broad range of employability programmes and supported internships for young people with SEND. A high proportion of young people with SEND made a successful transition into further education, employment or training.

Following a synopsis of the report the following Q&A session ensued:

- How would the budget cut impact the services already provided to young people?
 - There had been some financial savings but did not expect budget cuts to be catastrophic. The service was exploring ways of continuing to provide services to young people.
- With social care budget cuts, would young people be moved from independent living to residential care homes?
 - The service would never look into moving young people from independent living to residential care homes.
- Did the EHCP for the young person carry on into employment so that the individual's needs were met?
 - An ECHP would stop after the young person's education has stopped.
- Why were more businesses not open to offering apprenticeships to young people?
 - This was a key area of work; the service had reached out to many employers to create more opportunities for young people. The service has ensured that young people and their families were supported, and they were all working together and co-working with partners. Many young individuals had secured employment within the Council, but some were supported when approaching businesses.
- Further clarification was sought on care transitions.
 - Under the Care Act, adult social care had a duty to undertake an assessment, for any young person with a physical disability, or mental impairment, who was likely to have needs for care and support after they reach 18. These assessments were called, transitions assessments. Young people or their parents could request a transition assessment at any time prior to a young person's 18th birthday whether or not they had an EHCP and whether or not they were already in receipt of support from the Bradford Children and Families Trust. The transition assessment should support the young person to talk about their ambitions and hopes, to plan for the future and consider any support needs for their family member as they transition into being a carer of an adult with disabilities. The assessment was usually undertaken with input from education, health professionals and sometimes an independent advocate if the young person was unable to express their views without this additional support.
- Clarity was sought on NHS care levels for young people with mental health and or physical disability needs. Report suggested that at age 18, a young person had no contribution from the NHS, 20% of needs were met of 19- & 20-year-olds and young people over 25 only had a contribution of 12% from the NHS. NHS contribution needed to improve due to significant shortfall.
 - There was a different framework for young people up to the age of 18, by 19 years of age the young person would be transferred to the adult framework, but assessments were carried out to identify needs of the young person. The service supported around 600 young people in Bradford. Weekly meetings were held with the

NHS to stay up to date. The service was attending schools and picking up issues and working to address them much sooner with the involvement of a social worker.

- Was there a safety net for undiagnosed young people in places of education?
 - There were some measures that could be taken to provide support without a diagnosis. ADHD was the main concern; more work could be done around a child/young person being identified as having ADHD and on the waiting list.
- How were expectations of families managed and how long was the support in place for?
 - for a long time, it was important to have a diagnosis before any support was provided but this changed 3 years ago. Assessment of needs for the young person was carried out eventually but the service was led far more by the needs of the individual than diagnosis led. The new Autism and Neurodiversity social work team consisted of four workers, including those who identified themselves as being neurodiverse, supported by a Senior Occupational Therapy Practitioner and an Advanced Practitioner Social Worker who was also a qualified Approved Mental Health Professional. The team provided support to young people and adults who were neurodiverse in order to help them to better understand their condition and to secure and sustain relationships, education and employment. Since the team launched, it has supported 49 autistic people to improve their quality of life. Whilst 60% of those supported have been younger, aged between 16-25, the team has also found that 40% of those seeking support are older adults. The oldest person being supported by the team post autism diagnosis is 58 years old.
- Would the Neurodiversity team look beyond assessments for children and adults.
 - The Autism and Neurodiversity social work team was only launched in October 2023, it aimed to provide enhanced support, information and help to have more equitable access to universal services across Bradford and District.
- Members requested statistical information provided in appendix 2 for each ward.
 - This would be provided in the next report to the Committee.
- Was there any input from the youth service?
 - The team had identified young people with vulnerabilities by working closely with the youth services, which led to support plans being built.
- Members requested that there be more information in the next report on works with the youth services.
- How would you handle a situation where the young person declined support required?
 - The team would have conversations with the young person and its family to better understand the situation but would ultimately the team would respect the wishes of the young person. The young person was provided with a welcome pack that provided a comprehensive breakdown of all the services that were available to

him/her. The team would try various ways to communicate with the young person, the team would not just turn away because leaving the young person would be a great risk, with many that have life changing complex needs.

- Were there any assisted living facilities available to young people at universities?
 - The service had strong links with universities, and they made sure that young people had the right access to services. There were two packages available to the young people at university where the young person could stay at the same accommodation for the duration of the course.

Resolved:-

(1) That the report be noted and that officers be thanked for an informative report and attendance at the meeting; and

(2) That a further update be presented to the Committee in 24 months.

To be actioned by: Strategic Director, Adult Social Care and Health

(Elaine James – 01274 432900)

49. DAY ACTIVITIES

The report of the Strategic Director of Health and Wellbeing (**Document “T”**) provided an update to the Report of the Strategic Director of Adult Social Care and Health to the meeting of Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 15th December 2022.

The presenting officer reported that the Daytime Activities Provider List (DAPL) tender went live on the 12th April 2021 and will be in place until the 5th January 2031. Currently there were 28 providers registered on the DAPL, most of these providers are local to Bradford and offer a range of activities.

The early stages of the roadmap involved significant engagement work with stakeholders. This involved several face-to-face workshop style events for people supported by day activities, their family members and carers. Events were organised at various New Choices venues across the district and at different times ensuring maximum opportunity for people to get involved.

The workshops were facilitated by the Coproduction Partnership managed by Equality Together and supported by a peer group from People First Keighley and Craven District.

To ensure the input of New Choices staff two online workshops were undertaken on the 2nd and 7th of August 2023 through which representatives of New Choices staff had an opportunity to both contribute to shaping future services and ask questions about progress on the roadmap.

In addition to this specific and separate engagement event with family members

and carers was undertaken by the Commissioning Team on the 24th of August 2023 at which they also were able contribute to shaping future services and express any concerns they may have about the roadmap and procurement activity.

The purpose of all this engagement activity was to ensure that all stakeholders had a role in shaping future services. The new providers were Bradford Community Broadcasting, a well-established, local, volunteer led organisation and PossAbilities CIC a not for profit socially and culturally aware organisation with a long history of investing time and resources in the communities in which they worked. During the implementation period these Providers would be working with people that the service supported and their families to alleviate any anxiety caused by the change.

A Q& A session ensued:

- How do you manage service users when the providers were changed, and do you keep the services supported?
 - There were varied views in the engagement with people/service users, the service would ensure that the transition was smooth. If the provider was changed the activity would remain unchanged.
 - The Strategic Director Adult Social Care and Health provided details of the contract for new providers.
- Going from a provider that offered all the choices to a provider that had limited options, would there be limited activities for service users?
 - There were friendship groups co-designed by service users and same staff that would be transferred to the new provider, it was hoped that this would help make the transition easier. The new provider would deliver very similar services.
- Cannot see the benefit of having multiple providers.
 - We understand that this would mean more work for our project manager, but we believe this was the best way to deliver the service.
- What are the assurances that all providers would provide what was required of them?
 - as there was a rigorous process in place, the service is confident that activities would be provided as required.

Resolved:-

(1) That the report be noted and that a further update be presented to the Committee in 12 months; and

(2) That Members welcomed the opportunity to visit Daytime Activity projects.

To be actioned by: Strategic Director, Adult Social Care and Health

(Jane Wood – 01274 432924)

50. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

The report of the Deputy Director of Legal and Governance (**Document “U”**) presented the Committee’s work programme 2023/24.

No resolution was passed on this item.

Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER