

# NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING *CABINET BOARD*

13<sup>th</sup> July 2017

### REPORT OF THE HEAD OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES – A. JARRETT

#### **MATTER FOR DECISION**

**WARDS AFFECTED: ALL**

#### **DEVELOPMENT OF A PILOT TRANSITION TEAM BETWEEN CHILDREN AND ADULT SERVICES**

##### **1. Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval to establish a pilot transition team between children and adult services with the aim of jointly working with those young people with very complex needs and high cost packages of care.

##### **2. Background**

A transition steering group has been established to consider some of the ways to improving planning for young people with complex needs who move between children and adult services.

There is a Transition Protocol in place and the transition for young people with significant physical and learning disabilities is a well-established process with mechanisms set up to transfer young people from the Children with disability team to the relevant adult service team. For a number of these young people they will continue to have a need to be supported throughout their lives in order for their care needs to be met.

However there is another cohort of young people who have additional support needs who are not necessarily known to the children with disability team and these young people's needs can sometimes be more complex to plan for. This group can include

those young people with high functioning ASD/Asperger's and those with emotional or mental health difficulties who are known to the children's community teams or the Leaving Care Team. While these young people do not have a diagnosed learning or physical disability or mental health difficulty because of their vulnerability and presenting needs require support into adulthood. Often they are young people who are/have been Looked After and can be split broadly into 2 categories which closely overlap:

- Those with emotional behavioural difficulties, or those engaged with substance misuse
- Those with emerging mental health difficulties who do not have a diagnosis

This group of young people can have significant impact in terms of resource and often have high cost packages of care as their care needs as children are most often met in a fostering or residential placement or a supported living arrangement. What this means for adult services is that when the young people become 18 years old, adult services inherits a package of care that can be significant, and can continue well into adulthood. This places a strain on adult services both in terms of resource and capacity as well as the young person potentially receiving a service that does not promote their independence,

In order to ensure that there is a more effective transfer it is important that there is an improved mechanism for ensuring that this data held by children's services is available to adult services and shared in a cohesive way which allows for forward planning and commissioning. This will ensure that there are appropriate plans in place well in advance of the young people becoming 18. It is also essential that for those young people moving between children and adult services that the process can be fluid so that there is not a specific cut off point on a specific date, but rather there is a genuine transition between the 2 services.

The following improvements were considered as being important in improving transition arrangements:

- Better use of the information held in order to effectively plan for the numbers of young people who will need support when they reach 18 and to improve commissioning arrangements.
- Earlier engagement from partner agencies (for example identifying Continuing Health Care needs at an earlier stage)
- Improved planning for young people who have emotional/mental health difficulties
- Improved step down services to avoid the reliance on statutory services
- Removing the pressure on everything 'changing' at a magical age and seeing transition as a continuum
- Developing an expertise in supporting young people to move from Children's to adult services
- Developing a multi-agency strategic approach to planning in which partner agencies are focusing on meeting the needs of young adults rather than focussing on the need for young people to fit a criteria.

## **Proposals**

The concept of having a Transition Team which acts as a bridge in young people moving between children and adult services is not new, however there are vast variations in how a transition team functions and its role and purpose.

In exploring the ways to improve the journey for our young people from children's to adult services we believe that having one team which spans the range of expertise between children and adults services is essential.

The target group would be those young people who have high needs who do not necessarily fit within the complex needs of physical/learning disabilities. The cohort of young people would be those who are in high cost residential placements or foster placements where they will require additional support when they reach adulthood and those with emotional/behavioural difficulties who often do not fit the criteria for CAMHS, but have emerging mental health difficulties (but not diagnosed mental illness).

The proposed structure of the pilot team would be as follows

- 1 Team manager
- 4 SW's (grade 9) - proposal is that 2 SW's would be from CYPS, 1 from CMHT, 1 from Adult services
- Potential to include a PSW

Staff would be recruited from within existing teams and existing structures.

Caseloads would need to reflect the often more complex nature of the young people.

The team would not replace the current transition arrangements at this moment – the role of the existing transition workers needs to remain in place as they have a different role

The team will need to develop strong links with the commissioning unit and the commissioning and contract monitoring officers in order to ensure that there is the opportunity to shape the local market as well as ensure co

### **3. Financial Impact**

There are no financial implications for the pilot scheme as it will be developed from within the existing service.

### **4. Equality Impact Assessment**

An Equality Impact Screening Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. After completing the assessment it has been determined that this proposal does not require an Equality Impact Assessment.

The proposals to develop a pilot transition team will not have a negative impact on the current service provision,. The pilot team will be working within statutory requirements and will be subject to the same performance monitoring that currently exists so there will be no change

in performance expectations but it is hoped that the pilot will see improved outcomes.

## **5. Workforce Impacts**

The proposals will require staff to be seconded from within existing teams within both children and adult services. The staff will be maintaining a caseload of people that they work with therefore there will be no impact on the teams that they come from. There will be a requirement for staff to be issued with contracts in line with the secondment arrangement.

## **6. Legal Impacts**

There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

## **7. Risk Management**

The risk associated with failing to implement the proposed pilot is that there is no change to the current way of working and therefore there is not an opportunity to explore whether improvements can be made to young peoples outcomes, and to the resource management of services leading to a continued demand for high cost care provision.

## **8. Consultation**

There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

## **9. Recommendation**

It is recommended that Members approve the implementation of a pilot transition team for the period of 5 months commencing in September 2017 with a review being undertaken and the outcomes reported back to Members..

## **10. Reason for Proposed Decision**

The reason for the proposed decision is to consider a new way of working which spans both children and adult services to ensure that those young people who required ongoing support into their early adulthood receive well planned and well managed support. The objective is to better commission resources and better manage outcomes to ensure that wherever possible we are working towards young people living independently and where they do require ongoing support that it is proportionate to their needs.

## **11. Implementation of Decision**

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

## **12. Appendices**

Equality Impact Assessment

## **13. List of Background Papers**

None

## **14. Officer Contact**

Delyth Berni, Principal Officer Children & Young people services,  
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Tel No: 01639 763319E-mail: [d.berni@npt.gov.uk](mailto:d.berni@npt.gov.uk)