

North Somerset Council

REPORT TO THE ADULT SERVICES AND HOUSING POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE OF MEETING: 28TH JUNE 2018

SUBJECT OF REPORT: TRANSITIONS BETWEEN CHILDRENS SOCIAL CARE AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE

TOWN OR PARISH: NORTH SOMERSET

OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: HAYLEY VERRICO / MARTIN HAWKETTS

KEY DECISION: FOR DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

For Panel consideration and comment

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report covers the transition of those young people who require a move from children's social care to adult social care by virtue having identified eligible needs under the Care Act (2014).

It is recognised that there is a need for 'ringfenced' adult social care resources to focus on the increasing cohort of transitions cases; and improved communication and processes to manage these cases.

To support the new vision for Adult social care, there will be a workforce restructuring exercise to support the new ways of working, a full consideration of transitions work will form a part of this restructure and this will inform the final detail of any model of service. A similar exercise will need to be undertaken in children's services

2. POLICY

Policy and guidance are in place around transition cases.

3. DETAILS

Transitions to adulthood is a complex area of work across differing legal and regulatory frameworks which involve multiple agencies.

The context for this work is:

- Research indicates that the degree of complexity in transitions cases will continue to rise with the result that the local authority will need to support more individuals with more complex needs into adulthood.
- Practice guidance indicates that early planning for adulthood from age 14 is essential to manage the demands and expectations of ongoing lifetime care into adulthood (National Institute Clinical Excellence guideline [NG43] Published date: February 2016)
- There is a need to re-examine current referral systems and processes for the efficient transfer and tracking of work between Children's and Adults social care services, and to inform planning for the strategic commissioning of services

A more focused use of resources in adult care services will be in line with the following principals:

- Any service model for transitions should be based on a transition to 'stability' rather than to a defined age. A specific set of criteria will need to be developed to indicate what the point of 'stability' will be. It will then be the expectation that any case will be transferred into a usual adult care pathway.
- Any transitions resource in whatever form will require clear reporting lines into adult care services to ensure links to adult care and compliance with legal and regulatory frameworks; and similarly, this will be the case with children's services.

There are approximately 470 cases at any one time in the age range 14 to 25 which may require assessment, planning and care and support services from Adult social care to facilitate the transition to adulthood process; it should be noted that for many of these young people transitions planning through school and college and will therefore not be eligible for funded support from adult social care, but there remains a legal duty on the part of the service to assess and offer advice and guidance. The case numbers represent a range of needs from those who will require short term information and guidance to young people with profound and multiple disabilities who will require very significant care and support.

The primary support reasons recorded for these cases suggests a split of approx. 60% Learning Disability cases, 20% Adult Care (Physical Disabilities) and 20% Mental Health. The overall picture of transitions cases does suggest a predominantly complex picture of need, and alongside the need for the necessary skills to manage complex family dynamics and expectations indicate that professional qualified staff should form most of any transitions resource. The position of Occupational Therapy services between children's and adult's services will also need to be taken into account.

It is estimated that this would equate to 6 Full time equivalent staff (1 managerial or lead post, 4 social work posts and 1 support post)

4. CONSULTATION

When the finalised workforce model for adult care is known, there will need to be the usual 30-day consultation with staff.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are unlikely to be any financial implications, as this will not involve any additional staffing expenditure

6. LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

N/A

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

N/A

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

N/A

9. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

None Noted

10. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The deployment of this staffing resource may be in many different forms; ranging from a jointly managed and co-located team composed of both children and adults staff, to a more 'virtual' type service across the Directorate. The various options and models need to be more fully explored and considered by the Directorate leadership team.

AUTHOR

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