

North Somerset Council

Report to the Adult Services and Housing Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Date of Meeting: 21/3/2024

Subject of Report: Update on the management of 'Transitions' between Children's social care and adult social care.

Town or Parish: N/A

Officer/Member Presenting: Martin Hawketts

Key Decision: NO

Reason:

Report provided for update and information.

Recommendations

Report provided for Information.

1. Summary of Report

This report provides an overview on the following:

- The overall process and governance of 'transitions'
- Demand and financial impact
- Planned actions and mitigations.

2. Policy

From the Directorate statement and risk register:

A-6.2 Further embed an effective transitions pathway: There will be a seamless transition and needs led support and services for young people.

A-RISK5 Risk around resources to address the increasing demand in complex transitional cases (also in children's directorate).

3. Details

The overall process and governance of 'transitions'

In North Somerset the adults 'transitions' team was established in 2019 as a 'restructure' of exiting adult care resources, and is currently a 'sub team' of the 'Community team for people with Learning disabilities' and is overseen by a Senior Social Worker (Grade 9)

having a staffing establishment of 5.42 Full time equivalent (a mixture of social work qualified and support staff)

The current active team caseload (at the date of this report) is 112 allocated cases, averaging approx. 20 cases per full time worker (it should be noted that the team works with individuals up to age 25)

Young people are identified and referred by Children's social care to adult social care (i.e. between directorates). The ambition is that this is done at age 14. These young people are then placed into a 'tracking list' by the Transitions team. There is a referral form in place for use by Children's social care. Adult social care accepts individuals who are eligible under the criteria laid out in the Care Act 2014.

The Transitions teams have a training offer to Children's social care to support knowledge of adult services which is run regularly. We have established good working relationships between the Directorates.

Active work with families usually takes place between the ages of 16 and 18 years old, there may be several assessments during this period as needs can vary greatly as young people mature. The final assessment is normally completed within 6 months of 18th Birthday for accuracy.

Whilst the ambition is for all young people to be identified early, this is not always possible – for example Children and Adolescent Mental Health services do not usually transfer to Adult Mental health services until after 17 years of age.

In addition to the referral process the Transitions team undertake some proactive identification work of young people for example we have a yearly meeting with both SEND schools (Ravenswood and Bay tree) on a yearly basis to identify school leavers.

Currently 95% of all referrals are received into the team prior to a young person's 17th Birthday.

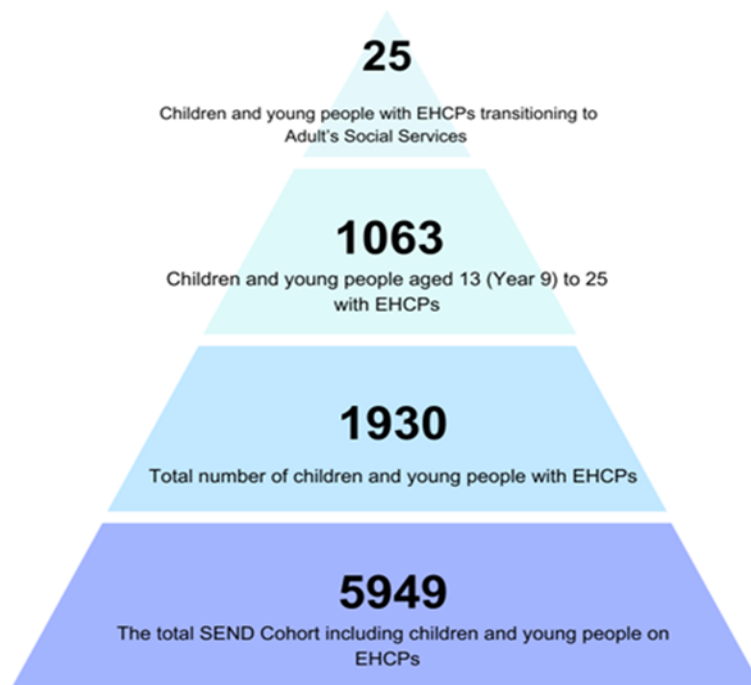
There is information contained on the 'local offer' regarding 'pathways to adulthood'; which can be viewed here:

<https://nsod.nsomerset.gov.uk/kb5/northsomerset/directory/advice.page?id=EeD-Z19i0ws>

In order to improve the process, there is a plan to establish a formal 'Pathways to adulthood panel' where individual young people can be escalated and discussed in greater detail; and specific plans and service identified – this will be chaired at Head of Service level and include a range of partners. The specific terms of reference are in development. This should be in place by April 2024.

Demand and financial impact

The overall number of young people who 'transition' across from Children's to adult services is a comparatively small number. The below diagram was produced in February 2024 by IMPOWER (consultancy working with children's services) which provides a useful illustration of the scale of the work. The numbers quoted here should be as broadly illustrative of the scale of transitions to adult social care per annum comparative to population. (EHCP – Educational Health and Care Plan)



The level of acuity of need, and therefore cost of care and support for the young people is high.

