

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
COMMITTEE****NOTTINGHAMSHIRE TRANSITIONS PROTOCOL AND PATHWAY****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the new Nottinghamshire Transitions Protocol (**Appendix 1**) and Pathway (**Appendix 2**), subject to the signing of the Protocol by the Further Education Principals Leads which will take place on 22 September 2016, and the further steps required to ensure that the Protocol becomes embedded into practice.

Information and Advice**Background**

2. The "Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People with Disabilities" project aims to establish an Integrated Disability Service for children and young people with a Disability (aged 0-25 years) that is high quality and value for money. The two year project is working across Social Care (Children's and Adults), Education and Health (predominantly Community Health services).
3. Within the project, the Transitions workstream focuses on a young person's transition from Children's to Adult services. This workstream was developed based on feedback from children, young people and families and a general feeling among organisations (both locally and nationally) that transitions for young people and their families could be made better.
4. Transition is the term that can be applied to all young people, at the stage in their lives when they are on the journey from adolescence into adulthood. "Transition to adulthood should be one of the most exciting times for any young person as they leave school, consider going on to further education, employment or training and maybe leaving home. Disabled young people hope for the same things as other young people, they want a voice, a leisure and social life, and to be involved as active, valued citizens" (Improving Life Chances of Disabled People 2005).
5. However, this can also be one of the most anxious, challenging and vulnerable times for young people with a disability and for their families, especially if there is a need for and reliance on significant support from Education, Health and/or Social Care services.
6. Young people with a disability often rely on a range of services and support, which can get complicated and problematic as they move from Children's to Adult services.

7. If this stage in a young person's life is not handled well it can have a negative impact on the young person and their family, as well as putting an extra strain on Local Authority provision and budgets.
8. Across the UK transition planning is often characterised by poor liaison between different agencies and professionals and a failure to involve young people and to cover the issues of most importance to them and their families. Successful transition to adult care and support requires the young person, their family and professionals to work together.

Development of the Transitions Protocol and Pathway

9. The Council's current Transitions Protocol (2010) requires an update.
10. In response to this, a Transitions Working Group was set up in May 2015, which includes representatives from Children's Social Care, Adult Social Care, Education and Health, supported by the Children's Programme and Projects Team.
11. In May 2015 a regional multi-agency 'Preparing for Adulthood event' was held with parents and colleagues from across social care, schools & colleges, health and voluntary sector organisations. At the event, a new vision was agreed for children and young people with disabilities which has been adopted:

**"In Nottinghamshire we want you to have a good start in life.
We want to understand your hopes and dreams for your life, work and relationships.
We want to help you find the right support to help you achieve them"**

12. Project work with families began in November 2015 by holding a consultation event with parents and families, which was attended by 21 parents/carers. The event gave parents the opportunity to tell the Council what transition was really like for them and their child. They got the opportunity to look at four different protocols and pathways from other local authority areas and to tell us what they liked and did not like, what worked and what needed changing.
13. Parents said they were unsure about what to expect from services as their child moves into adulthood, what help may be available to them and where to get this help. They were also uncertain about the roles of all the different agencies and the support that they can receive. Parents also told the Council what was going to be useful for them as a family, the information they needed and how this information could be made more accessible for them; this provided a clear brief on which to build the Protocol.
14. Following the event, families signed up to be part of a Parent Reference Group which remained engaged throughout the process to create the Protocol. Eight parents formed the Parent Reference Group and were involved with drafting, reviewing and editing the documents. Parents from the Nottinghamshire Participation Hub (NPH) were also engaged throughout the process.
15. In January 2016 young people at Pioneers were asked for their input into the draft Transitions Protocol; they provided feedback but were more interested in the visual

pathway being produced so that they could see their journey at a glance. Pioneers are a group of young people age 10-25 years with an interest in disability issues supported by Nottinghamshire County Council Youth Services. This forum provides a structure to voice their opinions and a regular link with service providers.

16. Subsequent discussions were held with the Pioneers and Apprentices from the APTCOO eXtra's Learn, Work and Earn scheme. A Place to Call our Own (APTCOO) is a Mansfield based charity, where students are trained who have special educational needs, a disability or not currently in education, employment or training.
17. Young people were involved in the production of the visual pathway by reviewing the draft created and offering suggestions about the design and content. This co-production approach ensured that the protocol was developed with young people and families for young people and families and therefore addressed the key areas and issues that they felt were important.
18. Various professionals provided support and feedback on the production of the Protocol including Foxwood School, Portland College, Transitions Nurse, Bassetlaw Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Integrated Children and Young People's Community Health Programme (ICCYPH), Healthwatch Nottinghamshire and Autism East Midlands.
19. The new Transitions Protocol and Pathway have been developed in order to:
 - Set out guidance and best practice for organisations within Nottinghamshire to follow
 - Provide clarity around the Transitions process for disabled young people and their families in Nottinghamshire
 - Ensure young people and families have advance notice, and realistic expectations, about the support they will receive as they start to prepare for adulthood
 - Listen to the views of disabled young people and their families and ensure their feedback is at the centre of service improvement
 - Provide accessible information
 - Provide clarity for professionals about the Transitions process, especially from outside of their own organisation
 - Gain the commitment and ownership of all key partners and for this to be embedded into local practice in Nottinghamshire
 - Provide links to the Nottinghamshire Local Offer and Notts Help Yourself.

Next Steps

20. Subject to approval of the Protocol by Committee, some next steps will be required to ensure that it becomes embedded into practice. These include:
 - Building on the good work achieved to date by communicating the Protocol and Pathway to young people, families, colleagues and partners.
 - The development of a quality assurance monitoring tool to drive service improvement and ensure the Protocol and Pathway are used and that they are making a difference to young people.

- The development of an interactive website that links to the Transitions Pathway, providing accessible information that is contemporary and interactive in response to feedback from young people.

Other Options Considered

21. None. The Council's current Transitions Protocol (2010) is out of date and required an update in line with new legislation.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

22. This Protocol will provide clarity for young people and families about the Transitions process, including what will happen, when it will happen and who is responsible. It is anticipated that this will contribute to reducing their anxiety about the unknown and improve the experience of young people in Nottinghamshire as they transition from Children's to Adult services.
23. Completion of the proposed next steps will ensure the Protocol is embedded in practice and make a difference to families, young people and professionals. It will also enable the Council to update and review the Protocol based on feedback from families.

Statutory and Policy Implications

24. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

25. There are no direct financial implications arising from the proposals in the report.

Implications for Service Users

26. Service users will be able to have a clearer understanding of what happens during their young person's transition from Children's to Adult services, and who is responsible for the process. The Protocol and Pathway aims to outline the Transition journey in Nottinghamshire and to ensure everyone involved understands the specific roles and responsibilities of all key agencies. By these agencies working together with the young person and their family Nottinghamshire young people can be effectively supported to reach their maximum potential.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the Nottinghamshire Transitions Protocol and Pathway be approved, subject to the signing of the Protocol by the Further Education Principals Leads which will take place on 22 September 2016.
- 2) the further steps required to ensure that the Protocol becomes embedded into practice, as detailed in **paragraph 20**, be approved.

Councillor John Peck
Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee

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Constitutional Comments (LM 22/08/16)

27. The recommendations in the report fall within the Terms of Reference of the Policy Committee.

Financial Comments (TMR 23/08/16)

28. There are no direct financial implications arising from the proposals in the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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