

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE - 23RD FEBRUARY 2009**

**REPORT ON: IMPROVING TRANSITIONAL PLANNING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK**

**REPORT NO: 124 - 2009**

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to illustrate how improved transitional planning arrangements are improving outcomes for young people in Dundee who leave school and will continue to have additional support needs as adults.
- 1.2 Within the Social Work Department, the developments are led jointly by Children's Services and Community Care Services. The developments are gaining national recognition.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes that:
- 2.1.1 the multi-agency Transition Forum has been established;
- 2.1.2 the Social Work Department has agreed a Transition Protocol; and
- 2.1.3 there is developing collaborative practice involving children's and adult services from agencies across Dundee
- 2.2 It is recommended that the Committee recognises the improved outcomes for this group of young people in the areas of personalised plans, participation, reduction of duplication, improved support and service delivery; and greater clarity of responsibility as described in paragraph 4.3.
- 2.3 It is recommended that the Committee endorses future plans through the Transition Forum for development in improvement and co-ordination of services, user involvement, improved procedures and better forecasting of future need as outlined in paragraph 4.4.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Separately, work has been undertaken to identify current and future demand to ensure best use of available financial resources.

### **4.0 MAIN TEXT**

#### **4.1 Background**

- 4.1.1 Each year, there are at least 30 young people leaving school in Dundee who will continue to have additional support needs as adults.

## 4.2 The Transition Forum

4.2.1 In April 2007 a multi-agency Transition Forum was set up in collaboration with colleagues from the Education Department, NHS Tayside services for children and adults, Dundee College, Barnardo's, Tayside Association for the Deaf, PAMIS and advocacy groups. These partners share an interest in the transition of young people into adulthood; and they share responsibility for plans and their outcomes.

4.2.2 The Social Work Department has responsibility for the co-ordination and leadership of the forum.

## 4.3 Key outcomes for service users arising from the work of the Transition Forum

4.3.1 **The individual needs and aspirations of each identified young person with additional support needs is responded to in the development of his or her plan.** Already, consultation events in 2008 have shown that service users with a learning disability report an improvement in transitional planning.

4.3.2 **Young people, parents and carers are active participants in planning.** They record their contribution in shared planning documentation for the transition from secondary school to post-school. Carers report improved communication at an earlier stage of transitional planning (PIP Consultation event 2008).

4.3.3 **There is less duplication for service users and carers** through improved sharing of information and decisions across agencies.

4.3.4 **Supports offered to Dundee's young people in college are improved.** Since September 2008 nine young people who have a physical or learning disability have been supported by Gowrie Care within a contractual arrangement with agreed quality requirements. This in-college support service is commissioned by a sub-group of the transition forum. The overall contract with one provider is more cost effective than the previous spot purchase arrangements with several providers. Specialised services in college and university for individuals with autism have also been commissioned from the Scottish Society for Autism.

4.3.5 **Individuals who are becoming adult service users experience a more seamless service.** Children's Services and Community Care staff now commission support services for these young people together.

4.3.6 **Service users and carers experience a more consistent enabling provision.** Capability Scotland has agreed a single management structure for the enabler services we have commissioned for children and adults.

4.3.7 **Professionals and people who may use a social work service are clearer about who within the Social Work Department is responsible for the progress of the plans for a young person through transition.** An agreed Transitional Planning Protocol states principles, roles and responsibilities of relevant social work professionals in planning for transition. (Appendix 1)

## 4.4 Improving practice and learning through the Transition Forum

4.4.1 The Transition Forum provides a focus for improving practice and learning together through its membership and the work of sub groups.

4.4.2 A Transition Pilot is in operation with ten young people who are in the transition towards adulthood. The young people and their families choose 'lead people' who will then be trained in the role of care co-ordinator. This pilot draws on learning from the care co-ordination process developed through Dundee's ASPIRe service for children and young people with complex needs. An evaluation of the process followed and outcomes for the young people involved and their families will be undertaken. The evaluation will help to inform future planning arrangements for young people with additional and complex needs. (Appendix 2).

- 4.4.3 The forum will extend the involvement of service users and carers in transition developments at both individual and strategic level using learning from the pilot, as well as contributions from advocates and from groups focussed on service user involvement such as the Future Matters Group and the SAY group.
- 4.4.4 To increase inter-agency awareness, a sub group of the forum is mapping processes, procedures and documentation within the involved professions. An anticipated response to this work will be the creation of a more streamlined experience for young people and their families/carers.
- 4.4.5 A further sub group has been working on employment. It is drawing on the work of Dundee's Discovering Chances, Discovering Choices programme. Starting with existing structures and examples of good practice it will describe how best to meet the employment needs of those within the city with additional support needs.
- 4.4.6 Future planning is being supported by sharing information about the population of need. The numbers of children with autism, for example, has been identified per school year from pre-school to 18. This information will also be sought for other areas of specialist need, such as Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities and Physical Disability to aid future financial and service planning.

