



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 23RD OCTOBER 2012

SUBJECT: TRANSITION

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR - SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To respond to a request from the Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to provide information about the local authority activity in relation to transition and from adult to older adult services.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.2 The report will include information regarding how a local Caerphilly task and finish group is implementing the Pan Gwent multi agency transition protocol for young people with disabilities/additional learning needs and the work of the Caerphilly transition operational (TOG) group.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (Wales) 2002
- The additional transition key actions set out in the National Service Framework for children, young people and maternity services (2005)
- Adult Services Service Improvement Plan 2012/13
- Children Services Service improvement plan 2012/13
- Learning, Education and Inclusion Services Service Improvement Plan 2012/13
- Gwent Multi Agency Transition Policy 2012

4. THE REPORT

4.1 Background to transition

Transition from child to adult services is guided by transition policy and procedures that are written in line with the requirements set out in the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice for Wales. The purpose of the Code of Practice is to give practical guidance to Local Authority's, and the governing bodies of maintained schools on the discharge of their functions under Part IV of the Education Act 1996. It also provides guidance for those who help them to do this, including health and social services. The Code sets out guidance on policies and procedures aimed at enabling pupils with special educational needs (SEN) to reach their full potential, to be included fully in their school communities and make a successful transition to adulthood.

4.2 Context

- In total, there are 8025 pupils in Caerphilly county borough between school years 9-14, of which 311 (3.8%) have required Statements of Educational Need.
- There are 7,973 year 9-14 pupils in mainstream settings of which 259 (3.2 %) have Statements of Educational Need and 428 pupils (5.3%) are at School Action plus (SA+).
- All 52 pupils in Trinity Fields School have Statements of Educational Need.
- There are 67 year 9-14 pupils on our education database that are out of county. Of these
 - 28 have a Statement of Educational Need
 - 26 (38.8%) are Looked After Children (LAC) of which 15 have a statement, 6 are at School Action plus (SA+) and 5 at School Action (SA)
 - 41 (61%) are non-LAC of which 13 have statements, 14 are at SA+ and 14 at SA.

4.3 Head teachers have responsibility to prepare Transition Plans for pupils in year 9 (13/14 year olds) as part of the education statement review process. The Code of Practice also specifies that Careers Wales, Social Services and Health should be invited to attend the year 9 review and contribute to the transition planning process. School Review and Transition Plans can also be used for other young people not in receipt of an educational statement for example children at school action plus. In Caerphilly Local Authority one of the ways to implement this guidance is through the Caerphilly Transition Operational Group (TOG).

4.4 Caerphilly Transition Operational Group (TOG)

The Transition Operational Group was originally established in 2007 to improve inconsistency in the way in which the Transitional Policy and Practice Guidance 2006 was being utilised. In previous years there were often challenges as to identifying the most appropriate adult service team to take responsibility for the initial assessment, which resulted in a delay in assessment and subsequent transition.

4.5 The purpose of the TOG meeting was to discuss the more complex cases that were in need of referral to Adult Services and agree a way forward as to which team in Adult Services would take responsibility for the young person and undertake an initial assessment.

4.6 Some young people referred to the group for discussion do not have 'traditional' disabilities, such as learning disability or physical disability; instead they may have a specific learning difficulty along with other complex issues. Each TOG meeting discusses a number of cases of young people with complex difficulties or disabilities presented for discussion. Since 2007 over 72 cases have been presented to the TOG meeting with 20 new cases being considered by the TOG group from April 2011 to April 2012, on average 10-15 young people will be discussed at each meeting. These young people will be a mixture of new referrals and reviews on cases that have previously been presented to the TOG meeting in order to ensure that appropriate plans are in place. The Leaving Care Team presents the majority of the young people, although there are also some from the Children with Disabilities Team and locality teams.

4.7 Improving attendance at the TOG meeting through representation from all adult teams now assists comprehensive discussion. In addition the chair of the TOG meeting was strengthened to service manager (children's services) level thus ensuring consistency and acceptance of cases for assessment in Adult Services.

4.8 It has been identified that the learning disability team often receive referrals for young people who are vulnerable due to their learning difficulties who have support needs however do not have a specific diagnosed learning disability. For example children with Aspergers syndrome are not diagnosed as having a learning disability however clearly require a service and as such become part of the 'vulnerable groups' that the learning disability team work with. This

presents challenges to the TOG as the learning disability nurses based within the learning disability team do not work with such individuals, thus support is limited to social care and education support.

