

# SOCIAL SERVICES, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2.00 PM THURSDAY, 21 MARCH 2024

MULTI-LOCATION MEETING - COUNCIL CHAMBER, PORT TALBOT & MICROSOFT TEAMS

# All mobile telephones to be switched to silent for the duration of the meeting

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# Part 1

- 1. Chair's Announcements
- 2. Declarations of Interests
- 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 5 12)
  - 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024
- 4. Information Sharing in Respect of the Transition Process Between Children and Adult Services (*Pages 13 22*)
- Pre-decision Scrutiny
   To select appropriate items from the Cabinet Board agenda for pre-decision scrutiny (Cabinet Boards reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members)
- 6. Committee Action Log (Pages 23 24)

- 7. Forward Work Programme 2023/24 (*Pages 25 26*)
- 8. Urgent Items
  Any urgent items at the discretion of the Chairperson pursuant to Section 100BA(6)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)
- 9. Access to Meetings
  To resolve to exclude the public for the following
  item(s) pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local
  Government Act 1972 and the relevant exempt paragraphs of Part
  4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

# Part 2

Pre-decision Scrutiny of Private Item/s
 To select appropriate private items from the Cabinet Board agenda for pre-decision scrutiny (cabinet reports enclosed for scrutiny Members)

# K.Jones Chief Executive

Civic Centre Port Talbot

Friday, 15 March 2024

# **Committee Membership:**

**Chairperson:** Councillor C.Galsworthy

Vice Councillor H.C.Clarke

**Chairperson:** 

Councillors: H.Davies, O.S.Davies, S.E.Freeguard, J.Jones,

A.Lodwig, S.Rahaman, P.D.Richards, D.Thomas

and D.Whitelock

# Notes:

- (1) If Committee Members or non-Committee Members wish to have relevant items put on the agenda for future meetings, then please notify the Chief Executive/Chair eight days before the meeting.
- (2) If non-Committee Members wish to attend for an item of interest, then prior notification needs to be given (by 12.00 noon on the day before the meeting). Non-Committee Members may speak but not vote, or move or second any motion.
- (3) For pre scrutiny arrangements, the Chair will normally recommend forthcoming executive items for discussion/challenge. It is also open to Committee Members to request items to be raised though Members are asked to be selective here in regard to important issues.
- (4) The relevant Cabinet Board Members will also be invited to be present at the meeting for Scrutiny/ Consultation purposes.
- (5) Would the Scrutiny Committee Members please bring the Cabinet Board papers with them to the meeting.



Social Services, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee

(Multi-Location Meeting - Council Chamber, Port Talbot & Microsoft
Teams)

Members Present: 25 January 2024

**Vice Chairperson:** Councillor H.C.Clarke

**Councillors**: H.Davies, O.S.Davies, J.Jones, S.Rahaman,

P.D.Richards and D.Whitelock

Officers In
A.Thomas, C.Howard, A.Jarrett, K.Warren,
G.Hargest, H.Short, V.Smith, I.Guy, P. Cotgais,
B McGillian, S.Jones, N.Jones and A.Thomas

2 Mooman, Clooned, Mooned and Ammonia

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors J.Hale, S.Harris and A.Llewelyn

# 1. Chair's Announcements

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

It was confirmed that the committee would be scrutinising items 7, 8, 9, 10 and 15 from the Cabinet Board Agenda.

# 2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received.

# 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2023 and 4th January 2024 were approved as true and accurate records.

# 4. Hospital Admission and Discharge Processes

The Head of Adult Services gave a brief summary of the report contained within the agenda pack.

Members queried what input do patients have into the Discharge to Recover Assess process?

The Head of Adult Services confirmed that medically fit for discharge patients are assigned a pathway and social work assessment is undertaken with the individual and their family. It was noted that it is more beneficial to assess a patients needs from their own home rather than at hospital.

Members considered the report as circulated within the agenda pack.

Following scrutiny, the report was noted.

