

REPORT TO: Health Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 18th September, 2018
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People
PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Named Social Worker Pilot
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To make the Board aware that Halton was awarded £92,827 from the Department of Health as one of six sites taking part in Phase 2 of the Named Social Worker Pilot, which has been delivered within the Transition Team, between September 2017-April 2018

To confirm the approach that the Transition Team took, in working with the pilot and the outcomes that came from this for the people who had engaged with the pilot and HBC.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) The Board note the contents of the report and comment on a future NSW approach with complex cases.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Named Social Worker Pilot has been initiated by the Department of Health (DoH) in response to the 2015 consultation 'No voice unheard, no right ignored', which sought views on strengthening the rights of people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health conditions to enable them to live more independently. The DoH funds the Innovation Unit (a social enterprise) and the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) to support local areas, co-ordinate the pilot and evaluate the scheme.
- 3.2 The project has built up an understanding on how having a named social worker can contribute to individuals with learning disabilities achieving better outcomes; specifically that they and their family are in control of decisions about their own future, and are supported to live with dignity and independence. It has been about trying something different, piloting new ideas and generating early and indicative evidence as to their impact.
- 3.3 Phase 1 of the project ran from October 2016 to March 2017 across six pilot sites. Halton successful in being selected as one of the six pilot sites for Phase 2, which ran from October 2017 to March 2018.

The other sites involved in Phase 2 are Liverpool, Sheffield and Hertfordshire (which were involved in Phase 1 also) and Bradford and Shropshire, which are new sites along with Halton. In total £400k of funding was awarded with Halton being given the second largest amount.

3.4 The Named Social Worker programme supported sites to make changes to social work practice and wider system conditions that will improve outcomes and experiences for individuals with learning disabilities, and for the people around them. In practice, the model has varied from one place to another but the ambition for all the sites was to:

- Provide excellent person-centred support for individuals with learning disabilities and the people around them;
- Equip and support social workers to be enablers of high quality, responsive, person centred and asset based care;
- Build more effective and integrated systems that bring together health, care and community support and deliver efficiency savings.

3.5 The programme has been high-profile with direct involvement from Lyn Romeo (Chief Social Worker). It has been very fast-paced and intensive with an expectation that outcomes are evaluated and evidenced by the end of the pilot. Dedicated support was provided by the Coach assigned to the Halton Principal Manager, along with other members of the Transition Team took part in weekly webinars (three hours duration) and there was also two conference calls per month. A key element of the programme has also been about sharing information with the other pilot sites and each site contributed to a shared facility. A high level of commitment and staff resource was required as part of the programme and this was over a short period of time, as can be seen from the project timescales below:

- September to October 2017: model design/development;
- November 2017 to February 2018: implementation and learning;
- March 2018: evaluation and planning for sustainability
- Halton's bid was extremely well-received, as evidenced by the amount of funding awarded (especially considered against the size of the area); as a result there was an expectation that the project will result in positive outcomes and this was rigorously monitored and evaluated by the Innovation Unit

3.6 Halton's model was adopted within the newly established Transition Team working with Seventeen, 17-18 year-olds with Complex learning and /or physical disabilities who have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan. The NSW Funding gave us additional social worker capacity in order to deliver this work. The Social Workers have worked intensely with these young people and their families to prevent crisis intervention:

- The Social Workers have helped young people and families to understand what works already (and what doesn't) in order to develop a new approach to working with the young people who are often seen as the most challenging and who often end up in out-of-area residential placements
- work with young people and those that support them to develop plans that are true to the strengths and needs of individuals and that help them to thrive within their communities
- Support social workers to reflect together on their practice and develop a better understanding of the skills and behaviours that enable relational working. Whilst building on a strong foundation of integrated health and social care services in order to ensure that future planning is seamless

3.8 **The approach**

The transition team NSWs took a proactive approach to working with young people, working alongside the children's health nurses and schools to identify the young people who needed support the most and prioritising them for intense intervention. They also worked closely with a local advocacy agency, Halton Speak Out and Bright Sparks, to understand what 'good transition' looked like from the young people's perspective and to produce a video to help engage them.

3.9 **The impact**

- Young people and the people around them developed a positive relationship with their NSW outside a period of crisis. They learned about the transition process earlier than they would have in a 'business as usual' model. They had the opportunity and time to feed their own views into person-centred plans for the future. This reduced anxiety around transition and improved the quality of their care packages.
- Named social workers reported an increase in confidence around the knowledge, skills and values required to do good social work with young people with learning disabilities. They were motivated by the opportunity to put these skills into action.
- Partners across the system, including Children's social services, advocacy agencies and health teams were engaged with and fed into the process, creating a place-based approach to transition in Halton. This has raised awareness of the need for a strengths-based and early intervention approach to transitions

3.10 The new packages of care, based on the young people's needs and preferences (particularly those which have seen reductions to respite packages and changes to residential settings) led to some significant financial savings (or costs avoided) for the local authority,

(See Case Studies' in **Appendix 1 and 2**)

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 An accessible review document has been developed, which has proved successful, when coming to the review stage how the young person feels about the support they have received from their social worker. **(See appendix 3).**

5.0 SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None identified.

6.0 FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The funding has been received from the DoH and although the pilot ended in March 2018, the DoH are happy for the funding to carry over to the next financial year. An advanced Practitioner and social work post will be in place until April 2019.

The overall evaluation of the pilot will be made available in July 2018 and will provide a review of the cost saving for Social Care in care packages but also savings for the wider community, eg, Police. This work has been completed by York Consultancy.

7.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None at this time.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

8.1 Children & Young People in Halton

None identified

8.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None identified

8.3 A Health Halton

None identified

8.4 A Safer Halton

None identified

8.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified

9.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

9.1 The funding for the NSW pilot will end on the 31st March 2019. There is a risk of not being able to manage the sustainability of this approach with young people, families and other professionals, after the funding ends and delivering the outcomes that has been achieved.

10.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required for this report.