

ITEM 8

RESPONSES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE AND THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LIFE COURSE WORKING GROUP

DATES OF MEETINGS:

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL - 27 FEBRUARY 2015

ADULT SERVICES AND HOUSING POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL - 6 MARCH 2015

BACKGROUND

The Children and Young People's Policy and Scrutiny Panel on 14 November 2014 and the Adult Services and Policy and Scrutiny Panel on 21 November 2014 received verbal reports that both panels had accepted the recommendations from the Life Course (Cradle to Grave) Working Group. The response was outlined to the Panels and following the meetings, the formal written response was circulated to Panel Members.

That the Executive Member for Adult Care and the Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services be recommended to approve.

RECOMMENDATION

(i) That officers continue to develop and implement effective pathways for disabled children with complex needs to take them through to adulthood, to ensure that their progress through the health, education and social care cycles brings about the best outcomes for them and their families, with the aim of developing a near seamless pathway from childhood to adulthood, with particular emphasis on transition protocols;

Response

There is a transitions protocol for young people with complex needs which has been reviewed.

The 14 – 25 Project is beginning to develop the design of a new service with a clear pathway with particular emphasis on transition. The SEND Board is co-ordinating work on improving this pathway.

RECOMMENDATION

(ii) That officers further explore the funding implications of the Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans introduced by the Children and Families Act with particular regard to the provision for the age range 18-25 years;

Response

The budget implications of any 14 – 25 service will be explored in more detail with 2 major aims:

1. To achieve efficiencies in working together more closely.
2. To provide a clear simpler pathway for of direct payments.

RECOMMENDATION

(iii) that officers further explore, consider and report back on the challenges and benefits of a developing the role of a 'key worker' for disabled children with complex needs to take them through to adulthood, with the aim of developing a near seamless pathway from childhood to adulthood;

Response

This is complex with impact on services to parents, team structures, budgets and needs to be very carefully managed. This is being considered within the work exploring the 14 – 25 service.

RECOMMENDATION

(iv) That having regard to the success of the Older People's Champions Group, officers explore and develop an engagement process for the parents of disabled children to enable them to communicate directly with Members;

Response

This is being progressed. Alun Davies is developing proposals for parents of disabled children and children with SEN champions group. This group will be a similar model to the older people champions group involving members and parents of disabled children and children with SEN. The group will be fully integrated in to existing co-production and engagement processes. It is hoped the group will hold its first meeting in June 2015.

RECOMMENDATION

(v) That officers explore the possibility of broadening the scope of the post in housing services currently working primarily with people with a learning disability to cover people with a physical or sensory impairment;

Response

A new officer is in post with existing remit covering young people with learning disabilities and mental health issues. This post does not have the capacity to expand to young people with physical disabilities but this will be further explored within the 14 – 25 work. In the interim the officer attends the transitions meetings and will be able to give advice as required and link people to housing colleagues.

RECOMMENDATION

(vi) That the report and recommendations be referred to the People and Communities Governance Group;

Response

The report will be taken back to the next SEND Board. This is the coordinating board for People and Communities and CCG in relation to this work, so is the most appropriate board to receive the report and recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

(vii) That officers report back on the above matters in six months' time to the Children and Young People's Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel and the Adult Services and Housing Policy and Scrutiny Panel;

Response

This is agreed and officers will return with an update to Panels as recommended.

RECOMMENDATION

(viii) That this working group endorses the outcomes of the Respite Care and Short Breaks Working Group.

Response

This is noted and for information, Councillor Blatchford also endorsed the recommendations from the Respite Care and Short Breaks Working Group.