

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday 11 December, 2018

Transitions for Young People with a disability from children's services to adult services

Item number 7.14

Report number

Executive/routine

Wards

Council Commitments

Executive Summary

The Council is committed to undertaking a review of social work and education services for children and young people with disabilities

This report is an update on the proposed changes to transition arrangements and will set out proposals for full engagement with children and young people affected by disability to make sure services are shaped by the voice of lived experience.

It sets out six actions that are intended to improve this process for all young people with a disability and outlines the changes we propose to make to how professional staff engage with young people and their carers.

A further report with information on the wider review of disability services will be brought to committee in March 2019.

Transitions for Young People with a disability from children's services to adult services

1. Recommendations

1.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:

1.1.1 Note and agree the six key action points in relation to young people.

2. Background

2.1 Recent feedback from parents and service users indicates that transitioning from children and families support services to adult services has been a complex and frustrating experience. One of the key factors in this process is that it relies on two departments to work to deliver two elements of this process. These departments collectively often do not achieve a good transition for the young people. This report proposes new ways of working to deliver an improved experience and outcome

3. Main report

3.1 In reviewing the current arrangements for young peoples' transition there is a focus on the responsibilities of the individual departments including financial decisions, and budget responsibilities which impacts on the outcomes for young people.

3.2 In 2017, The Scottish Transitions Forum produced a document called 'Good transitions 3'. This was a consulted upon document that offered local authorities across Scotland seven principles that are considered to be the basis for a 'good transition'.

Edinburgh has been cited as an area of good practice, however to fulfil a joined up approach to transition we need to expand the current scope and remits of our staff. In Edinburgh we propose to adopt these six principles as an improvement plan:

A single point of contact

This will be someone who takes responsibility for planning through all the aspects of a person's life during transition. The person may be a social worker from children and families or a social worker from the transitions team in adult services

or another professional person. Discussions with partner agencies are underway to ensure that we develop a clear understanding of the role and responsibility. As a first step we will collocate social work staff from the children and families disability social work service and transition team staff from adult services in one location to begin working towards a single professional worker taking forward all planning for a young person through into adulthood.

Starting transitions work earlier

Currently transition planning happens when a young person reaches the age of 16 years and or is close to leaving school. Planning can be at different levels and intensity. We intend to commence transition planning at age 14 years and continue through to the age of 25.

Providing information to young people and families

We are making a commitment to provide documentation to families on all the aspects involved in transition. This will focus on informing young people and their carers of the options available. Draft information leaflets have been produced and we are consulting with parents, carers and young people on content. Easy to read versions will be produced.

Provide improved accommodation options

We wish to work with housing and care providers to avoid young people being placed in out of authority residential placements. Adult services work with housing associations across Edinburgh to provide a home for people with a disability. We wish to expand these networks to offer support to young people whose lives are in crisis as a direct alternative to residential placements out of Edinburgh. This would allow young people to maintain contact with their families, school and communities and retain a continuity of care.

Improved communication approaches

We intend to move our conversations away from focussing on services and instead focus on what young people are seeking from their lives. By introducing ongoing planning from the age of 14 we can work with young people with a disability towards meeting their aspirations. This will allow us to adopt an approach that assumes a person-centred model of planning.

- 3.3 These six key actions will be delivered by resources available in City of Edinburgh Council and Edinburgh Health and Social Partnership.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Young people, parents and carers have access to the information they need to plan the transition from school and children's services into adult life and services.
- 4.2 Planning and decision-making for young people is carried out in a person-centred way.

- 4.3 Planning starts early, around age 14 and continues throughout transition and into early adulthood.
- 4.4 Parents, carers and young people have a single point of contact as they plan transitions.
- 4.5 Supports are coordinated across all services.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 There are no anticipated financial implications arising from this report.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The risks of not changing our approach is we will continue to work in two separate departments ultimately not delivering on positive outcomes for young people with a disability. Following the same path for young people will lead to carer stress, and potentially costly placements out of Edinburgh.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment will be completed.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 Whilst there are no impacts envisaged on carbon or climate change arising from this report, issues of more general sustainable development are relevant. The biennial progress report required by the Scottish Government over the lifetime of the plan will ensure that sustainable progress is being made.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 The development of the Good Transitions 3 document involved consultation with professionals, carers and young people from Edinburgh.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 Good Transitions – Scottish Transitions Forum
<https://scottishtransitions.org.uk/summary-download/>

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11. Appendices

None.