

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee
24th July 2008

**TRANSITIONS: THE MOVE TO ADULTHOOD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
RECEIVING CARE FROM THEIR LOCAL AUTHORITY**

Purpose of the Report

1. This report is to prompt initial committee discussion on the topic of:

transition processes provided for young people moving from children to adult social services, and undertaking the wider transition to adulthood.

Action Required of the Committee

2. To consider a draft report which was written for the County Council Network (CCN) council meeting in March 2008 ([see appendix 1](#))
3. To carry out initial discussion on key issues (see paragraphs 5 – 13 below) for this authority, arising from the report at appendix 1.
4. Subject to these initial discussions, request a report from the Department for Children & Education on the transition processes in place in this authority.

Key Issues

5. 'Vulnerability' is a particular theme which social services, both children and adult are being asked to focus on and address.
6. The CCN draft report includes detail on a number of reviews on this topic from different county councils – what reviews/evaluation has this council carried out to assess/improve the effectiveness of transition processes?
7. The challenge of transition is not new, and research carried out by the Commission for Social Care Inspectorate (CSCI) has found that, the drive to integrate children's social care with education services (and so, disaggregate it from adult social care), has sometimes exacerbated the lack of co-ordination between children and adult social care, in areas such as:
 - (a) young people in care becoming eligible for services provided by adult social care
 - (b) children being brought up in a family (perhaps performing the 'young carer' role) with parents classed as vulnerable, e.g. from mental/physical health challenges

8. Referring to Appendix 1 (last paragraph of page 7 through to the top of page 9) – noting the relevance of “contact point”, “common assessment framework” and “lead professionals” to this topic, the committee might wish to seek a paper on these three organisational tools.
9. Children and young people with disabilities are disproportionately prevalent in the care population. Consequently, the Government has pledged £19m of national funding for the next three years to facilitate a “Transition Support Programme”, designed to help disabled young people and their families benefit from intensive, coordinated support and person centred planning.
10. This topic is also relevant to the objectives of the Care Matters: Time for Change White Paper (summary attached as Appendix 2), i.e. the
 - (a) quest for a “consistent adult (to provide continuity, stability and clarity in the maze of professionals delivering care services)”,
 - (b) personalisation,
 - (c) housing for care leavers,
 - (d) personal preparation for adulthood,
 - (e) access to further education, and
 - (f) continuing relationships with foster carers

- all which pose a risk that, as the services for children and young people improve (focussed by the objectives and assisted by the funding which supports this White Paper), the quality of adult services will not keep up.
11. Relevance for “one council” services – leisure facility concessions, better targeted social housing, integration into the job market through local authority apprenticeships, the supporting people programme.
12. The ‘out of county placement’ factor – better coordination needed to identify and better support those young people leaving an out of county placement and coming back to the local authority area – hoping for good adult services.
13. What is the quality of support for young people with asperger syndrome or autism moving into transition to adult services?

Conclusion

14. The Committee is requested to give some initial consideration to the report at Appendix 1, and to carry out initial discussion of the key issues the report raises, as listed in paragraphs 5 – 13 above, with a view to seeking a report from the DCE in due course.

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