Setting a National Context for these costs, In 2022 the Local Government association referred to 'broken markets' stating that that:

- 8 of ten largest children's providers have a private equity involvement, the trend is spreading to adults.
- Spending on children's residential care rose by 85% between 2015 and 2022.
- Profit from top 20 providers of care homes/fostering amount to 20% of income.

A lack of suitable housing including supported housing is nationally recognised, and reflective locally. NHS England has recently published an action plan: '*Building the Right Support for People with a learning disability and Autistic People*', with a key action to increase the provision of supported housing, acknowledging that the Government needs to increase their understanding of the size, cost and demand of the supported housing sector.

Locally we have 201 units of supported living across 48 schemes, with an average capacity of 98%.

In a recent analysis we have considered 125 individuals known to the Transitions team since 2020. Of these - 44 individuals required a funded care and support package at age 18 by virtue of Care Act eligibility. 6 care packages ceased within 12 months, 25 were within what could be described as a broadly average range. Critical, 13 individuals required care and support averaging £4073 weekly, an overall annual commitment of 2.76 million. This was because of:

- High levels of 1:1 support to address the management of 'risk' and 'behaviors' because of significant learning disability, mental health presentations or significant

trauma. This can lead to potential 'over prescription' of care services because of providers taking a highly 'risk adverse' approach – potentially as result of lacking skilled staff or access to an appropriate accommodation which provides a suitable longer term stable housing environment.

- Lack of market and accommodation options can lead to singular choices in provision where negotiation of costs is often moot – there are material differentiations between children's and adult providers based on regulation which can cause costs impacts on transitions; and often change cannot be facilitated until there is a switch in providers.

It is predicted that there are between 13 and 16 individuals currently between the ages of 14 and 18 (who will require transitions into adult social care) over the next 4 years who will represent a similar level of cost.

The Medium-Term Financial Plan places a **750K** 'growth' figure against transitions (and has done over the last few MTFP cycles) – the implementation of the action plan is aimed at the mitigation of this growth within the budget.

Nationally, It is projected that the population aged 18 – 64 with a learning disability in England will increase from 1.16m in 2020 to 1.19m by 2040. In 2021/22 the number of people with learning disabilities / autistic people in England, receiving local authority funded care / support is 150,970; this is estimated to increase to c 169,500 by 2037. It is suggested that there will be 21,677 children with learning disabilities likely to transition to adult services in 2027, increasing to 65,031 by 2037 in England.

Planned actions and mitigations.

Across the BNSSG region there is an ongoing project to commission a 'Positive Behavioral Support (PBS)' provision to provide intense 'in reach' to providers to mitigate and manage complex and challenging behaviors; the funding for which derives from NHS Section 256 monies (currently held by Bristol City Council); and is aimed to work with approximately 10 North Somerset residents. This service is not specifically aimed at transitions cases, but the goal is to upskill providers locally in techniques to manage and mitigate behavior with the wider impact on the skills held within the provider market. The tendering process is due to commence in April 2024 with proposed implementation towards the end of the year.

Adult commissioning now has a clearer understanding of the number and type of accommodation with support provision that is required, both now and over the next 2 years. We have agreed that for any ongoing scheme that doesn't already have a signed 'voids and nominations agreement', if the scheme is approved and supported by the council, we will assume the risk around the signing of this agreement, as we understand this will remove a perceived barrier for developers and encourage further engagement. There are 36 individuals with an identified need for accommodation, or which 19 individuals are under 25; 6 of which are leaving education, 10 are moving on from the parental home, and the remaining 3 are moving on from other types of care provision (such as care homes); developing resources to match this demand and provide the right type of accommodation will mitigate care costs.

There is continued development and usage of technology enabled care for younger people which can enhanced and sustain care provisions. We will ensure that all specifications for supported housing will maximise the technology opportunities. We will also ensure that we

work more closely with the adult social care tech hub to ensure that the pilot equipment being considered for adults will be more widely considered for young people.

There is work in progress to develop an overarching 'pathways to adulthood' strategy across the directorates which will cover the following main themes:

- Early Identification and Assessment
- Person-centred approach
- Personalisation
- Co-production
- Measurable outcomes

This strategy is envisioned to encompass a wide range of pathways for young people of which adult social care are an aspect.

4. Consultation

Consultation for this report has been with internal teams within the respective Directorates.

5. Financial Implications

Costs

There are no specific costs associated with this report.

Funding

There is no specific funding associated with this report.

6. Legal Powers and Implications

Transitions work and legal duties defined under the Care Act (2014)

7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

No specific implications noted.

8. Risk Management

There are associated risks round the demand management for transitions cases which are outlined in the detail of the report (above)

9. Equality Implications

Have you undertaken an Equalities Impact assessment?

No - Report provided for update and information.

10. Corporate Implications

No specific implications noted.

11. Options Considered

Report provided for information – no specific options considered

Author:

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Appendices:

Power Point presentation to accompany report.

Background Papers:

None