

Healthier Communities Select Committee			
Report Title	Preparing for Adulthood and Transition from Children's to Adult Services		
Key Decision	No	Item No.	6
Ward	All		
Contributors	Executive Director for Children and Young People / Executive Director for Community Services		
Class	Part 1	Date:	1 st March 2017

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides Members of the Healthier Communities Select Committee with a summary of the key issues, what progress has been made and the future plans to support young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities aged between 14 and 25 years to prepare for adulthood and where there is an assessed need transition from Children services to Adult services.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Members of the Healthier Communities Select Committee are asked to note the contents of the report.

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 or disabilities and their families in preparation for adulthood.
- 3.2 These two pieces of legislation provide a context in which Children and Adult multiagency services are required to work collaboratively to ensure that young people and their families are supported to exercise greater individual choice, shape planning decisions and to prepare young people for their adult life.
- 3.3 Under the Children and Families Act, the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) reforms emphasise the importance of improving the life chances and well-being for young people with complex needs.
- 3.4 The Children and Families Act 2014 requires and promotes the importance of early intervention and integrated planning across Adults and Children Services.
- 3.5 The SEND Reforms introduced 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 (EHCP) replaces both the Statement of Special Educational Needs for children and young people and the Learning Difficulty Assessment.

- 3.6 The principles which underpin the Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND Code of Practice are in recognition of the importance of planning with young people and their families, rather than planning for them at both an individual and strategic level.
- 3.7 The Care Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to conduct transition assessments for Young people, children's carers and young carers where there is a likely need for care and support after the young person in question is aged 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) become 18, and the outcomes they want to achieve in life.
- 3.8 Consideration should also be given as to what types of adult care and support might be of benefit at that point, and whether other options beyond formal Care Act eligible services might help the individual achieve their desired outcomes.
- 3.9 The SEND Code of Practice includes specific preparing for adulthood duties for local authorities. Local Authorities are required to work together with health services and develop joint commissioning arrangements about health and care provision, in order to enable positive adult outcomes for young people with diverse complex needs.
- 3.10 Under SEND Reforms, the local authority needs to publish a Local Offer provision which is designed to help individuals and their families prepare for adulthood and independent living. Consultation with children and young people about the Local Offer are also required.
- 3.11 In addition, local authorities are required to utilise Education, Health and Care plans to review outcomes for young people aged 13 to 14 years, including outcomes to prepare young people for adulthood. These outcomes would be reviewed on an annual basis and could include goals around further education, apprenticeship, health and wellbeing or life skill training which enable each young person to live as independently as possible.
- 3.12 A joint local area SEND inspection framework was published in Spring 2016. Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will jointly inspect local areas to see how well they fulfil their responsibilities for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The local area inspection will judge the effectiveness of Lewisham in implementing disability and special educational reforms, including duties to prepare young people with SEND for adulthood.

4. SEND Partnership Strategy

- 4.1 The SEND partnership strategy 2016-2019 sets out the partnership vision and priorities for improving life outcomes for children and young people with SEND and that of their families. This strategy forms an integral part of Lewisham's Children and Young People's Plan for 2015-18.
- 4.2 The vision and impact for the SEND partnership strategy, is Lewisham is an inclusive community that is welcoming of all and has the knowledge and skills to meet the eligible needs of children and young people (0-25 years) with SEND to enable them to play, learn and work.
- 4.3 The Partnerships vision is underpinned by three key priority areas for change:
 1. Children and young people (0-25yrs) with SEND and their families are informed and empowered to be more resilient and independent within their communities

2. Children and young people with SEND who have been identified as requiring additional support across Health, Social Care and Education receive the right support at the right time in order to enable them to become as independent as possible.
3. Children and young people with SEND have the opportunity to be educated within Lewisham's education provision and are provided with the right support to enable them to achieve their full potential.

4.4 In order to achieve the vision and impact of the SEND partnership strategy, there are a number of work streams including:

- Local Offer
- Quality Teaching
- Specialist Provision
- Education, Health and Care plans, transfers and annual reviews
- Personal budgets and personalisation
- Travel Assistance
- Health
- Social Care and Short Breaks
- Early Years
- Preparing for Adulthood and Transition from Children's to Adult services
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Review

4.5 The key actions for the Preparing for Adulthood and Transition from Children's to Adult services work stream are:

- Adulthood arrangements to begin at 14 years, this includes defined roles and Establishment of a clear pathway across the Partnership which allows for Preparing for responsibility within the Local Authority both strategically and operationally.
- A joint policy and guidance which includes the options available for young people from 14 to 25 years
- Development of shared processes and data collection systems within children and adult services in order to allow for the effective use of data for commissioning, planning and budget monitoring.
- A community strategy to engage parents/ carers and young people on the development of Preparing for Adulthood.
- The ongoing Development of advice, information and signposting for young people, parents/ carers and professionals through the Local Offer.
- The ongoing Development of the market place to ensure that there is suitable post 18 provision in place to support young people's aspiration and life choices through to adulthood, including employment.
- Development of a workforce training programme to up skill and embed the principles of Preparing for Adulthood, in line with legislative duties and children and adult service approaches.
- Establishment of a new Preparing for Adulthood and Transition Team between Children's and Adult's services to embed and co-ordinate a preparing for adulthood pathway.
- A mental health protocol which specifies how young people with a mental health support needs and a learning disability/ difficulty are prepared for adulthood and transition to adult mental health services, where appropriate.

