

Briefing for:	Children's Safeguarding Policy and Performance Advisory Committee
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Title:	Transition from Children's Services to Adult Services
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Lead Officer:	Hilary Corrick, Independent Social Work Consultant, and Independent Committee Member
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Date:	4th October 2010
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1. Background

1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned a "task and finish" review into the transition of young people with assessed needs, from children's services to adult services in Haringey as part of their 2009/10 work programme.

1.2 Young people who receive children's services may continue to need services when they are adults. This will involve transferring responsibility for assessing needs and providing services from children's to adults' services. The process of transfer is referred to as 'transition'. This transition needs to be planned to manage the process from children's services to adult services as smoothly as possible.

1.3 Successful transition planning is crucially dependent on collaboration between children's and adult services. Well planned transition improves clinical, educational and social outcomes for young people. Transition should be viewed as a procession and not as a single event.

1.4 Haringey has a well established multi-agency approach to transition planning involving young people and their parents/carers, education and health professionals, Connexions (Personal Advisors) the Disabilities team and many others. The transition plan is initiated at the young person's 14+ transition review. It identifies the steps to be taken to address the young person's needs on leaving school and is updated at each subsequent review meeting until such time as the young person leaves school.

1.5 The review was undertaken by Councillors Adje, Allison and Newton (Chair) on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It is a very comprehensive report, and the Executive Summary is attached to this report.

1.6 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee accepted the report at their meeting of the 15th March 2010, and approved the recommendations.

1.7 The report focuses on the needs of disabled young people moving from Children's Services to Adult Services and identifies the need to improve transition for young people with Additional Needs, Learning Difficulties and Disabilities, including young people with special educational needs but without a statement, young people with mental health difficulties and young people leaving care.

2. Implications for the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Performance Advisory Committee

2.1 The Executive summary of the report is attached to this report.

2.2 This Committee has been concerned about the protection of vulnerable young adults who may not have specific disabilities, health needs or be care leavers, but may have been subject to child protection planning as young people. They may reach adulthood susceptible to abuse and exploitation, either as victims or perpetrators.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That this Committee acknowledges the excellent review of Transition in Haringey undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

3.2 That this Committee commissions an audit of outcomes for young adults who were subject to child protection planning as young people.

Scrutiny Review of Transition from Children's Services to Adult Services



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A Review By the Overview and Scrutiny
Committee
March 2010





Haringey's Children's and Young People and Adults' Services and its partners are providing an invaluable service to children transferring from Children's Services to Adult Services. It is vital that the structures and services are in place to support young people who are going through this process, allowing them to achieve their full potential and lead fulfilling lives.

Councillor Martin Newton (Chair of the Review Panel)

Members of the Transition from Children's Services to Adult Services review panel:

Councillor Adje
Councillor Allison
Councillor Newton (Chair)

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Transition from Children's to Adult Services has become an important issue in recent years. The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services highlighted the importance of ensuring safe and effective transition throughout children's services but also dedicates a standard to growing up into adulthood. Government policy emphasises that this is not solely a matter for healthcare professionals, since long-term conditions also have important educational, social and financial implications.
- 1.2 Successful transition planning and programmes are crucially dependent on collaboration between children's and adult services. Well planned transition improves clinical, educational and social outcomes for young people. Transition should be viewed as a procession and not as a single event.
- 1.3 Implementing improved transition involves: recognition of the importance of the process; adequate consultation with professionals and users; flexibility in the timing of transition; a period of preparation for the young person and family; information transfer; monitoring of attendance until the young person is established in the appropriate adult oriented service.
- 1.4 Haringey has a well established multi-agency approach to transition planning involving young people and their parents/carers, education and health professionals, Connexions (Personal Advisors) the Disabilities team and many others. The transition plan is initiated at the young persons 14+ transition review as outlined in the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice. The Transition Plan identifies the steps to be taken to address the young person's needs on leaving school and is updated and amended at each subsequent review meeting until such time as the young person leaves school.
- 1.5 Haringey's Children and Young People and Adults' Services have identified the need to further improve transition for young people with Additional Needs, Learning Difficulties and Disabilities, including young people with special educational needs but without a statement, young people with mental health difficulties and young people leaving care. There is also a need to ensure all planning reflects the National Transition Programme to raise standards and to learn from best practice identified through this process and also the Personalisation agenda. Greater emphasis also needs to be placed on the key roles young people and their families, separately and jointly have in this agenda.



2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Learning and Skills Council proposed changes to funding arrangements

The Panel was made aware that the Government has accounted, as part of the machinery of government changes, that 16-18 funding for sixth forms and colleges will be delivered through local authorities in the future, subject to consultation and the passing of the necessary legislation. In the interim, the Learning and Skills Council will remain responsible in law and practice for the allocation of funds to all forms of post 16 education and training together with other higher education. The panel made the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1

The Council should take the lead and control on the way in which the money is spent especially if this is not ring-fenced.

