

15th July 2016

Agenda Item:5

Children's Trust Executive Sponsor: Derek Higton, Service Director Youth, Families and Culture.

IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES - TRANSITIONS UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update the meeting on the new Nottinghamshire Transitions Protocol and Pathway and request its endorsement by the Children's Trust Executive.

Background

2. The "Improving Outcomes for CYP with Disabilities" project aims to establish an Integrated Disability Service for CYP with a Disability (age 0-25 years) that is high quality and value for money. The project is working across Social Care (Adults and Children's), Education and Health (predominantly community health services).
3. One of the workstreams includes Transitions, which focuses on the transition from Children to Adult services. This work stream was developed due to service user feedback and a general feeling that transitions for young people could be made better.

Rationale for Transitions Work stream

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.
5. "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).
6. 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.

7. Young people with a disability often rely on a range of services and treatments, which can get complicated as they move from Children's to Adult Services.
8. Young people and their families have told us they are unsure about what to expect, what help may be available to them and where to get this help. They are also uncertain about the roles of all the different agencies and the support that they can receive.
9. If this stage in a young person's life is not handled well it can have a negative impact on a young person and their families, as well as putting an extra strain on local authority and public sector services and budgets.
10. Our current Transitions Protocol 2010 is out of date and not used.
11. Across the UK transition planning is often characterised by poor liaison between different agencies and professionals, a failure to involve young people and to cover the issues of most importance to them and their families.
12. A successful transition to adult care and support requires the young person, their families and professionals to work together.
13. The Transitions Working Group was set up in May 2015, and includes representatives from Children's, Adults, Social Care, Education and Health.
14. Following a multiagency 'Preparing for Adulthood event' we agreed on a new vision for CYP with disabilities

“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”

15. 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 which is contemporary and interactive.
 - 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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Children's Trust Executive endorses this protocol
- 2) That members of the Children's Trust Executive will work towards the adoption of the guidelines set out in the protocol and assist with its implementation

Paul Johnson
Group Manager Younger Adults.

Background Papers

- Nottinghamshire Transitions Protocol (2016)
- Nottinghamshire Transitions Pathway (2016)
- Transitions Protocol Endorsement Communications Plan

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.