

Report of the Strategic Director Adult Social Care to the meeting of Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 1st February 2024

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Subject: Preparation for Adulthood and Transitions Pathways to Adult Social Care

Summary statement:

This report informs Members of:

- Ongoing work to support 16-25 year-old young people with complex disabilities and their families in Bradford whose support will continue to be provided from adult social care as they transition from children's services.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

Equality objectives – work to support the transition of young people with the most complex disabilities from childrens services to adult social care contributes to the Council's corporate equality objectives in relation to services being designed and commissioned to be accessible, inclusive and responsive to the needs of people and communities).

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Health and Social Care

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report describes ongoing work to support 16-25 year-old young people with complex disabilities and their families in Bradford whose support will continue to be provided by adult social care as they transition from children's services.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Care Act 2014 places legal duties on local authorities to carry out transition assessments; the duties reflect best practice in relation to preparation for adulthood. The duty to carry out a transition assessment applies when someone is likely to have needs for care and support (or support as a carer) when they are 18. Sections 58-66 of the Care Act states that the wellbeing of each young person or carer must be taken into account as part of planning for transition to adult social care so that assessment and support planning is based around the individual needs, wishes and outcomes which matter to that person.
- 2.2 Preparation for adulthood describes the process of moving from childhood into adult life. The Preparation for Adulthood team in Adult Social Care seeks to ensure that young people aged 16-25 with physical and learning disabilities or neurodiverse conditions, and who are still attending education, have targeted support to meet their aspirations. The main focus of this support is around four areas: employment; staying healthy; independent living; and active citizenship including registering to vote and making positive contributions to the community.

3. MAIN REPORT

- 3.1 Transitions occur at various stages throughout a young person's life: from starting school, leaving primary school and starting secondary school, to preparing for independence and leaving home. Each transition can be fraught with uncertainty, fear, confusion, or embraced with enthusiasm and excitement about what happens next. These transitions coincide with physical, emotional and psychological developments that are coupled with changes to roles and relationships with family and friends, professionals and the wider community.
- 3.2 What makes the difference in how these transitions are experienced is the planning, understanding and information available to those facing transition. When it goes well children, young people and their families can look to the future confident that the individual and their families will be prepared for adult years with whatever guidance, support and community opportunities are available.
- 3.3 Bradford Adult Social Care works closely with Bradford Children and Families Trust, the local NHS and other partners to ensure that those young people who are likely to have eligible needs to transition into adult social care are well supported to do so. There is a Protocol in place which describes the arrangements between the Bradford Children and Families Trust and the Council's Adult Social Care

Department where a young person is likely to have continuing eligible needs for care and support beyond their 18th birthday. The pathway agreed between the Trust and Council is shown in Appendix 1.

- 3.4 For Adult Social Care, the transitions pathway is coordinated by the Preparation for Adulthood social work service. The service consists of four, locality social work teams and a duty team who are currently supporting 446 young people with the most complex disabilities and their families. This support usually is over a three period during which time the young person develops a plan for how they will be as independent as possible once they leave education. Each of the locality based Preparation for Adulthood teams are linked to each of the special schools across the District: Hazelbeck in East locality, Beechcliffe in Keighley, Southfield in South locality and High Park in West and Shipley. Social workers also provide support to young people with disabilities who are attending Shipley College, Keighley College and Bradford College and to those who are attending specialist education provisions across the District. As the young person leaves education and their transition is finalised, they are then supported to move into a long term support team in the Adult Disability social work service. There are currently 1,980 people with learning disabilities and neurodiverse who are supported by the long term support teams as is detailed in Appendix 2.
- 3.5 Where a young person is supported to transition with continuing care and support needs that will require a funded support plan from age 18, there are local forums in place which provide for case coordination between the Council, BCFT and the local NHS which enable joint financial decision making. These include:
- 3.5.1 The Learning Disabilities and Preparation for Adulthood Joint Quality Assurance Forum which is joint between the local NHS and Adult Social Care.
 - 3.5.2 The Mental Health Joint Funding Panel which is joint between the local NHS and Adult Social Care.
 - 3.5.3 The High Cost Placement Panel which is led by the Bradford Children and Families Trust and has input from Adult Social Care and Housing Services.

How the Transitions Process Works

- 3.6 Where a young person is already involved with children's social care and know to the Bradford Children and Families Trust (BCFT), their social worker will start the process of referral to adult social care sometime between the ages of 16 and 18. This will depend on individual circumstances and levels of need. If a young person is receiving support from a specialist team within BCFT, the Children with Complex Health and Disabilities Team (CCHDT), a social worker from the adult social care's Preparation for Adulthood service will usually become involved to start supporting the young person and their family from age 16 to plan for what support may look like when they leave education after the age of 18. Approximately half of all young

people with complex disabilities who are newly supported by adult social care each year are referred in through this route.