5. Update on Current Progress

- 5.1 Lewisham's transition planning for young people moving from Children to Adult services has improved over the past year, but we acknowledge that more needs to be done to ensure our young people have timely and appropriate transition arrangements in place.

Children and Adult services meet every 6 weeks to identify young people who may require support from Adult services as a young adult at 18 years. These meetings look at individual cases and identify whether the young person would meet the Adult Social Care threshold or not.

If they meet Adult Social Care threshold, plans are put in place to undertake a social care assessment of their needs. If they don't meet Adult Social Care thresholds discussions take place to decide how to support and signpost the young person and their family.

- 5.2 A transition hub and pack is currently being developed to provide support, information and guidance for young people and their families currently preparing to turn 18 years and transitioning from Children services. This information will also be available on Lewisham's Local Offer.
- 5.3 The Children with Complex Needs service has retendered the Specialist Short Breaks services for children and young people up until the start of their 18th birthday. The new commissioned service providers are expected to provide a range of support programmes based on the assessed needs of the children / young people and that of their parent/ carers, in order for them to meet the child or young person's identified outcomes. The programmes of support should enable children and young people to be able to fulfil their potential, become as independent as possible and prepare them for adulthood and help parents/carers to be provided with a greater understanding and confidence to be able to care and support their child or young person. As part of this tender process a new mentoring and buddying service will be put in place to support young people from 12 years of age to develop strategies and approaches to enable them to prepare for adulthood and achieve optimum levels of independence as soon as they are able.
- 5.4 Lewisham's Adult Social Care service has Commissioned 'Lewisham Works' to support the Lewisham vision to "make Lewisham the best place in London to live, work and learn" by working with local partnerships, groups and employers in supporting pathways into employment for adults with learning disabilities.
- 5.5 Changes have also been made to the Children with Complex Needs SEND workforce and there is now a dedicated SEN Senior Case Officer who is leading on supporting Lewisham's young people post 16 who attend future education and training provision in and out of the borough with an EHC plan. The SEN team will notify the Adult service team linked to the young person of Annual Review meetings, within schools and colleges, where the young adult is likely to meet the threshold for social care services at age 18, so that they can be involved in their transition planning.
- 5.6 A travel training programme has been commissioned for young people to enable targeted young people to be able to travel independently on public transport services. Schools have identified pupils who will most benefit from travel training to empower disabled and vulnerable young people with the skills and confidence they need to independently travel to schools, colleges, employment, training and other locations.
- 5.7 Agreement has been given by the Executive Director of Children's and Adult's service to pilot a new Preparing for Adulthood and Transition Team who would be responsible for taking forward both the operational and strategic work.

- 5.8 An agreement has been reached between children and Adult services which details the minimum information that is required to achieve a successful handover of the young person's case when transferring to adult services. Where possible the cases are allocated to experienced social workers with a good knowledge base of working with young people.
- 5.9 The Lead operations manager for Adults with Learning Disability (AWLD) and the Multi Agency service manager in Children's Services are in regular contact and also meet at least bi-weekly to discuss cases and local market needs which in turn has led to the first joint meeting with children and adult commissioners and a group of national and local care providers to identify services that can meet needs post 16 to avoid additional moves for the young person wherever possible.
- 5.10 Children and Adult Services are also working together to learn each others care planning strategies, so that care can be provided by the least restrictive means with care plans that promote independence as much as possible, enabling the young person to reach optimum levels of independence.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 In order to take forward both the operational and strategic work of the preparing for adulthood and transition work stream a new Preparing for Adulthood and Transition Team (PAT) will be piloted for one year initially. This will enable greater understanding of the benefits of a dedicated team model.
- 6.2 The team will have responsibility for:
- Leading both the operational and strategic development work of the Preparing for Adulthood and Transition pathways for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
 - Leading the integration across children and adults education, health and social care services, driving change to secure improved outcomes for children and young people with SEND.
 - Leading on development and continuous review of the Preparing for Adulthood and Transition pathways for young people with SEND.
 - Leading on the development of the market and commissioning of services and education provision to support Preparing for Adulthood and Transition options for young people with SEND.
 - Ensuring that there are effective arrangements in place which support a smooth transition for young people with complex needs from Children's Services to Adult Health and Social Care services.
- 6.3 The majority of the initial team will be pulled together from existing resources from within both Children's and Adult's services and will be jointly managed and have governance oversight by both Children's and Adults services. The managerial oversight will be by the AWLD Lead Operational Manager with joint governance to the Multi Agency Service Manager, CWCNS.
- 6.4 Over the pilot period, the impact on capacity in existing teams will be monitored. The team make up will be:
- Operational Team Manager - this post covered by the Operational Lead AWLD manager in the pilot phase
 - 4 x social workers (2x children SW & 2 adult SWs)
 - 2 x Senior SEN case workers
 - Access to Joint Commissioning from CYP and Adults