# 5. **Pre-Decision Scrutiny**

# **Directors Annual Report 2022-23**

The Director of Social Services, Health & Housing confirmed the annual report was related to 2022/2023 and was not a reflection of the current position.

Members referred to page 45 of the report and asked for more information regarding testing targets in relation to substance misuse.

The Head of Housing and Communities confirmed that testing was carried out where there was a higher risk of blood borne viruses such as hepatitis and HIV. The target is in relation to offering people in contact with services, blood testing to test their wider health.

Members referred to page 35 of the report and asked if there was a progress update in relation to unpaid carers.

The Head of Adult Services advised members that one of the key themes in the current strategy is to provide more resource and support to unpaid carers. Grant money has enabled three Carer Champions to work within the network and work is ongoing to locate and support unpaid carers. It was noted that the quoted figure of 20k unpaid carers may be under reported.

Members considered the report as circulated within the agenda pack.

Following scrutiny, the recommendation was supported to Cabinet Board.

In relation to the following three agenda items, the Director of Social Services Health and Housing advised members that a previous undertaking had been given to report back to this committee the detail of the strategic intent for the next four to five years. The plans are in different stages of development. It has been necessary to report some aspects of the reports in private due to market sensitive information.

# Housing and Homelessness Strategic Plan

The Head of Housing and Communities provided an overview of the Housing and Homelessness Strategic Plan as contained within the agenda pack.

Members referred to Page 80 of the report and commented that working strategically with private landlords would be challenging in the current climate and questioned what is the strategy going forward in relation to working with private landlords?

The Head of Housing and Communities advised members that a Private Rental Sector Landlord forum, was taking place shortly. This forum will help to understand the challenges private landlords are facing, raise awareness of schemes that can support them in providing affordable rents and try to stimulate more affording housing in the private sector.

Members expressed concern in relation to difficulties experienced between developers and planning applications and stated further discussions were needed between Social Services and planning. There is a need to look closely at registered social landlords in relation to shared ownership.

The Head of Housing and Communities confirmed that the purpose of the action was to ensure that there is more joined up work. There is a need to consider communities as a whole and how the council can ensure developments and actions offer the most benefits.

Members were pleased to that Active Travel was contained in the strategy and commented that some residents are hesitant to move to valley communities due to transport issues.

Members commented on the ambitious nature of the plan and asked how much confidence was held that the plan can be achieved in the current economic climate.

The Head of Housing and Communities advised members that the costs of homelessness were rising and a significant amount of the council's budget is spent on bed and breakfast accommodation. There is a business case behind the plan. In the long term it will be more cost effective to invest in the plans as costs will continue to increase significantly, if no investment is made. It was noted that the housing support grant has been reduced.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety thanked scrutiny members for their relevant questions. Members were advised of a forthcoming seminar which would help to pick up on some of the concerns raised regarding engaging with developers and meeting needs across different communities.

Members commented that the recent announcement to close Tata Steel has affected residents who have purchased from private developers.

The Director of Social Services, Health and Housing thanked members for the question relating to affordability, and acknowledged that although it is a significant investment from the council this is necessary in the long term. The Director asked the committee to consider, given the costs involved, how they would wish to receive assurance and have oversight as time progresses that the work is being effective and implemented in a timely way.

The Vice Chair of the committee agreed that progress updates would be appropriate and requested these could be provided at the same time as Key Performance Indicator (KPI) updates.

Members raised concerns relating to substandard private rental properties and questioned whether the plan addressed how the council could enforce landlords to raise the quality of certain properties.

The Head of Housing and Communities agreed with the importance of raising standards but advised members enforcement was not contained in the plan as this was a statutory responsibility of Planning and Environmental Health. Members agreed to discuss this with officers outside of the meeting.

Members considered the report as circulated within the agenda pack.

Following scrutiny, the recommendation was supported to Cabinet Board.

# Neath Port Talbot Children & Young People Social Care Strategic Plan 2023 – 2026

The Head of Children and Young People Services advised members that the plan was developed in collaboration with families, children, the community and stakeholders over a period of 10 years.