- 3.7 However, under the Care Act, adult social care has a duty to undertake an assessment, for any young person with a physical disability, or mental impairment, who is likely to have needs for care and support after they reach 18. These assessments are called, transitions assessments. Young people or their parents can request a transition assessment at any time prior to a young person's 18th birthday whether or not they have an Education, Health and Care plan and whether or not they are 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 is usually undertaken with input from education, health professionals and sometimes an independent advocate if the young person is unable to express their views without this additional support.
- 3.8 **Mental Health Transitions Pathway:** For young people who do not have a physical disability or learning disability, but who have a mental health condition which requires medication and Consultant review through the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) should receive support from age 17 ½ from a worker in CAMHS to complete their transitions assessment and plan. Their transition pathway is from CAMHS into the adult Community Mental Health Teams (CMHT), which are managed by Bradford District Care Trust. Young people who are in receipt of support from CAMHS and who have been detained under the Mental Health Act, or under Section 20 of the Children's Act, out of the Bradford Local Authority Area, but who are registered with a Bradford GP, are supported to transition into the CMHT by a social worker from that service who completes a Care Act assessment by their 18th birthday.

Areas of Service Development

- 3.9 In October 2022, the Council appointed to the new role of Assistant Director of Adults with Disabilities. This post brought together for the first time the management of the operational social work teams for adult with enduring mental health needs within the CMHT and adults with learning disabilities. Led by the Assistant Director, services have begun to be realigned since 2022 to establish an integrated adults with disabilities service which provides for a single integrated pathway to prepare young people with physical disabilities and those young people with autism or neurodiverse conditions for adulthood pathway. The Transitions Protocol between the BCFT and the Bradford Council Adult Social Care is currently being updated to reflect this realignment. Changes to the preparation for adulthood pathway include:

- 3.9.1 The establishment from October 2023 of a dedicated social work team for Autism and Neurodiversity to provide post diagnostic support for autistic young people from 16+ and adults. This is set out in more detail in paragraph 3.8 below.
 - 3.9.2 The transfer of case coordination for adults with physical disabilities from the older people social work teams into the learning disability locality social work teams to re-establish these as all age disability social work locality teams.
 - 3.9.3 A review of the pathway and support offered to care leavers and those at risk of exploitation as a result of living with the impact of significant trauma.
 - 3.9.4 A review of the social work resources within the Community Mental Health Team and social care support for young people open to CAMHS which is ongoing and due to report later this year.
- 3.10 The Autism and Neurodiversity social work team was launched in October 2023 aiming to provide enhanced support, information and help to have more equitable access to universal services across Bradford and District. The implementation plan on a page and the pathway for this new service is included in this report as Appendix 3. The new Autism and Neurodiversity social work team consists of four workers, including those who identify themselves as being neurodiverse, supported by a Senior Occupational Therapy Practitioner and an Advanced Practitioner Social Worker who is also a qualified Approved Mental Health Professional. The team provide support to young people and adults who are 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.
- 3.11 A further key development which supports the new Autism and Neurodiversity social work team has been the expansion of the supported employment offer for young people with learning disabilities, autism and neurodiverse conditions. There are two main projects which this work focuses on. The Into Employment Project has been previously presented. The Into Employment project provides support each year to up to 12 young people with the most complex disabilities to access a 12 month supported paid internship programme including carved job placements within the Council. A new scheme which has been developed to provide a pathway for young people supported by the Autism and Neurodiversity social work team is the Employment Matters project. This project is funded by the Department of Work and Pensions to support autistic adults through job coaching, job search and on the job support once in employment. In the first year 59 autistic adults have been supported through Employment Matters.
- 3.12 The key principle behind supporting transition is to support and enable the young

person to feel confident that their voice is heard and is central to all decision making about their future. To ensure this is clear focus for all the work of the Preparation for Adulthood Service, young people are provided with information produced by local user led organisations about their right to register to vote from age 17. Social workers ensure that any young person who wants this support has access to flexible support in the run up to and on polling day to enable them to both register, and if they choose to do so to vote in person. During the 2023 Local Government Elections in Bradford this support included 6 young people with disabilities who were first time voters attended the Count at Sedbergh Leisure Centre to see the results. A Promote the Vote event is due to be held at the City Hall during March with young people from the Special Schools across the District with up to 60 disabled young people in attendance learning more about civic life and democratic participation in Bradford and District.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 As set out in Appendix 2, the annual cost of health and social care support plans for the 1,980 adults with disabilities in receipt of long term support is £84.5M gross. The local NHS contributes £10.5M under the NHS Framework for Continuing Health Care and Funded Nursing Care.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 The transitions pathway into Adult Social Care long term support forms part of the wider health and social care system which is governed through the Healthy Minds Board and associated system wide improvement programme. The priorities for the Healthy Minds includes: to ensure people are prepared for adulthood and have access to good housing, employment and training. The Senior Responsible Officer for the programme of work is the Assistant Director Commissioning Adult Social Care.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 The Council's approach towards coordinating the transition of young people with the most complex disabilities as they leave education from children's social care to adult social care meets the requirement of the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014 and associated Care and Support (Assessment) and Care and Support (Eligibility) Regulations.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, reaffirms that people with disabilities have equal rights before the law and enjoy legal capacity to make decisions about how they live and enjoy their lives on an equal basis with all other people. The Human Rights Act conveys positive obligations on Local Authorities in England to uphold Article 12 rights in decision affecting how young people with the most complex disabilities are supported to

prepare to become adults.