- 6.5 It is expected that this new team will be formed to start work by April 2017. Plans are being put in place to make professionals, parent/carers and young people aware of the new team and roles and responsibilities.
- 6.6 The team will work with children's services so that it has awareness of all young people aged 14 years and 15 years with an EHCP who have a SEND need through the quarterly panel meeting. This meeting raises the profile of young people who will need to be known by adult services. It is likely that these YP will become the client group once they turn 16yrs of the transition team.
- 6.7 The new transition team will pick up the total case work responsibility of all young people aged 16yrs plus who have an EHCP/SEND care need. It is likely that approximately 40 young people per cohort year will go on to qualify for full transition planning into adult services. The transition team will continue to work with any young person who has an EHCP /SEND with an ongoing care need until the EHCP has been ceased. Young people will then transfer into either AWLD, Neighbourhood team, Placements team or other identified service as required.
- 6.8 This pilot will need to be reviewed regularly throughout the first year by the governance structure that will be in place from both Children's and Adult Services. Consideration will need to be given to whether the proposed staffing structure is correct and able to case manage and achieve the outcomes and case movement expected based on the demand for the service. It will also need to give consideration for the potential of requiring a health member within the team or to developing clear links of accountability with both children and adult health teams. Currently both children and adults have their own health links but there is no reason why these cannot be jointly worked and accessed to achieve the best results for the young people and their needs.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 The new service delivery model will be established by using existing resources from both children's and adult services staffing budgets. The annual cost pressure associated with transitions will be reduced as services are commissioned more locally to meet the needs of young people with complex needs who are preparing for adulthood.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 The Care Act 2014 created a new structure for the assessment and provision of care services, encompassing a new approach (also provided for in the Children and Families Act 2014) for child carers and providing for more continuity through the transition, if eligible, of a young person from children's to adult services. There are also new general duties to promote the wellbeing of the individual in the community, and to prevent the need for escalating care and support, by the provision of signposting to relevant services, information and, when considering the delivery of many universal services across the Borough, whether as part of our duties as the Local Authority or in conjunction with Health and other services.
- 8.2 The particular paragraphs relevant to the transition from children's to adult services are found at paragraphs 58-66. The Local Authority must undertake a Child in Need assessment following a request from a parent / carer of a child. Having completed an assessment, where it appears that the young person is likely to have the same needs at 18 the authority may assess:
 - a) What the young persons needs for care and support are, and

b) What they are likely to be when they become 18.

8.3 A Local Authority can carry out an assessment even if the child lacks the capacity to consent, if to do so would be in the child's best interests.

8.4 For those young people who don't meet eligibility for social care, yet are vulnerable there will be support available to signpost appropriately.

8.5 A child's needs assessment must include an assessment of:

The outcomes that the child wishes to achieve in day-to-day life, and

8.6 Whether, or to what extent, the provision of care and support could contribute to the achievement of those outcomes.

8.7 In carrying out a child's needs assessment a Local Authority must, so far as it is feasible to do so, consult:

c) The child

d) The child's parents and any carer that the child has, and

e) Any person whom the child or a parent or carer of the child requests the local authority to consult.

8.8 Where a person to whom a child's needs assessment relates becomes 18, the authority must decide whether to treat the child's needs assessment as a needs assessment for adult services. They must consider when the assessment was completed, and whether there have been any changes of circumstances since becoming 18.

8.9 S17 Children Act 1989 is amended by s66 Care Act and there is a requirement to continue s17 services past 18 until a Care Act assessment is completed. There is a similar provision for CSDPA1970 s2 services.

8.10 There are wider duties imposed by the Care Act towards young people with whom the Local Authority are not necessarily directly engaged, for example, young people receiving CAMHS support, involved with Youth Justice, or those with Autism hitherto within the education service only. If there is a significant benefit of such a young person receiving a transition plan then there is a duty to prepare one. It is therefore important to identify such young people and to determine whether a plan would be in their interests.

9. Crime and Disorder Implications

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

10. Equalities Implications

10.1 An initial equality analysis assessment indicates that the proposals in this report would not unlawfully discriminate against any protected characteristics but would positively promote equality of opportunity for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

11. Environmental Implications

11.1 There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report.

12. Background documents

12.1 None

If there are any queries on this report please contact Warwick Tomsett, Head of Commissioning Strategy and Performance 0208 314 and Joan Hutton, Head of Adult Social Care on 020 8314 8364 or by email at joan.hutton@lewisham.gov.uk and warwick.tomsett@lewisham.gov.uk