Members referred to page 163 and asked what media and forums were used to promote the consultation. Due to the low number of responses received, members questioned if anything could have been carried out differently.

The Head of Children and Young People Services confirmed that the consultation was held over the internet and discussions have taken place regarding widening this in future to cover other areas.

Officers confirmed that there is a dedicated officer that continuously works with young people around consultation and participation.

The Director of Social Services Health and Housing re-iterated to Scrutiny Committee Members that the main pillars of the strategy is around addressing placement sufficiency. Children have been placed in residential care because the right foster care is unavailable; it is important that placement sufficiency is properly balanced, with the creation of professional foster care positions with appropriate remuneration. It was noted that this approach has been tried previously but current conditions are more favourable.

Members mentioned the forthcoming Foster Care Launch in the Gwyn Hall, Neath on 19th February and asked what more could be done to promote this important event.

Officers confirmed that they are open to hearing Members suggestions on how the event can be more widely promoted. It was confirmed that a Working Group has been set up to promote the

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event with the assistance of a Marketing Officer and the wider support of the Corporate Communications Team. Information relating to the event will be circulated for onward dissemination within Wards.

Members considered the report as circulated within the agenda pack.

Following scrutiny, the recommendation was supported to Cabinet Board.

# Neath Port Talbot Adult Social Care Strategy 2023 – 2026#

The Head of Adult Services provided members with an overview of some of the ambitious programmes of work within the strategy. Detailed reports of all the strands of the strategy will be brought back to this committee over the coming months.

Members considered the report as circulated within the agenda pack.

Following scrutiny, the recommendation was supported to Cabinet Board.

# 6. Committee Action Log

Members noted the Committee Action Log.

# 7. Forward Work Programme 2023/24

Members noted the Forward Work Programme.

# 8. <u>Urgent Items</u>

There were no urgent items.

# 9. Access to meetings

Resolved: to exclude the public for the following item(s) pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the relevant exempt paragraphs of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

# 10. Pre-Decision Scrutiny of Private Item/s

<u>Business Case for Establishing an in-house Adult Family Placement Service</u>

Members considered the report as circulated within the private agenda pack.

Following scrutiny, the recommendation was supported to Cabinet Board.

# **CHAIRPERSON**

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# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL**

# NEATH PORT TALBOT SOCIAL SERVICES, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

# 21st MARCH 2024

Report of the Director of Social Services, Health & Housing
- Andrew Jarrett

**Matter for Information** 

Wards Affected All Wards

# INFORMATION SHARING IN RESPECT OF THE TRANSITION PROCESS BETWEEN CHILDREN AND ADULT SERVICES

# 1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the current transition process from children to adult services. We will look at what works well and the areas of development and how we determine the most appropriate service for young people as they transition into adulthood. We will also outline the future plans that are currently being developed in respect of transition.

# 2. Background

The transition period, from children's to adult's services, usually 14-25 years, can involve a wide range of professionals working across a number of different agencies. This includes, social services, education and health. Ensuring a seamless transition from children's to adults' services has been a challenge but one that we are committed to working towards achieving. We work in a person centred strengths based way to support children, young people and young adults and their families/carers to achieve their personal outcomes. There is a Principal Officer in both children and adults services dedicated to transition. A review of transition commenced in 2020 and since this time work has been undertaken to strengthen the process. The report considers the current process that is in place and the future developments to ensure that there is a no wrong door approach.

# 3. Financial Impacts

There are no financial impacts arising from this report.

# 4. Integrated Impact assessment

There is no requirement for an integrated impact assessment as this report is for information purposes part 13

# 5. Valleys Communities Impact

There are no implications.

# 6. Workforce Impacts

There are minimal workforce impacts arising from this report; there have already been changes to the staffing to support transition.

# 7. Legal impacts

There are no legal impacts arising from this report.

# 8. Risk Assessment Impacts

There are no risk management requirements arising from this report.

# 9. Crime and Disorder Impacts

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the Council in the exercise of its functions to have "due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent:

- a) Crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment);
- b) The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area; and
- c) Re-offending the area".

