

REPORT TO: Health & Wellbeing Board
DATE: 17 January 2024
REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director, Adult Services
PORTFOLIO: Adult Social Care
SUBJECT: Update on the Transition Team
WARD(S) Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present a brief overview of the Transition Team.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

1) the report be noted;

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Background

3.1.1 The Transition Team was established in 2017, with a remit to work with young people with Severe Learning Disabilities/Physical and Sensory Disabilities (SLD/PSD), to ensure they had a smooth transition from Children to Adult services. The expected numbers were very small, with a focus on intensive work with the young person and their parents. Initially this worked very well with positive relationships developed with Preparing for Adulthood (PFA) colleagues in the Voluntary sector, health, Education & Social Care, parents & Carer groups, all within the Preparing for Adulthood framework.

3.1.2 The Transition Team has adopted a Named Social Work Approach and has supported young people to return into Halton from out of area placements to live independently or with families with a package of support that had been inexpensive or prevented young people from going out of area. Improving the life opportunities of young people, we are supporting.

3.1.3 The Transition Team have experienced an increase in the referral rate since its inception, leading to a revised Eligibility Criteria, to ensure that the young people with the most complex needs receive a joined up social work assessment and a support plan that is in place prior to their 18th birthday (**see Appendix 1**). The Team are presently working with 293 young people.

- 3.1.4 On-going work is underway, alongside the SEND practitioners from Education/Health/CSC in preparing young people without a severe learning disability, but do have an Enhanced Personal Health Care (EPHC) and a diagnosis of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA), Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC), anxiety, depression etc., and do have some needs as a vulnerable adult and a significant number engaging in drug, alcohol, risk taking behaviour to support them in preparing for Adulthood, by signposting to meaningful Education/employment/social opportunities.
- 3.1.5 As part of our commitment to engage with young people and families, The Transition Team have developed an information pamphlet (**see Appendix 2**) and team member profile and photo's (**see Appendix 3**); included also is a case study (**as at Appendix 4**). Due to the increased referral rate and the shared management support impacting across The Transition Team/Complex Care Runcorn Team, funding has been agreed for a Practice Manager, who has been recruited in the Transition Team. This additional management is supporting with the day-to-day team manager responsibilities, as well as the wider strategic capacity around the direction of travel within the 'Preparing for Adulthood Agenda' Budget Recovery Work within Adult Social Care, roll out of the Strengths Based Training, as well as supporting The Transformation Programme, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities/Care Quality Commission (SEND/CQC) Inspection preparation.
- 3.1.6 Within the Transition Team, there is a Paediatric Occupational Therapist who works with children and young people from birth to 25 years* to provide specialist equipment and adaptations to the home to support the individual and their family/carers.
- 3.1.7 In June 2022, the post holder was successful in securing a place on the Adult Social Care Practitioner Researcher Internship facilitated and supported by NHS Research & Development Northwest. It is a six-month programme commencing August 2022.
- 3.1.8 The research project to be completed is looking at how the provision of early occupational therapy, assessment and intervention of appropriate equipment can lead to a reduction in hospital admission, carer breakdown, high-cost care packages, safeguarding concerns, and the need for long-term residential care (**see Appendix 5**).
- 3.1.9 The recommendations from this piece of research have been taken forward by the Transformation Team and the SEND strategic Group.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The Transition Team will continue to work with younger people in high-cost care packages and Out of Area placements to return to live in Halton and supported by local providers and closer to family.

To support young people transitioning from Children to adult services to access all community services available, within universal, Education and Employment services.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

The Transition Team will be engaged in the Strengths based training roll out, as well as linking into the prevention panel which is supporting all young adults to receive support to access employment, voluntary and Learning opportunities. Avoiding further long-term financial impact to the Community Care Budget.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The delivery of Strengths based social work provision and the implementation of new documentation, will contribute to the development of the skills social workers require to promote the wellbeing of Halton residents who require services from Adult Social Care.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Recommendations following the SEND Inspection and Research Project are not carried out.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 Supporting people to access universal services promotes equality and diversity.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None identified.

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

None under the meaning of the 'Act'.