#### 4.5 Transition work in Dundee has a national profile

- 4.5.1 Scottish Government representatives with responsibility for Scotland's 'Partnership Matters' strategy attended the Transition Forum in late 2007. Positive feedback was given to the forum regarding Dundee's approach to the strategy and an approach has since been made to ask for Dundee case studies which we believe will form part of the Government's updated guidance on Partnership Matters.
- 4.5.2 Practitioners across Scotland are showing an interest in the work being done through the Transition Pilot on gaining young people's informed consent to the sharing of information.
- 4.5.3 Care Co-ordination Network UK (CCNUK) has agreed to evaluate the Transition Pilot. This organisation will bring a national perspective to the focus of the evaluation; and eventual dissemination of any learning.

#### 4.6 Conclusion

- 4.6.1 We now have a framework to ensure a continued focus on improved transitions for young people with additional support needs. The benefits of services for children and adults working together across departments and agencies are clear.
- 4.6.2 Further developments will be monitored and reported to Social Work Directorate periodically.

### 5.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

The major issues identified are:

#### 5.1 Anti-Poverty

- 5.1.1 The financial opportunities that young people with additional support needs may have through the Independent Living Fund and Direct Payments are being given attention through planning for transition and work to raise awareness of possible entitlement.

5.2 With better planning for appropriate services, young people with additional support needs will have greater access to the opportunities that Dundee has to offer. Their equal opportunities are supported through the application of the principle of an equitable and fair allocation of available resources.

## **6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Head of Finance have been consulted in preparation of this report.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

Alan Baird  
**Director of Social Work**

DATE: 4th February 2009

**RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLANNING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH THEIR TRANSITION FROM CHILDREN'S SERVICES TO ADULT SERVICES**

**WHO this protocol is about:**

- children and young people with additional support needs;
- the families of these children and young people.

**WHAT this protocol is about:**

- making plans for children and young people who may need social work services in adult life and their families;
- making clear who within the Social Work Department is responsible for the progress of the plans.

***PRINCIPLES that inform this protocol:***

- 1 The best interests of the young person will be central to decisions concerning their transition to Adult Services.
- 2 The responsibility for planning for transition to adult life is shared between Children's Services and Adult Services.
- 3 Children and young people who are going to need and be offered a social work service in adult life will be identified - giving sufficient time to plan.
- 4 The rights, responsibilities and risks relating to the young person will be considered throughout the planning and decision making process.
- 5 A Best Value approach will be taken to ensure equity and fairness in the allocation of available resources.
- 6 Transitional planning and service delivery will be managed effectively both operationally and strategically.

***WHO is likely to need an adult service?***

Professionals who work with children and families in areas including education, health, housing, communities, police, social work, the voluntary and private sector will identify children and young people who are likely to need an Adult Social Work Service.

**HOW is this information used?**

The Multi-agency Transition Forum is the operational reference group to oversee the transition to adult life of young people with continuing additional support needs. The information is gathered for this Forum. The Forum ensures that there is a named person for each young person and that there is progress with plans.

## **WHO will that named person be?**

*For children and young people under the age of 19, the named person will be from Children's Social Work Services or Adult Social Work Services. At times, named persons will be from other agencies. The pattern of decision-making is as follows:*

<b>Children's Services</b>	<b>the relevant Adult Service</b>
The child or young person <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• is receiving a Children's Social Work Service <u>and</u></li><li>• is under 16 years of age</li></ul> <u>or</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• continues to attend school and is under 18</li></ul> <u>or</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• is a looked after child who is 17</li></ul> <u>or</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• is under 19 and receiving a Throughcare &amp; Aftercare service.</li></ul>	The child or young person <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• is not receiving a Children's Social Work Service</li></ul> <u>or</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• has left school and is not a 'looked after child'</li></ul> <u>or</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• is age 18 or over</li></ul>

### Notes:

The timing of transition and other decisions will be according to each individual's needs and particular circumstances. This means that the rules in the table will not always apply.

The Transition Forum will maintain an overview of decisions affected by the protocol.

Where a young person is looked after and accommodated under Section 25 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, the transfer of case responsibility may be made to adult services when the young person leaves school.

If a young person is eligible for a Throughcare and Aftercare Service, the decision will need to be taken as to whether the named person should be from the Throughcare/Aftercare service (part of Children's Services) or the relevant Adult Service.