There is no impact under the Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

# 10. Counter Terrorism Impacts

The proposals are likely to have no impact on the duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

# 11. Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Impacts:

Section 2(1) of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 introduced a general duty where a person exercising relevant functions must have regard (along with all other relevant matters) to the need to remove or minimise any factors which:

- (a) increase the risk of violence against women and girls, or
- (b) exacerbate the impact of such violence on victims.

The proposals contained in this report are likely to compliment and work alongside the impact on the above duty. VAWDA SV is included in the priorities of the Board under exploitation.

# 12. Consultation

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

# 13. Recommendations

Not applicable.

# 14. Reasons for Proposed Decision

Not applicable.

# 15. Implementation of Decision

No decision to be made; for information only.

# 16. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Transition Overview Report

# 17. Background Papers

None

# 18. Officer Contact

Victoria Smith, Principal Officer, Children and Young People Services v.smith@npt.gov.uk

Keri Warren, Head of Children and Young People Services <a href="mailto:k.warren@npt.gov.uk">k.warren@npt.gov.uk</a>

Lisa Morris, Principal Officer, Adult Services <a href="mailto:l.morris@npt.gov.uk">l.morris@npt.gov.uk</a>

Angela Thomas, Head of Adult Services

a.thomas@npt.gov.uk





# Appendix 1 - Transition Overview Report

# **Prepared by**

### **Victoria Smith Principal Officer Childrens Services**

# **Lisa Morris Principal Officer Adult Services**

# March 2024

# **Background**

This paper seeks to provide an overview of the current transition process from children to adult services. We will look at what works well, areas of development and how we determine the most appropriate service for young people as they transition into adulthood. We will also outline the future plans that are currently being developed in respect of transition.

The transition period, from children's to adults' services, usually between the ages of 14-25 years, can involve a wide range of professionals working across a number of different agencies. This includes, social services, education and health. Ensuring a seamless transition from children's to adults' services has been a challenge but one that we are committed to working towards achieving. We work in a person centred, strengths based way to support children, young people and young adults and their families/carers to achieve their personal outcomes.

At the start of 2020, we commenced a review of transition arrangements in Neath Port Talbot Social Services. Following the COVID-19 pandemic it was apparent that there was an increase in vulnerability, there was an impact on emotional wellbeing, lack of social opportunities and increased social isolation.

As part of this work, it became clear that there was no standard pathway for transition between children and adult services with varied approaches to transition within different adult services teams/geographical areas. This was especially evident for young people who do not have a diagnosed learning disability. We found that there is an existing pathway for cases from the Children with Disability Team to transfer to the Complex Disability Team. However, it was noted that there is an increase of young people where there are concerns in respect of vulnerability and safeguarding that need to be considered for support into adulthood.

Therefore, to support a successful transition to adult services, a decision was made for transition to be managed within the Complex Disability Team, with designated transition Social Workers. The shift was in consideration of how we improve and deliver a consistent

service in order to enable a young person to make a successful transition to adulthood. Also at this time we improved our data to ensure that young people were identified at the age of 14 if they were likely to need support from adult services in the future. This has enabled us to look at the resources that are available and required to meet this need. We have also recognised that there is further work to do in respect of prevention early intervention and the support that Local Area Coordinators can provide in the community outside of statutory involvement.

# **Our Vision Statement**

We want to ensure that young people experience a smooth transition to adulthood which enables them to reach their potential and to live a valued and dignified life as independently as possible.

In particular, this means that young people:

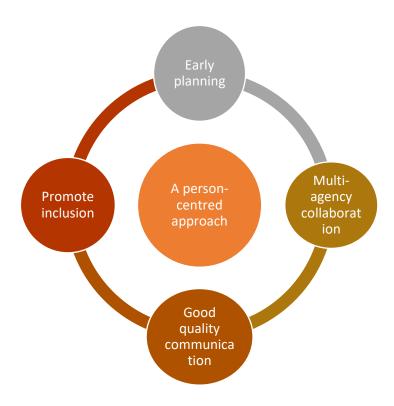
- are able to pursue their own goals;
- feel embraced and respected by their community;
- have their independence recognised and are able to make choices about decisions which impact on their lives;
- receive support in a timely, compassionate manner and that is effective at promoting their personal wellbeing; and are able to maximise education, training and employment opportunities.

