

The Highland Council
Education Children and Adult Services Committee
11 November 2015

Agenda Item	11.
Report No	ECAS 99/15

Transition Planning for Young People

Report by Director of Care and Learning

Summary

This report sets out a summary of the current action plan relating to Transition planning and notes areas of progress.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Scottish Transitions Forum describes transition as the period when young people with additional support needs (such as a learning disability, autism, sensory impairments, mental health, emotional and behavioural issues, exceptional health care needs and young people in care) grow from children to adults. Professionals often associate it with the move from school to college or the “case transfer” from child to adult services.
- 1.2 Transitions happen concurrently across a range of services, including health, education, housing, and social care. The experience of transition by young people however, is wider than this and includes leisure activities, relationships and all the normal experiences of growing up and adjusting to adult life.
- 1.3 The Scottish Transitions Forum has identified 7 principles of good transition.
 1. All plans and assessments should be made in a person-centred way.
 2. Support should be co-ordinated across all services.
 3. Planning should start early and continue up to age 25.
 4. Young people should get the support they need.
 5. Young people, parents and carers must have access to the information they need.
 6. Families and carers need support.
 7. Legislation and policy should be co-ordinated and simplified.

2. Leadership of transition planning in Highland

- 2.1 One of the 13 Improvement Groups which lead on improvement for children and young people in Highland focuses on transition. The Chief Executive’s Joint Transitions group was established in December 2012, meets twice yearly and is jointly chaired by the Chief Executive of Highland Council and the Chief Executive of NHS Highland. This is a well-established group with wide-ranging representation, and has developed an action plan. The leadership provided signifies the key importance of this area of improvement.
- 2.2 In recognition of this, and the scope and cross-cutting nature of the action plan, it was recently agreed that an Operational Transition Group should be set up, led by the Director of Adult Social Care and the Head of Children’s Services. This group now leads on implementation of the action plan, and has a particular focus on improving transition between children and adult services. The Operational group

reports to the Chief Executive's Joint Transition Group.

3. Action Plan

- 3.1 An extract of the action plan can be found at **Appendix 1** of this report. The Operational Group have been tasked with refreshing this plan, and it is proposed that it should be structured to reflect the seven principles of good transition.
- 3.2 New pathways for young people in transition from children's to adult services were agreed at the September meeting of the Chief Executive's group. These are being piloted for a 6 month period, and the experience of a sample of young people will be monitored. The pathways conform to the principle that policy should be simplified. Instead of numerous points of transition, depending on the circumstances of a young person, the pathways now align the transition point to the age of 18 years, but also re-inforce the importance of joint planning from the age of 14 years.
- 3.3 There is joint planning around Self-Directed support for young people, informing recommendations for future service delivery, which will be brought to the January meeting of this committee.
- 3.4 There is a programme of work around young people who are "care experienced", which includes the development of further accommodation options for young people, and establishing a site for a drop-in centre to offer support to young people who are living independently but have said that they would like more social support in the evenings.
- 3.5 Also in relation to care experienced young people, a proposal is being developed to support young people and trusted adults to maintain links once they have outgrown the requirement for a professional link. This is in response to the identification of the importance of the continuity of relationships.
- 3.6 The Community Planning Partnership has committed to offering employment to care experienced young people, and a scheme is being developed to ensure that young people are properly prepared and supported to take advantage of this offer made under the Family Firm umbrella.
- 3.7 An event was held in June in Lochaber called "My Life, My Future", with over 100 people attending. The event was used to identify emerging themes which were:
 1. Education.
 2. Further education, work experience and employment.
 3. Choices, rights and risks.
 4. Health and wellbeing.
 5. Home.
 6. Family and support.
 7. Friendships.
 8. Hobbies, lifestyle, interests, leisure and culture.
- 3.8 The learning from this consultation exercise will be built into the refreshed action plan.

4. Implications

- 4.1 There are no specific resource, legal, equalities, risk, climate change/Carbon

clever, or Gaelic implications. However, the challenges of providing services in rural areas would equally apply to this kind of service.

5. Recommendations:

- 5.1 Members are asked to note the progress made on transition planning and to comment on the action plan.

Designation: Director of Care and Learning

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Date: 29 October 2015

Appendix 1: Action Plan for Managing Transitions (abbreviated version)

Action	Comment
<p>1. Establish a senior officer, multi-agency Transitions Partnership to take forward the agreed action plan, including the Chief Executive of Highland Council and Chaired by the Chief Executive of NHS Highland, reporting to the commissioning groups in both NHS Highland and Highland Council.</p>	<p>The Partnership was established in December 2012.</p>
<p>2. Establish small time-limited sub-groups, reporting to the Transitions Partnership, in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - respite for young adults (initially via with the existing Short Breaks Working Group) information for families, building on existing resources - needs of children with mental health issues transferring to adult services - staff training 	<p>There is an active group in the Wester Ross, Skye and Lochalsh area.</p> <p>A Complex Case Planning group meets regularly to discuss the accommodation and support needs of young people in transition between children's and adults' services.</p> <p>Staff training is being established through a network of transition leads in children's and adults' services.</p>
<p>3. Transitions Partnership to also prioritise challenges with regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - realising the benefits from self directed support - inclusion in school and further education - development of further outcome indicators 	<p>Remitted to the Operational group.</p> <p>To be tested out in a sample of young people during the period of the pilot of the revised pathways.</p>

<p>- envisaged legal requirement for Named Person until school leaving age/18 years</p>	<p>It is intended that young people who don't receive ongoing support as a care leaver will have access to a Named Person through the youth work service.</p>
<p>4. Focus on implementation of joint protocol for managing transitions, including audits of compliance and quality of transition arrangements between Highland Council and NHS Highland.</p>	<p>New pathways are being piloted from October 2015 for 6 months.</p>
<p>5. Short term exercise to identify any young people who may not have current transition arrangements in place.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>6. Employability group, Highland Works, to address issues for young people with disabilities, as well as other young people who may not achieve positive destinations – and to report in to the Transitions Partnership.</p>	<p>An impact report was prepared and recommendations developed.</p>
<p>7. Identify ongoing means for consultation and engagement with young people, young adults and families, on their terms – including, consideration of social media.</p>	
<p>8. Demographic and trends information to be compiled, to assist ongoing service planning.</p>	
<p>9. Identify long term accommodation and support options for those young adults who require them.</p>	<p>This is overseen by the Complex Case Planning group. There have been recent developments in provision for young adults, led by both children's and adults' services.</p>
<p>10. Identify transitions issues and actions for young carers</p>	<p>Remitted to Young Carers Group</p>