

Mayor and Cabinet		
Report Title	Response to Healthier Communities Select Committee: Referral on transition from Children's to Adult Services	
Key decisions	Yes	Item:
Wards	All	
Contributors	Executive Director for Community Services, Executive Director for Children and Young People	
Class	Part 1	Date: 21 October 2015

1. Summary

This report responds to the comments and views of the Healthier Communities Select Committee arising from discussions held on the officer report entitled, '*Preparing for Adulthood: Transition from Children's to Adult Services*' considered at its meeting on 25 June 2015.

2. Recommendations

The Mayor is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the response of the Executive Director for Community Services and Executive Director for Children and Young People in relation to the issues raised by the Healthier Communities Select Committee and in particular their request that the provision of education and care services for young adults with disabilities is further developed within Lewisham.
- 2.2 Agree for the response to be forwarded to the Healthier Communities Select Committee.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 Both the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014 acknowledge the importance of providing timely information, guidance and appropriate support to young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families in preparation for adulthood.
- 3.2 These two pieces of legislation provide a context in which Children and Adult multi-agency services can work collaboratively to ensure that young people and their families are supported to exercise greater individual choice and control in planning and preparing for their future into adult life.
- 3.3 The Children and Families Act 2014 requires and promotes the importance of early intervention and integrated planning across Adults and Children's services. The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Reform introduces a new approach which seeks to join up support across education, health and care from birth to 25 years. The implementation of Education, Health and Care plan (EHC) replaces both the Statement of Special Educational Needs for children and young people and the Learning Difficulty Assessment.

- 3.4 The principles which underpin the Children Families Act 2014 and the SEND code of Practice 0-25 years gives recognition to the importance of planning with young people and their families rather than planning for them at both an individual and strategic level. The new system requires a joined up approach including co-production, holistic planning and multi-agency working.
- 3.5 The Care Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to conduct transition assessments for children, children's carers and young carers where there is a likely need for care and support after the child in question turns 18. As in all assessments, local authorities need to consider the needs of the person, what needs they are likely to have when they (or the child they care for) turn 18, and the outcomes they want to achieve in life. Consideration should also be given to what types of adult care and support might be of benefit at that point, and whether other options beyond formal services might help the individual achieve their desired outcomes.
- 3.6 This report assists the Council in meeting the following priority outcomes as defined in the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2020:
- *Ambitious and achieving* – celebrate local achievements so people feel proud of their area and eager to be a part of its success.
 - *Empowered and responsible* – champion diversity and the contribution everyone makes to the borough's quality of life.
 - *Healthy, active and enjoyable* – Support people with long term conditions to live in their communities and maintain their independence.
- 3.7 In addition, this paper contributes to the following corporate priorities:
- *Community leadership and empowerment* – developing opportunities for the active participation and engagement of people in the life of the community.
 - *Protection of children* – better safeguarding and joined up services for children at risk.
 - *Young people's achievement and involvement* – raising educational attainment and improving facilities for young people through partnership working.
 - *Caring for adults and older people* – working with health services to support older people and adults in need of care.

4. Response to the views of the Healthier Communities Select Committee

4.1 On 25 June 2015, the Healthier Communities Select Committee considered a report '*Preparing for Adulthood: Transition from Children's to Adult Services*'.

4.2 Healthier Communities Select Committee Views

4.2.1 *The Committee recommends that further work be carried out to improve the opportunities for children and young people to access education and care*

provision in Lewisham that meets their needs. The Committee is concerned about the number of young vulnerable people placed outside of the borough.

4.2.2 *The Council should consider working with neighbouring boroughs to ensure that a range of provision is in place for children and young people in receipt of social care.*

4.2.3 *The Committee also recommends that the Council take into account the need for transitional support for families in cases where children are not eligible for adult social care upon reaching adulthood.*

4.3 Response

4.3.1 We welcome the recommendations from the Healthier Communities Select Committee. New legislation – the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014 – has introduced wider responsibilities for all young people with special education needs. Our aim for all children and young people with special educational needs is that their needs are met within universal school and community settings wherever possible.

4.3.2 In August 2015, 380 children attend out of borough education provisions. Of the total number of children and young people who attend out of borough education provisions, 12 % (47) are in residential placements. The largest age cohort placed out of borough are those young people age 14 years to 18 years, accounting for 164 young people. Approximately 13% (22) of these 14-18 years old are in residential placements. Approximately 20% (75) of young people placed out of borough are aged 19 and over, approximately 21% (16) of these young people are in residential placements.

4.3.3 Outlined below are key areas of development that both children and adults services are working together on in order to develop the preparing for adulthood agenda, these include:

- the establishment of clear pathways and service structures across the partnership which allows for transition arrangements to begin at 14yrs.
- development of multi-agency programme which supports practitioners to gain the knowledge and skills required to fully embed the principles of the all aspects of the preparing for adulthood agenda.
- ongoing co-production with parents and young people to ensure that they play an active role in developing this agenda.
- development of advice, information and signposting for young people, parents and professional, through the Local Offer. This includes those young people who do not meet the eligibility criteria for Adult Services.
- development of the market place to ensure that there is suitable provision in place to support young people aspiration and life choice through to adulthood
- Lewisham is part of the south east London commissioning consortium for SEND, and will continue to explore opportunities with neighbouring boroughs to develop the local market.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Funding of these programmes in the future, as described in this report, will not be adversely affected by any proposed savings identified in the Children's Social Care or Adult Social Care budgets for 2016/17.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this response, save for noting that the Council's Constitution provides that the Executive may respond to reports and recommendations by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

7. Crime and Disorder Implications

- 7.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

8. Equality Implications

- 8.1 The arrangements the Council puts in place to support children with educational needs and/or complex disabilities are designed to maximise the opportunities and life chances for our more vulnerable adults.

9. Environmental Implications

- 9.1 There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report.

Background Documents

Report to the Healthier Communities Select Committee on Preparing for Adulthood: Transition from Children's to Adult Services – item 4 in the attached link:

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MId=3770&Ve r=4>

Comment of the Healthier Communities Select Committee on transition from Children's to Adult Services – item 226 in the attached link:

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=3856&Ve r=4>

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