## **Continuity**

Plans will be made to avoid sudden and unexpected changes. For young people age 15 and over, when plans are made and services are provided or proposed, colleagues in Adult Services will be advised and consulted.

The question of what might be offered to the young person in adult life will be discussed and recorded.

**Management of Risks**

There is a protocol relating to children and young people under 16 years of age and young people who are in the transition to adulthood, who are deemed at risk of causing serious harm to others. This will be referred to and used where it applies.

**Strategic Overview**

With an overview of the full profile of need, the Multi-agency Transition Forum provides data and analysis to a multi-agency steering group to inform future planning and development.

A multi-agency group will meet periodically to monitor the current pattern of need and provision to children and young people and to anticipate the future service needs for them as young adults. This group will take a long-term approach to the targeting of existing resources and to the planning of future resources.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Fred McBride, Head of Children's Services

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Bannerman, Head of Community Care

*Written by Michael Holligan, Service Manager (Children's Services) and Arlene Mitchell, Service Manager (Community Care) in October 2008*

*To be reviewed by Service Manager (Children's Services) and Service Manager (Community Care) by October 2009*

**Transition Pilot from Children's Services to Adult Services**

1. The pilot will continue for a year at least, and will be independently evaluated by Care Co-ordination Network UK to gain the satisfaction levels and suggested recommendations.
2. 10 children/young people aged 14 - 18 years to be identified for inclusion in the Pilot, from different schools and abilities.
3. 10 young people who have been through transition two years ago and have been co-ordinated in some way by the Dundee Transition Forum.
4. 10 young people who have been through transition five years ago, prior to the formation of the Transition Forum.
5. The views of the young people and their families will be sought and recorded by telephone or personal interviews using identical questions throughout the three groups.
6. Criteria for inclusion :-
  - The young person has complex needs, as per definition from multiple and complex needs.
  - Is aged 14 -17 years at commencement of Pilot.
7. The pilot will use Care Co-ordination and Shared Information
8. The Lead People will be chosen by the families and they will be provided with the training for this role, and regular peer support groups thereafter.



### **Expectation of Lead People in Transition**

1. Act as a link between all the people involved with the young person's care, acting as a single point of contact, referring on as necessary.
2. Ensure that all information contained in Transition Folder is current and updated as soon after any changes as possible.
3. Provide a level of ongoing support to the family, which is mutually acceptable.
4. Are involved in Person Centred Planning for the young person.
5. Obtain and record the views of the young person regarding their wishes for the future.
6. Ensure that possible options for education, employment or training are explored.
7. Lead People are to attend regular Peer Support Groups and individual sessions with Development Officers.



### **Expectations of Professionals in the Team around the Young Person**

1. To communicate with the Young Person, Lead Person and family regarding relevant changes within care or needs, planning ideas etc.
2. To attend planning meetings for the young person or provide up to date report of changes and advice.
3. To inform the lead person of any changes of information that should be updated within the transition folder of information.
4. To be involved in Person Centred Planning process informing the Young Person's goals for the future.
5. To support the Young Person's transition into Adult Services, further education, employment or training.



### **Useful Contact Details and Websites**

ASPIRe, 11 Castle Street, Dundee, DD1 3AA

Tel: 01382 434142

E-mail [aspire@dundeecity.gov.uk](mailto:aspire@dundeecity.gov.uk)

[www.dundeecity.gov.uk/dundeecity/uploaded\\_publications/publication\\_268](http://www.dundeecity.gov.uk/dundeecity/uploaded_publications/publication_268)

Care Co-ordination Network UK, The Melting Pot, Thorn House,

5 Rose Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2PR

Tel: 0131 243 2634

E-mail: [scotland@ccnuk.org.uk](mailto:scotland@ccnuk.org.uk)

[www.ccnuk.org.uk](http://www.ccnuk.org.uk)

'Turn 2 us', enables people to check their welfare benefits entitlement and search for a charity based on their needs.

[www.turn2us.org.uk](http://www.turn2us.org.uk)

Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability,

[www.sclld.org.uk](http://www.sclld.org.uk)

Direct Payments are local payments for people who have been assessed as needing help from social services and would like to arrange and pay for their own care and support services.

[www.direct.gov.uk/en/Disabled](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Disabled)

[People/FinancialSupport/DG\\_10016128](#)

or contact Dundee City Council: 01382 343800

Find further useful information and website addresses at,

'Contact a family': [www.cafamily.org.uk](http://www.cafamily.org.uk)

Freephone helpline: 0808 808 3555