- 4.9 The frequency of the TOG meeting has increased from quarterly to monthly. Participation from health and education has improved however the service manager utilises ongoing reminders about the importance of attendance for all. The Pan Gwent Transition protocol, explored later in this report, has provided an opportunity to reinforce the multi agency approach required to securing good participation and planning for the future via the TOG meeting.
- 4.10 Improving transition is a current theme across health, social care and educational services in Wales given that parents, professionals, researchers and government reports have identified problems with the transition into adulthood for young people with disabilities. The Welsh Government SEN Policy Review of Transition (2007) highlighted a number of problems including:
- Lack of coordination between services
 - Transition planning process being ineffective
 - Young people not being involved in their transition plans and reviews
 - Relevant professional not participating in the transition process.
- 4.11 Welsh Government responded by funding pilot projects to develop transition key working in Wales. Gwent transition project was later awarded monies from the European Social Fund to continue the development of transition.
- 4.12 The transition team developed a transition information pack including a DVD, a person centred transition plan that was used for the young people in the pilot group and piloted a transition coordinator role. The project shared good practice across the local authorities, Aneurin Bevan Health Board and education agencies involved in transition in Gwent developing an agreed multi agency transition protocol.

4.13 Gwent Multi Agency Transition Protocol

The protocol sets out the roles and responsibilities of the agencies involved in planning and coordinating the transition into adulthood of young people with disabilities and additional learning needs living in the pan-Gwent area. The partners include the social care and education directorates of the five local authorities in Gwent namely, Caerphilly Blaenau Gwent, Newport, Torfaen and Monmouthshire. The Aneurin Bevan Health Board and Careers Wales are also signatories to the protocol. The protocol links with the Aneurin Bevan Health Board's Policy for the Transition of Young People with Healthcare Needs between Children's Services and Adult Services within the Aneurin Bevan Health Board.

- 4.14 The protocol sets out a vision and principles for young people with disabilities and additional learning needs to have well-planned and well-coordinated transition support through their transition into adulthood.
- 4.15 The Corporate Director Social Services and the Corporate Director of Education, Lifelong Learning and Leisure agreed to become signatories to the Pan Gwent transition protocol to enable Caerphilly to benefit from the multi agency aspect of the guidance. The protocol sets out criteria for standard and multi agency transitions. Schools manage standard transition procedures for individuals with education statements who move into adulthood without the need for any additional transition support from social services or health services. Other children will require a multi agency transition; it is these children who are discussed by TOG to ensure adequate planning takes place to ensure needs are assessed in a timely manner. The benefit of the TOG group analysing the data of Caerphilly pupils would assist in the identification of services and resources for the future.

4.16 Caerphilly TOG has set up a task and finish group which will:

- Devise the criteria to be captured on a Caerphilly TOG database
- Facilitate a workshop to present the transition protocol to the head teachers and special educational needs coordinators in each school (SENCO)
- Identify a flag system to note children approaching 16 years of age who are in receipt of continuing health care (CHC) funding as the assessment process to access adult CHC funding begins at 16
- Work with the head teachers to ensure timely invitations to school reviews to facilitate good attendance by health and social care agencies
- Shape the future TOG meeting agendas to facilitate planning for future resources
- Explore and define the terminology currently used to ensure collective understanding and use between agencies and with service users and their families
- Expand the suite of information leaflets available for service users and their families

4.17 The transition of people of working age to older adult services is based on the presenting needs and risks to independence each individual will have. For example an individual receiving mental health services may transfer to Older People's Teams when they acquire physical disabilities that outweigh their mental health needs or their mental health needs change e.g. the early onset of dementia. Transfers are undertaken professionally following a review of an individual's care needs, a period of joint working and a case summary. The services an individual receives are maintained or adjusted consistent with their changing needs.

4.18 It is anticipated that the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) may be visiting the authority later in the financial year to review our transition arrangements. Further information regarding findings and any recommendations can be shared with scrutiny committee members as required.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The report is for information purposes, so the Council Equalities Impact Assessment does not need to be applied.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct financial implications

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no direct personnel implications.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 All comments received have been reflected in the body of the report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 It is recommended that members note the report of the inter-directorate work and multi agency work underway in relation to Transition.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The recommendation is made in order that elected members are informed of the activity within the Caerphilly County Borough in relation to transition.

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Appendices:
Appendix 1 Pan Gwent multi agency transition protocol for young people with disabilities and additional learning needs 2012