

**Transition Planning - update**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide an update on progress in relation to ensuring effective transition from children's to adult's services.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The last transition report to the Select Committee in March 2010 outlined the reasons why improvements to transition planning for young people transferring to adult services were required and how concerns raised by the JAR and parents were being addressed. Implementing a full transition programme and person centred planning process in all secondary schools is a complex and evolutionary process.

- 2.2 However, significant progress had been made.

2.2.a A Multi-Agency Transition Protocol had been agreed and signed up to by all the key agencies involved in transition planning (this Protocol has been identified nationally as an exemplar of good practice and has been adopted for use by several other local authorities), and

2.2.b An implementation plan has been developed and is being implemented, including the establishment of new multi-agency transition panels overseeing the transition of young people to adult services.

- 2.3 The Multi-Agency Transition Board was confident that the building blocks were in place to provide a firm foundation for a new operational model which was identified as being required to fully affect the implementation plan. This was the background to the Charteris review which commenced April 2010 to facilitate the necessary changes. The findings of this work with Charteris are now being used to inform the corporate review into disabled children and adults which is a transformational review across children and adults' social care.

**3. Progress since March 2010**

- 3.1 In 2009 Wiltshire was identified by the National Transition Support Team (NTST) as failing to meet some of the minimum standards required by statute, guidance, and good practice. Since then there have been significant improvements and in February 2011 Wiltshire was identified by the NTST as working at Development Stage 3 of 4 stages (with 4 being the highest level).

This means that Wiltshire is seen as meeting all statutory requirements and the majority of guidance requirements, and is able to demonstrate good practice across 5 focus areas which includes effective engagement with disabled young people and also their families, effect personalised approaches including person centred planning, and strategic partnership working including commissioning.

3.2 The NTST also recognised Wiltshire’s innovative practice including placing job coaches in two of our special schools. We have been commended by our regional adviser for the improvements we have made. The chart below illustrates the progress that has been made so far.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>20010/11</b>
<b>Identifying young people who will be eligible for adult social care services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several small local panels.</li> <li>• Limited coverage of children (usually confined to the children’s disability teams.)</li> <li>• No follow up process.</li> <li>• Late intervention by adult care.</li> <li>• Children going off to residential college were “lost” to system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two panels (N&amp;W / S&amp;E co-chaired by the commissioning leads in DCE/DCS</li> <li>• Comprehensive coverage from year 9 (age 14)</li> <li>• Tracking system to monitor progress which will also “follow” children off to college.</li> <li>• Increases opportunity for early interventions by adult care</li> <li>• Starting to change working culture by setting standards / expectations.</li> </ul>
<b>Person Centred Reviews</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were no person centred reviews being undertaken.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot with St. Nicholas Special School very successful. Training rolled out to four other special schools. Sixth special school has agreed to run training for staff.</li> <li>• Training for mainstream schools in Salisbury area in November 2010</li> <li>• Training for professionals involved in transition has been ongoing. Training for parents to take place March 2011.</li> <li>• By their very nature person centred reviews start to change the culture, enrich the experience for parents and the information for future planning.</li> </ul>
<b>Cross departmental working</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited communication “on the ground” between DCE and DCS.</li> <li>• Difficulties over information sharing / passing between</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close working relationship between DCE and DCS commissioners. Shared vision.</li> <li>• Operational managers from a wide range of allied service sectors come together at panel. Vastly</li> </ul>

	Departments.	<p>improves communication and consistency of message.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health now much more engaged at operational and strategic levels</li> <li>• Information sharing now much improved.</li> <li>• Transitions Partnership Board now bedded in. Strong parent involvement.</li> <li>• Adult Services Job coach working with pupils from year 9 in St Nicholas and Exeter house to raise the possibility of employment with young people, families and other professionals.</li> <li>• Project in Exeter House and St Nicholas overseen by adult services Community Connecting identifying what activities disabled young people wants to access at 18 and to raise the awareness of what is available in county.</li> <li>• Much improved intelligence for future planning</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcomes for young people and their families</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor information</li> <li>• Many residential care home placements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition events held for parents</li> <li>• Regular newsletter on transitions available.</li> <li>• Wiltshire Parent carer Council and Wiltshire Council have transition WebPages.</li> <li>• The improvements referred to above are most effective for 14-16</li> <li>• Parents are given copies of the protocol on request.</li> <li>• All parents receive the easy read handbook to transitions</li> <li>• Already evidence of more families looking at support for their children in the community rather than residential care.</li> </ul>

#### 4. Proposal for further change

4.1 Whilst the current system is capable of making continuous improvements which will bring about improved outcomes and a better “customer experience” for young people and their families there are limitations to what can be achieved under it. There is a need for greater cultural change to further develop person

centred transition planning that encompasses all aspects of a young person's life rather than planning these elements separately. This requires even closer multi-agency working and engagement in the process by key partners.

- 4.2 These issues will be explored as part of the disabled children and adult's corporate review which is outlined in the section 5.

## **5. Disabled children and adult's corporate service review**

- 5.1 This corporate review cuts across children and adult services and links in with other services including health and the voluntary sector. The review is being sponsored by the Director of Adult Services and led by the commissioning leads from both departments. Its aim is to ensure the council meets the necessary savings required of these departments whilst providing the best achievable level of support for disabled people and their families throughout their lives.
- 5.2 The scoping stage of the review has been completed; this involved parents and identified professionals focussing still more vigorously on activities that add direct and measurable benefit to service users.
- 5.3 Incremental savings have already been identified as a result of the work completed so far. However, it is envisaged that more substantial savings will be achieved as a result of this transformative review.
- 5.4 Work will continue on the review over the coming months.

## **6. Conclusions**

- 6.1 Incremental improvements to the transition processes have been implemented over the last 12 months as the changes to working practices referred to above have become embedded into the transition service.
- 6.2 These improvements will continue but will remain limited in effect unless further fundamental change in operational delivery takes place across departments.
- 6.3 The requirement for these fundamental changes is being addressed through the corporate service review.

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### **Background papers**

None

### **Appendices**

None