'Draft Regional Multi-Agency Transition Policy for Children and Young People with Complex Care Needs 2024)

### Our Key Principles

Neath Port Talbot Council has a critical role in promoting the rights and well-being of young people to help them to reach their full potential. Our aim is to ensure a smoother transition between services, and to develop a clear process and understanding for the families and children and young people. We aim to have a no wrong door approach and remove any barriers to achieve better outcomes.

We are committed to working in a manner aligned with the Principles and Standards outlined below.



### What works well and how we plan on delivering on the principles

There is a dedicated Principal Officer in both children and adults services to support transition. There are monthly meetings whereby the current process and future developments are discussed. As a result of the review, we have made changes to the teams in adult services to support with transition and we also now have improved data to allow us to map and track cases.

We now have a designated officer for Neurodiversity who sits across both children and adults services to provide information advice and assistance.

As well as the work being undertaken locally, there is a regional group sitting under the West Glamorgan Partnership to develop a regional multi-agency transition document.

### **Regional Working**

The Neath Port Talbot Principal Officer for transition in Adult services is the Chair of the Regional Transitional Working Group. The scope of this working group is to deliver a Regional Multi-Agency Transition Policy for Children and Young People with Complex Care Needs. This group is made up of representation from social services, health, education and the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector, along with citizens. This working group is currently producing a Transition Policy

# **Strengthening of the process**

We have looked to strengthen the transition resource in the Complex Disability team by; having a designated Deputy Team Manager with oversight and operational management of transition pathways. We have identified specific training needs for those workers involved in transition

There is now additional Social Work capacity to support with early planning to ensure the full involvement of the young person and their family or carers to ensure they are involved in the decision making and what is important to them. This can lead to better experiences and outcomes for young people.

# **Mapping and Tracking**

We have worked to identify and map the accommodation and care needs of young people transitioning to inform the future commissioning of services. This will enable us to work towards solutions and to identify gaps in provisions and pathways. This has provided us with a far better understanding of those children and young people transitioning.

We have been able to undertake joint capacity assessments at an earlier point to inform care planning.

There is early planning, sharing of information via existing well established pathways. There are monthly transition meetings between children and adult services for information sharing. There is an interface meeting with education in respect of young people in transition particularly from Ysgol Maes-yr-Coed. We have been working with education in respect of the Additional Learning Need (ALN) development and are in attendance at the 16 plus education group to develop services.

Work is being undertaken in respect of developing children and young people's independent living skills.

Systems are in place to identify young people who will move from children's to adult's services (aged 14) and to start involving them and their families or carers in planning their transition by the age of 16. The current pathway planning is also to inform commissioning priorities.

### What does this look like?

# Referrals for support / managed care plan

There are currently 40 referrals open to the Complex Disability for young people under 18 and there are 86 young people between the ages of 18-21 who are being supported (most but not all of whom will have been referred through a transition pathway).

There are 32 young people aged between 18-21 who are known and supported by the Clinical Learning Disability Team.

### Referrals for accommodation:

There are currently 5 children and young people placed in residential care aged 16 plus. Out of those cases 3 have been identified as requiring accommodation and care due to their complex disability needs. Out of those 3 needing accommodation; 2 are likely to require a residential placement and 1 could be supported in a shared lives arrangement or in supported accommodation when he reaches adulthood.

There are currently 15 children under the age of 16 in residential care. At this time it has been identified that 1 is likely to require a residential placement given his complex disability when he reaches adulthood. The other young people could be supported by other accommodation arrangements, such as step down foster care or supported accommodation.

