

**Briefing Paper Early Support and Lifelong Learning
Overview and Scrutiny Commission
9 December 2019**

Wards: All

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Joint Area Inspection –Transition to Adulthood

Briefing Paper of the Interim Manager for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) on behalf of the Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Family Services

1. Purpose of the Paper and Summary

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to update the Commission in respect of the Transition to Adulthood Work stream which has arisen from the SEND Inspection that took place in Hull in October 2017.

2 Background

2.1 In September 2014, the Children and Families Act 2014 came into force. Part 3 of the Act is entitled children and young people in England with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and places duties on Local Authorities and other services in relation to children and young people with SEND. These are known as the SEND reforms.

2.2 The SEND Strategy 2016-2020 was published in October 2016 and sets out how partners across Hull plan to support children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 to achieve their best possible outcomes, in line with the reforms. One of the four priorities in this strategy is to improve the transition to adulthood.

2.3 Between 9 October and 13 October 2017, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of the local area of Kingston upon Hull to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the reforms. Although recognising many positive developments, Inspectors also identified a number of areas of concern resulting in the local area having to submit a Written Statement of Action.

- 2.4 A SEND Accountability Forum (SAF) was then established to oversee the implementation of the SEND Improvement Plan which is being delivered through a work stream approach. There are nine work streams that report into the SAF. One of these work streams is in respect of Transition to Adulthood.
- 2.5 A revisit from Ofsted and CQC took place between 15 and 17 October 2019. The formal written feedback from this visit will not be available until after 12 December 2019.

3 **Issues for Consideration**

3.1 The activities in the work stream concern the following:

- Ensuring that all young people with SEND and their families are given appropriate and timely support as they approach adulthood; the assumption is that the majority will be able to progress into employment;
- Addressing delays with the transition process from child to adult services and providing better tracking of complex cases so that progress through the various stages from age 14 can be monitored;
- Ensuring that young people with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) have a key worker to support with the transition to adulthood from year 9 onwards and that agencies involved in supporting the preparation for adulthood are aware of their role and the role of others in the process;
- Providing better transition planning for young people who may require a mix of provision via the 24/7 grid; this is an online tool that in a visual way designs an effective support package around a person's life, particularly those with more complex needs;
- Providing a pathway to enable more young people with EHCPs to progress into employment especially via supported internships whilst also encouraging more council departments to be involved in supported internships;
- Enabling more young people with SEND to become independent travellers.

3.2 A number of actions have been achieved to date regarding the transition to adult services. An updated Transition Protocol has been co-produced with parents describing the transition pathway for all young people with SEND and confirms the involvement of adult services in year 9 (age 13/14) for the most complex cases, and in year 11 (age 15/16) for the remainder. This is now being adhered to in most cases with any exceptions addressed via the strategic and operational transition groups. There is also an increased focus on preparation for adulthood in all EHCP annual reviews from year 9 onwards through the involvement of Connexions and social care teams where appropriate.

3.3 A transition tracking tool has been established and a transition coordinator within Adult Social Care appointed to ensure that it is monitored and kept up to date. A

further new appointment is that of Adult Social Care transition senior social worker in the new High Needs team who has oversight of all transition cases.

- 3.4 Training has taken place on transition including the use of the 24/7 grid. So far 114 professionals have attended and feedback has been very positive. Further funding has been agreed by Adult Social Care to ensure the training is embedded.
- 3.5 Regular meetings are taking place between Childrens Services and Adult Social Care at a strategic level and joint briefings delivered to operational managers from both directorates; this is to aid a better understanding of roles and responsibilities and to improve joint working.
- 3.6 In the employment and training area, a Senior Transition Coordinator was appointed in January 2019 to focus on employer engagement for supported internships and match young people to placements. The aim is to improve the quality and quantity of placements and a number of employers have been identified who are willing to provide quality placements including the Hull University Teaching Hospital NHS Trust. This has helped to reduce reliance on, for example, charity shops. In order to encourage more placement opportunities within the City Council, a meeting took place with Assistant Directors in October; this met with a very positive response and further meetings are due to take place. A Supported Internship Forum has been running for over a year with the aim of sharing good practice and increasing the number of supported internships in the area. As a result we have set up a minimum of 6 additional supported internship places with a new provider with more in the pipeline. We have had meetings with all the major education/training providers in the area who are not already offering supported internships e.g. Wyke College, Wilberforce College and Hull Training. The aim is to encourage these providers to set up supported internship study programmes and publish the offer in their prospectus. Again, the response has been positive but more remains to be done.
- 3.7 To further prepare young people for adult life, and to reduce reliance on special needs transport, an independent travel trainer was appointed in July 2019. A scheme of work and relevant safeguarding documents have been produced over the summer and the trainer is now working with 9 young people in a 2 special schools.
- 3.8 A comprehensive survey of young people's experience of transition took place in 2018/19. The results indicated that the vast majority were enjoying their current placement and 65% of those surveyed felt the transition process had been positive for them. One of the main issues raised in the comments section of the survey was that young people would have liked more information/support prior to their choice of post 16 provision.

4 **Next steps**

4.1 The key next steps in this work stream are for:

- Hull City Council staff from Adult's and Children's Services to attend a special Parents Forum on transition to adulthood on Wednesday 27th November 2019 to report on action taken and progress made;
- Embed the learning/briefing events with Adult Social Care and Children's Services operational staff;
- Continue to review the tracker, undertake a data cleansing exercise and transfer information into the respective IT systems by December 2019;
- Develop key performance indicators and risk framework to monitor all transition cases effectively;
- Repeat the young people's survey for 2019/20 with a larger sample size and compare the results;
- Continue to provide transition training and aim to embed the 24/7 Grid;
- Further IT developments to enable smooth transfer of information from children's to adult social care;
- Increase the number of supported internships by engaging with local employers and linking them with suitable young people.

5 **Recommendations**

5.1 This report has produced at the request of the Commission, and therefore there are no associated recommendations

Contact Officer: Chris Finnigan, Interim SEND Manager

Telephone No. : 01482 615254

Officer Interests: None

Background Documents: None