7.2 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 2015 apply to the system for disabled children and young people and those with Special Educational Needs, so that services consistently support the best outcomes for them. The reforms aimed improve the system from birth to age 25 through the development of coordinated assessment and a single Education, Health and Care Plans; improving cooperation between all services responsible for providing education, health or social care; and giving parents and young people greater choice and control over their support. The SEND Code of Practice focuses on the following themes: Working towards clearly defined outcomes; Engagement and participation of parents and young people; Joint Commissioning and developing a Local Offer of support; Coordinated assessments and Education, Health and Care Plans; and Personalisation and personal budgets. These are consistent with the Care Act and Care and Support Statutory Guidance 2015.





8. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members of the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee note contents of this report received from officers in relation to preparation for Adulthood and Transitions Pathways to Adult Social Care.

9. APPENDICES

- 9.1 Appendix 1 - Transitions Pathway
- 9.2 Appendix 2 - People supported / cost of care
- 9.3 Appendix 3 - Neurodiversity Service
- 9.4 Appendix 4 – Case Studies

Appendix 1 – Transitions Pathway



Bradford: Transition from children’s to adults’ social care					
Primary need	Physical disability	Learning disability	Autism / neurodiversity	Mental health	Sensory needs
 Support under the Children’s Act 					
Age 14+	Children’s Complex Health or Disabilities Team (CCHDT)	Children’s Complex Health or Disabilities Team (CCHDT)	Children and Families Team	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)	Sensory Needs Service
Age 16+ (transition period)	Children’s Complex Health or Disabilities Team (CCHDT)	Children’s Complex Health or Disabilities Team (CCHDT)	Children and Families Team	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)	Sensory Needs Service
		Transition Care Act Assessment (Preparation for Adulthood focus)			
		Preparation for Adulthood Service			
 Support under the Care Act 					
Age 18+	Physical Disability Team (PD)	Learning Disability Locality Teams	Autism and Neurodiversity Team	Community Mental Health Team (CMHT)	Sensory Needs Service

Appendix 2

Age Banding	Number of People Supported	Annual Cost of Council funded social care support	Annual Cost of NHS Contribution to meet primary health needs
18	74	£807,632	£0
19	89	£1,772,872	£424,738
20	59	£1,248,645	£361,057
21-25	313	£8,206,529	£2,150,787
Over 25	1445	£61,967,096	£7,583,119

Neurodiversity Service – Implementation Plan



	Activities			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a dedicated Neurodiversity Team May - Sept 2023 • 5 FTE SW (resourced within AWD service) • 1 FTE AP (resourced within AWD service) • 1 FTE OT senior practitioner (Existing OT Service) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 2023 - March 2024 Review (183 cases not currently allocated to a worker ready for transfer) • March 2024 – Sept 2024 Transfer of reviewed cases and begin reviews of existing allocated cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 2024 – December 2024 • Review and transfer existing cases with an allocated worker • Review of SEND and PFA pathway effectiveness • Review of impact of change to Autism Pathway 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live 1/09/2023 	<th>Outcomes</th>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated team for Autism & ADHD to pick up existing cases • Additional capacity in line with the anticipated demand arising from reduction of diagnostic waiting lists – pre & post diagnostic support and the new Autism Hub. • PLUS [contingency]: Review (183 cases not currently allocated to a worker for later transfer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with OTs to streamline functional and sensory therapy assessment pathways. • Clarity over defined cohorts, protocols and clear criteria for service and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity over defined cohorts, partnership protocols and clear criteria for service • Implementation of audit recommendations following review of transitions pathway 	

Neurodiversity Team Pathway

Initial Referral - Referral form is completed and emailed to IAH or a telephone call is made to IAH with the relevant information

Screening - the referral is screened by a duty worker to establish eligibility for the ND Team

Skilled conversation - If eligible a conversation is had with the person to establish if their needs can be met by our offer of ND services in the community & other creative solutions

Professional Support - Individuals are allocated a ND worker and where needed Assessment and creative support planning will be completed

Review individual outcomes - a review is undertaken to establish if the person's outcomes and aspirations have been met or achieved

Closure - Where the person is happy their outcomes and aspirations have been achieved and no longer need an allocated ND worker the case will be closed

Annual Review - Individuals who have on-going support via a personal budget will be reviewed annually by the ND Team