

REPORT TO: Children, Young People and Families Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 21st February 2011

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children & Young People

SUBJECT: Halton Multi Agency Transition Strategy for Young People Aged 14- 25, 2010-2013

WARD(s) Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present the updated Halton Multi Agency Transition Strategy for Young People Aged 14-25 2010-2013 (Transition Strategy).

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Policy & Performance Board

1) **note and comment on the contents of the report**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Strategic Transition Group which oversees the Transition Strategy has worked to expand the Strategy from 14 -19 to 14-25 and to refresh the existing Strategy to ensure that this is focused and purposeful.

3.2 The Strategic Transition Group has representatives from Halton Adults Social Care, Halton Children & Young People's Directorate, NHS Halton and St Helens, Riverside College, Transport Services, Housing commissioning and Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership.

3.3 A Focus Group of young people is supported by the Transition Co-ordinator to input into the Strategy. Halton Speak Out has also made a positive contribution.

3.4 The Strategy sets out very simply the domains in the transition from Children's to Adult services, what we are doing already and how we can improve. It is hoped that this format will be more attractive to parents and carers of young people who need to access transition services.

3.5 The experience of young people moving through transition is greatly assisted through the joint Children and Adults Transition Co-ordinator post which is currently vacant. The previous post holder has managed to lever in additional funding and was pivotal in raising the profile of Halton.

3.6 Currently transition strategies and services are monitored in each Local Authority by a Transition Support Worker who reports to the Department of Education. This is a three year programme and each year each Local Authority has been required to submit a self assessment of its performance in transition. This year Halton's rating was improved with the consequence that it was eligible to apply for funding from the innovations fund. This fund may cease given the current financial climate.

3.7 The lead for Transition in Halton has been with the Operational Director Prevention and Commissioning, Adults & Community and this will transfer to Children's & Young People's Services from 1st April 2011.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This Transition Strategy is in line with Government guidance on transition.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

To date £50,000 is available to spend this year, which sits within the Sure Start budget.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

This Strategy will ensure that the needs of children and young people are met.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

This Strategy will ensure that the most vulnerable children and adults needs are met.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Transition is always the focus of any inspection in Children and Adult Social Care. Good, robust arrangements need to be in place to ensure that all services work together to support a young person moving into adulthood.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Young people who need to move through transition are some of the most vulnerable and socially excluded in the community. This Strategy seeks to ensure that they can participate in mainstream community life.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Halton Multi Agency Transition Strategy for Young People Aged 14-25, 2010-2013	People & Communities, 2nd floor, Runcorn Town Hall	Emma Sutton-Thompson