Recommendation 2

The Council should lobby central government to ensure ring fencing of funds especially as this could have an adverse impact on adult social care in terms of day service provisions.

Recommendation 3

My service at 18: My Service at 18 has now been established as a joint strategic transition planning group between the Children and Young People's Service and the Adults Learning Disability Partnership. The new strategic group comprises wide representatives from Statutory and voluntary services, parents and providers. The panel **recommend** that the Adult Outreach Team (Connexions Service) and Youth Offending Teams should be included in the list of key agencies.

Recommendation 4

Work with Health: The panel recommends that the work with health is further developed with particular emphasis on pathways for young people with mental health issues.

Recommendation 5

Linking services: The panel learned of the difficulties experienced by some families in understanding the complexities of the transition process and felt that a dedicated officer who could work with Children and Young People Services (C&YPS), Adult and Community Services (ACS) and Health Services would help mitigate the inherent problems of the transition from one service to another and **recommend** that there is a dedicated transition family support operating jointly within C&YPS Adult and ACS and Health Services with responsibility to oversee all departments in co-ordinating the transition process for each young person.



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Recommendation 6

Improving information: Children and Young People's Services should ensure that all agencies working with the transition of young people should be involved in the production of an information pack or directory around "Transitions and moving from children's services to Adult Services - easy guide for service users and Carers" to cover all agencies; services and support available; details of where to go for support and what should be provided including out of borough provisions.

Recommendation 7

Children and Young People's Services should develop user-friendly non - corporate web pages, dedicated to the transition of young people, providing information for users and carers about services, networks and options available to them.

Recommendation 8

Children and Young People's Services should ensure that improved and efficient working exists between departments ensuring joint team training, meetings and better sharing/use of data.

Recommendation 9

It is apparent that the transition team is a small unit with two workers dealing with large numbers of clients with complex needs in addition to carrying out eligibility assessment for clients who might have support needs. It is important to build capacity within the transition team to support clients.

Recommendation 10

Employment & Training: It is apparent that there is a lack of employment opportunities for young people with special educational needs as they make the transition from C&YPS to ACS. The council need to be proactive in creating employment opportunities and work experience placements for those young people who need them. The panel **recommend** that Human Resources Services in Haringey should consider an employment quota system for young people with learning difficulties; mental health issues and with physical disabilities to ensure employment sustainability either internally or with partners.

Recommendation 11

The panel **recommend** that the Council should consider training those who are leaving care to work within the care profession e.g. within children homes; in the NHS, Colleges and Voluntary Sector. This would enhance their aspirations and would also act as an incentive and as role model, especially for those in transition.

Recommendation 12

Connexions Services: Children and Young People Services should ensure that improvements are made to communication protocol between all agencies to establish clear lines of responsibilities particularly for out of hours provisions.



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Connexions Services, adult career services, health services and Jobcentre Plus need to cooperate fully to support individual young people and offer access to advice and signposting.

Recommendation 13

The panel **recommends** that in accordance with the transition protocol there should be an integrated approach to minimise duplication of assessment activities together with closer working and better sharing of information between services. This would streamline services and reduce the level of duplication, ensuring greater utilisation of scarce resources.

Recommendation 14

The panel acknowledged that some issues might be addressed through the Common Assessment Framework they nevertheless **recommend** a review of the multi-agency assessment tools to minimise duplication whilst capturing all aspects of an individual's life, to determine education, physical, emotional and social needs.

Recommendation 15

Representatives from connexion Services expressed frustration at the length of time taken to receive response from Council Departments. It **recommends** that all council departments adhere to the minimum standards for responding to enquiries in line with the Council's Customer Care Charter.

Recommendation 16

Strategic & Community Housing Services: The panel **recommend** that SCHS ensure that specific monitoring arrangements are in place to identify young people in transition, by ensuring dialogue is in place with colleagues in Adult Social Care to identify and capture specific needs of those in transition.

Recommendation 17

The panel **recommend** that SCHS ensures that the remit of the North London Sub-Regional meeting on Housing and Social Care issues be expanded to include the needs of young people in transition.

Recommendation 18

The panel **recommend** that Strategic Community Housing Services put proactive measures in place between Children's Adult and Housing so that access and referrals can be improved and streamlined. This will lead to enhancement of services provided to those in transition, thus minimising the number of clients who are not benefiting or accessing services.

Recommendation 19

The panel recommend that Children's and Adult Services work closely with Central Procurement Team to produce robust tender specifications in order to commission quality services at a reduced price.