

Learning Example

Stockport Transition Pathway Pilot

Introduction

Working with partners, including parents and carers, a new transition pathway was developed which enabled Stockport to identify young people who were likely to be eligible for Adult Social Care (ASC). The Preparing for Adulthood team provided advice and guidance, and were influential in achieving the impact described below.

This led to an increase in the numbers of young people who had a timely transition to ASC, reduced the numbers of young people referred in crisis, provided evidence for a business case for more resources, and enabled Stockport to embed a new way of working which supports effective transition planning.

Background, aims and objectives

The Care Act and the SEND reforms created challenges for Stockport's previous transition pathway and some young people were not experiencing a smooth transition from Children's Social Care (CSC). There were a number of young people who were not known to CSC and had been well supported by their families throughout childhood, but were struggling during adolescence. For these young people there was little preparation for adulthood. This resulted in some families getting into crisis or continuing reliance on social care support well into adulthood.

The aim of the pilot was to test a new way of working to improve the transition journey into adulthood for young people and their families.

- To take a proactive approach to identifying young people who may be eligible for support under the Care Act 2014
- To raise the profile of 'Preparing for Adulthood' and the importance of transition planning and support improvements to Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans
- To improve joint working across education, health and social care, and children's and adults' services
- To provide evidence of need to inform future business planning
- To reduce the number of young people (18-25) found to be in crisis and at risk

Methodology:

A new pathway was developed with young people, parents/carers and staff across education, health and social care:

- A 'design by doing' method was agreed in order to flexibly manage the process and expectations
- Additional resources were secured for a 12 month period to test the new pathway and take a more proactive approach
- A spreadsheet was set up with details of young people aged 14 - 17 years old who may have care and support needs as adults, using those on Education, Health and Care plans as a proxy indicator. This was used to track young people through transition from the first point of contact until case closure
- A graduated approach was used starting with young people in special schools and rolling out over a 4 month period to include those in mainstream settings
- Contact was proportionate; those in mainstream were contacted by letter with copies to parents/carers and for those in special schools, parents/carers were contacted directly by phone or through annual review.

Findings:

Tracking over a 6 month period found that:

- 29% of young people contacted were eligible, of which 90% were in special schools and SEND provision in colleges
- 24% of young people eligible had been in receipt of direct payments from CSC
- Of those contacted by letter, only 7% requested a transition assessment
- Referrals were received for young people not on EHCPs
- Feedback from parents/carers and partners was positive

The pilot is already showing a significant impact:

- Numbers of young people transitioning into ASC is likely to increase by over 100% in 2 years
- Partners report much improved joint working
- There has been an increased demand on ASC resources in terms of staff and budgets
- A 38% reduction in numbers of new referrals of under 25s into the Multi Agency Adults at Risk System (MAARS)

The evidence gathered as part of this process supported a successful business case to provide an increase in resources to Transition team

Changes to practice

- EHCPs have an improved focus on Preparing for Adulthood and transition planning. Requests for transition assessments are discussed at Year 11 reviews and written into plan updates to support outcomes
- New resources are distributed at Year 9 reviews and 'Preparing your teenager for independence' workshops are held termly
- Secondary Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs) and children's services colleagues have regular briefings along with two page guides and monthly drop in sessions
- A link social worker scheme has been introduced for the special schools and colleges
- A 'Preparation for Adulthood' section in the SEND guidance is available for settings, schools and colleges
- The Local Offer has a PfA section, developed with young people

Resources

Stockport's Transition Pathway (2019) is available [here](#).

The Preparing for Adulthood Transitions Guide (2018) is a guide for parents and carers of young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) aged 13 to 25 years in mainstream or special education or post-16 learning, training or employment. The guide is available [here](#).

The Growing Up in Stockport booklet is for young people, their families and carers, and provides information on supporting young people to prepare for adulthood. The booklet is available [here](#).

The Preparing For Adulthood Programme (delivered by the National Development Team for Inclusion) provides a range of advice, guidance and produces resources to support young people into with paid employment, good health, independent living options and friends, relationships and community inclusion. Their website is accessible [here](#).



The Transition Information Network is hosted by the Council for Disabled Children

The Council for Disabled Children (CDC) is the umbrella body for the disabled children's sector in England, with links to the other UK nations. CDC works to influence national policy that impacts upon disabled children and children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and their families. The CDC membership is made up of over 300 professional, voluntary and statutory organisations, including disabled young people and parent representatives. CDC's broad based membership and extensive networks of contacts provides a unique overview of current issues. It also enables us to promote collaborative and partnership working among organisations.

CDC hosts the following networks and projects:

- IASS Network
- Independent Advice and Support Programme
- Making Ourselves Heard
- Special Educational Consortium

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Council for Disabled Children is hosted by the National Children's Bureau.
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