### **Pathway Planning:**

The Principal Officer for children's services chairs a monthly Complex Needs Panel. This is a multi-agency panel whereby young people with complex circumstances are discussed. Children and young people who are placed in residential provisions and have high packages of care are discussed and their plans are reviewed. Multi-agency commissioning and funding of placements is explored at this meeting along with ensuring that cases have been referred for transition in a timely way.

Quarterly residential workshops are held to review the care plans of children and young people in residential care. The members of the workshop consider the longer term care planning for children and young people and ensure that the identified placement continues to meet that young person's identified needs.

For some young people who leave residential care, moving to a foster family is not the right care plan for them. Some young people's needs are better suited to a supported housing provision. We have been developing young people's independent living skills in readiness for this. We have seen some young people successfully step down to these arrangements. We are currently undertaking a placement sufficiency exercise and considering the in-house and external commissioned market options to provide this accommodation for young people aged 16 plus.

We have also developed our foster plus scheme to include Tier 4 Step Down from residential care. We will be looking for foster carers who are able to care for our older more complex young people to enable them to step down from residential care arrangements.

### **Next steps**

We are reviewing current pathways and will develop a clear and defined pathway for children and young people who are transitioning to adult services.

We have clear information in respect of future accommodation needs, therefore our next steps will be to review high cost packages of care provided to young people at home including short breaks/respite and day opportunities.

We will be working closely with our colleagues in commissioning to strengthen the accommodation and care market by commissioning models of care/support to meet current need and demand. This will be informed by mapping and early identification given that there is currently an overreliance of high cost residential care market in the absence of alternative models of accommodation and care.

We will be develop and strengthen the offer of Adult Placement / Shared Lives provision to include young people transitioning to adult services with the focus of progression, promoting

independence, empowering young people. This is in line with adult services transformation agenda of brining Adult Placement / Shared Lives in-house.

We are in the process of establishing of a Transition Panel which will be jointly chaired by the Principal Officers in children and adult services. The Principal Officer for Prevention Early Intervention along with the Principal Officer for Leaving Care will also sit as members of the panel. This panel will consider care plans for those young people aged 14-25 but with a particular focus on those aged 16 to 19 initially. This panel will consider the long term care plan and be a decision making forum to consider the plans. This panel will ensure consistency across the service and will also ensure that all options are considered and that the young person's needs are identified and met appropriately.

The panel will also consider risk management plans and also look at accommodation needs. The aim is to strengthen the systems and mechanisms involved in multi-agency working across professional boundaries and services. The panel will also promoting appropriate access to services, including prevention early intervention services. The aim is to foster closer more joined up working, shared values and pooled thinking.

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# Agenda Item 6

# Social Services, Housing & Community Safety Scrutiny Committee Actions and Referrals Update – 2023-24

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Minuted Action / Referral / Request	Progress Update	<u>Officer</u>	Target / Completion Date	Completed / On-going
16.11.23	Neath Port Talbot Youth Justice and Early Intervention Draft Youth Justice Plan 2023- 2024	Members requested figures in relation to reduced timetables. Officers can provide figures for members.	E-mailed officer	Alison Davies/John Burge		Completed – information e-mailed to members 27.2.2024

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# Social Services, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee (All starting 2pm unless otherwise stated)

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Contact Officer
2023		
13 <sup>th</sup> July	Asylum Dispersal, Refugee and Ukrainian Response	Claire Jones
21 <sup>st</sup> September	Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 22-23	Chair Cllr C.Galsworthy Alison Thomas (Dem Services)
	Housing and Communities – Mid-Year Progress Report	Chele Howard
16 <sup>th</sup> November	Prevention/Early Intervention – Local Area Coordinators	Sarah Waite
2024		
25 <sup>th</sup> January	Hospital Discharges	Sorelle Jones
2 <sup>nd</sup> February		
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Transition from Children's to Adult Services	Victoria Smith/Lisa Morris
18 <sup>th</sup> April	Direct Payments	Sue Bradshaw /Adrian Bradshaw/Lisa Morris

# • To be programmed into the cycle

Report on personal assistants – Angela Thomas/Maggie Hayes Unpaid Carers – Sarah Waite TBC

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