

REPORT TO: Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 3 September 2007

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Health and Community/
Strategic Director Children and Young People

SUBJECT: Multi Agency Transition Strategy for Young People with Complex Needs

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present the Draft Multi Agency Transition Strategy for Young People with Complex Needs for consultation and endorsement to further consultation.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) Members make comment upon the Draft Strategy; and**
- (2) Members endorse the consultation phase of the Strategy.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In January 2007 CSCI published 'Growing Up Matters' - Better Transition Planning for Young People with Complex Needs.

3.2 This study looked at the experience of young people with complex needs and their families as they moved from Children's to Adults services. The group which participated in the study had a combination of acute and chronic conditions, multiple and profound impairments, behaviour problems and learning disabilities.

3.3 The report identified some positive experiences but also described problems encountered by young people, many of which have been recognised as long standing nationally. These included inadequate commissioning, poor co-ordination of services and a failure to plan properly. This led, too often, to delays in identifying care packages leading to anxieties for young people and their families and often wasting resources.

3.4 The study concluded there are six pre-requisites for successful transition.

- 1) Commitment: at senior level:
 - ◆ These young people are given explicit priority by senior managers and council members
 - ◆ A number of agencies including PCT's, Housing and Education should prioritise their involvement in transition planning

- 2) Young people and families are fully involved in the process:
 - ◆ This includes the involvement of young people and their families in strategic planning for transition
- 3) Effective strategic planning and commissioning:
 - ◆ Strategies should be underpinned by good financial planning and should be informed by analysis of transition needs of young people from 14 onwards who will require services from Adult Health and Social Care within five years
 - ◆ Commissioned services and consequent outcomes for this group of young people should be systematically monitored
- 4) A multi-agency approach with good protocol system and processes:
 - ◆ There is a lead professional who is responsible for ensuring all the agencies who need to be involved are properly engaged
- 5) Co-ordinated person centred planning process:
 - ◆ Promotion of Direct Payments is particularly identified throughout this report
 - ◆ There is a focus on achieving outcomes, supporting independence and providing normal life opportunities
- 6) Regular review and monitoring

3.5 As a result of this study the Chief Inspector of CSCI wrote to all Directors' of Adults and Children's Services strongly recommending an urgent review of local arrangements and outcomes for young people and their families.

Current Situation in Halton

- 3.6 Transition continues to be a priority within the Council and a Joint Strategic Working Group was established in early 2006, chaired by the Operational Director for Adults with membership set at Divisional Manager level. This group ensures there is an interface between the 2 Directorates and covers both joint working practices, for example with vulnerable children and their families, and transition processes for young people moving from children's services to adult services. While progress has been made further work is required to meet the requirements identified in the CSCI study. The working group has now extended to become fully multi disciplinary to ensure all young people experiencing transition receive an appropriate service.
- 3.8 An Operational Working group has also been established at Principal Manager level to track the transition of young people moving from children's to adults services. The vacant Transition Co-ordinator post was filled earlier in the year, this is jointly funded post between adult and children's services and plays a key co-ordination role.

3.9 While there are recently adopted transition policies and procedures agreed across the two directorates the council and its partners have not established a Transition Strategy. A writing group has been established to draft this strategy which is now presented in its first draft as a vehicle for consultation. The Draft Transition Strategy aims to set out the actions that the council and it's partners to improve outcomes for young people with complex needs.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This strategy will require the full support of all Council Directorates and partners, including the Primary Care Trust.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The Transition Strategy will improve outcomes for disabled young people with complex needs by ensuring that young people and their families have an improved experience of the transition through adult and children's services working closely together.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

A successful transition process for young people with complex needs will support improved outcomes in relation to their future employment and ability to access learning opportunities.

6.3 A Health Halton

Improved planning for young people through the transition process will support their transition into adult services.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The Council's support for young people with disabilities and complex needs into adulthood will be a focus of CSCI in assessing the Council's

overall performance. Failure to address the issues identified in 'Growing Up Matters' will impact on the Councils performance.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 Transition plans for young people seek to meet the needs of the most vulnerable young people within the community who are often excluded. Good transition planning will ensure that young people are able to access mainstream opportunities and promote social inclusion

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Growing Up Matters Better Transition Planning for Young People with Complex Needs (January 2007)	Margaret Chaplin's office Woodview Child Development Centre	Margaret Chaplin Divisional Manager