

Meeting: Cabinet
Date: 16 September 2024
Classification: Part 1
Key Decision: No
Title of Report: Transition Working Party report

Executive Director: Michael Marks, Executive Director, Children & Public Health
Report Author: Liz Hunt, Director of Education, Early Years and Inclusion
Executive Councillor: Cllr Laurie Burton, Cabinet Member for Children, Young people and SEND

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. On 13th July 2023 the Council heard the motion “Improved transition planning for children and young people with additional needs” proposed by former Cllr Cowdrey and seconded by Cllr Sadza. It was agreed to establish a Transition working party, jointly chaired by the then respective cabinet portfolio holder, former Cllr Boyd and Cllr. Moyies.
- 1.2. This report summarises the outcomes of that working party, who met once to clarify the scope of the working party, given the subsequent Area SEND Inspection and the publication of the SEND Strategic Action plan and then, on a second occasion, to confirm the conclusion of its work following the publication of the Transitions Protocol for Children and Adults which is now available on Livewell Website. The working party helped to clarify the transition protocol between Children’s Social Care and Adults’ services.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1. Note the conclusion of this working party.
- 2.2. Note that this report will close the work of the working party.

3. Background

- 3.1. The term “transitions” in education is an umbrella term used to describe any change in provision based on a child or young person’s (CYP) age (for example, moving from primary to secondary school, from one classroom to another as well as specific service to service transitions). Schools and

settings are responsible for “education transitions” for most CYP. In addition, the LA has specific responsibilities for CYP who have an Education Health and Care Plan or who are deemed vulnerable.

- 3.2. In the context of Children’s and Adults’ Social Care services, Transition is a formal process describing the transition at age 18 for CYP who are supported by Children Services who will need support from Adult Social Care. The working party agreed to focus its work on Transition between Children Services and Adult Services and, as an outcome, to ensure that a clear protocol was available for families on the livewell site.
- 3.3. The broader umbrella transitions were to be captured through the work of the SEND Area Partnership’s Strategic Action Plan which highlighted the need to develop a Preparing for Adulthood strategy. As part of this work, an outline of the current support offered by the Local Authority’s Connexions service was provided. The Preparing for Adulthood strategy is planned as an action for 2025 and will be reported through to the Health and Well-being Board and SEND Area Partnership Board as part of the Council’s assurance processes.
- 3.4. Working Party’s Response to the Motion

The motion raised 4 specific areas for the working party to consider. Below are the findings and conclusions of the working party in response to the 4 specific issues covered in the motion

- i. **To ensure that assessments and diagnoses made by a recognised professional(s) in Health, Education and Social Care are included as valid evidence in formulating plans for children with additional needs, and, in particular in relation to an Educational Health Assessment (EHA) or Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).**

The current assessment process is described in the Government’s SEND Code of Practice guidance and related Child and Family Legislation which stipulates clearly as to which agencies and professionals can undertake assessments. All current assessments are made by appropriately qualified professionals. Several of the professions involved are covered by “protected profession” legislation, (for example, therapists, medical professionals, and Educational Psychologists) or require those providing advice to be registered with a professional body (such as social workers or teachers). Where advice is provided by trainees (such as Educational Psychologists and social workers) their work is supervised by appropriately qualified senior managers.

- ii. **To clearly identify which professionals would be recognised and what qualifications are required.**

This is covered by the response in 1 above. It was agreed that decisions as to which qualifications are recognised are not within the Council’s powers but pre-determined by the registrants’ professional bodies. However, the Council does ensure that those giving advice are appropriately registered.

- iii. To ensure that any EHA or EHCP informs a post 16 transition plan for young people to comply with legal requirements post 16 and reviewed at age 18 to link with any needed adult health or social care services.**

The working party was informed that the legal requirements regarding EHAs and EHCPs are set out in the respective Acts and Codes of Practice and it was confirmed that 2023 Area SEND Ofsted/CQC inspection found no evidence that the Council was not compliant with its duties.

The Code of Practice recommends that planning for transition (often referred to as Preparation for Adulthood, PfA) starts in year 9 (at about age 14). This enables parents, and the young person themselves, to think about future needs, possible placements or other issues which will impact on the young persons' ability to live as independently, and to be as economically independent, as possible. Young people with EHC Plans at age 14 have a PFA Annual Review.

Following on from the Council Motion, the Local Area SEND Strategic Action plan highlights in recommendation 2, the local area's intention to develop a Preparing for Adulthood strategy. Currently, information about Preparing for adulthood is found on the local offer:

[Preparing for Adulthood – Livewell Southend](#)

The working party therefore agreed that point 3 of the motion would focus on the formal process of transition assessment that happens for children and young people who are known to children services and are able, should needs warrant, to transfer to adult social care services. An agreed protocol for this process is now in place which is published on the Livewell site. This protocol is found in appendix 1.

- iv. To develop a clear business case which identifies appropriate resource to meet the needs of those young people who do not fall within statutory legislation around transitions who might experience some difficulties and or requirements for reasonable adjustments. This would include, amongst others, those previously known to social care or early help. Those not on school role, those in education other than schools and those with additional needs or identified barriers to education employment or training, who wouldn't be picked up by any other statutory process.**

The working party understood the Council's statutory duties in relation to transition and recognised that this motion seemed to go beyond these duties. It was agreed that it would be important not to give rise to any confusion in regard to responsibilities, some of which schools and settings hold rather than the Council. The working party asked for details as to the support the LA Connexions service offered and this was provided to members.

It was agreed that clarity would be better achieved by the Council having a Preparing for Adulthood Strategy and that this work would be taken forward within the SEND Area Partnership work as detailed in the SEND Strategic Action Plan

4. Reasons for Decisions

4.1. No decision

5. Other Options

5.1. N/A

6. Financial Implications

6.1. N/A

7. Legal Implications

7.1. N/A

8. Policy Context

8.1 N/A

9. Carbon Impact

9.1. N/A

10. Equalities

10.1. N/A

11. Consultation

11.1. N/A

12. Appendices

12.1. **Appendix 1**: Transition Protocol

13. Report Authorisation

This report has been approved for publication by:		
	Name:	Date:
S151 Officer	Joe Chesterton	06 08 24
Monitoring Officer	Susan Zeiss	08 08 24
Executive Director(s)	Michael Marks	05 08 24
Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Cllr Laurie Burton	08 08 24

