

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

11 JANUARY 2022

ALL AGE DISABILITY (0-25) SERVICE PROPOSAL

Summary

1. This Report provides the Panel with an update on the transformation and proposed restructure to create a new All Age Disability (0-25) Service, to provide a more coherent and co-ordinated response to need and deliver better outcomes both in the short term and into adulthood.
2. The aim is to offer longer term life and independence planning for children and young people into adulthood. As a consequence, the individual will see diminishing experiences of a sharp change in their support at 18 years old (social care) or 25 years old (education). Support will be planned early, with individuals and their families/carers to ensure ongoing achievement and sustainment of their independence, enabling and empowering people to live their own lives, in their local community with choice and control.
3. This Service is being developed jointly between Worcestershire County Council's People Directorate (the Council) and Worcestershire Children First (WCF). The programme is sponsored jointly by the Strategic Director of People and the Chief Executive of WCF/Director of Children's Services.
4. The following have been invited to the meeting:
 - The Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Adult Social Care, Children and Families and Education
 - The Strategic Director of People and the Chief Executive of WCF/Director of Children's Services
 - Members of the Adult Care and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

Background

5. Following the Adult Care and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Panel Review of the Consultation on Council Provided Day Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities, an update on the development of the All Age Disability Service had been requested and it was agreed that this would be a joint discussion with this Panel.
6. The catalyst for the development of the Service came from a stakeholder engagement with parent carers and young people in the autumn of 2019 as part of the Special Educational Needs & Disability improvement. This followed the SEND Inspection in 2018 that required an action plan for improvement and the SEND Strategy 2019-2021 to focus on Preparation for Adulthood. The participants made it clear there were a number of areas they found challenging and it was difficult to get the right help at the right time as a young person prepared for adulthood.

7. This was re-enforced by analysis of the data about late decision making, difficulties in timely planning for adulthood from the earliest of years and challenges of co-ordinating responses to this transition. This was despite the improvements that had been made from the creation of the Young Adults Team (People Directorate). There was also an issue of too many young people having their needs met out of the county away from family and their local community. It was clear a joint response was needed to both provide improved local provision and confidence to both parent carers and young people of the offer.

8. The focus has been on improving the experiences of support and coordination through a joined up “offer” for those children and young people with disabilities and special educational needs aged 0 to 25.

9. The aim is to offer longer term life and independence planning for children and young people into adulthood. As a consequence, the individual will see diminishing experiences of a sharp change in their support at 18 years old (social care) or 25 years old (education). Support will be planned early, with individuals and their families/carers to ensure ongoing achievement and sustainment of their independence, enabling and empowering people to live their own lives, in their local community with choice and control.

Issues for the Panel to Consider

10. The detailed proposal for Transformation and Restructure – Integrating the adult services Young Adult Team (YAT) service into new All Age Disability Service (0-25) is attached at Appendix 1.

In Scope

11. The following existing services are in scope of the proposed new Service: Children’s SEND Services, Children’s Social Care, Children with Disability and the Young Adults Team.

Preferred Option

12. To effectively deliver this as a coherent All Age Disability Service, integrating the teams is the preferred option. That is a single 0-25 Service, led by a single strategic lead, with a locality footprint of combined staff of Children with Disability (CWD), Special Educational Needs or Disability (SEND) and Young Adults Team (YAT) under single management. This would provide a consistent and coherent offer with locality flexibility responding to levels of need and locality resources. By structuring to an area footprint, it will improve local networks and community provision.

13. The benefits of restructuring into a more integrated service and the best way to enable a more coherent and coordinated approach from 0-25, in line with Special Educational Needs transformation changes brought in by the 2014 Children and Family Act, is by the Adult Services (People Directorate) provision being hosted under a single strategic leadership and management team alongside children’s services provision, to support the early identification and planning.

Benefits

14. The identified benefits are:

- Improve the experience for young people and their families
- Provide a better service for families
- Build stronger relationships with the child, young person, and their families, which leads to a more person-centred approach to provide greater consistency for families and avoid information getting lost
- Ensure preparing for adulthood can run through the entire service, with a broader and better understanding of resources/support for 17+ cohort
- Achieve greater collaboration and ownership of the Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) and CYP future planning
- Have a Locality focus for each 0-25 team, enabling better links with schools and community resources and a greater understanding of that specific local area's needs
- By integrating the teams into a single service improve joint problem solving, be more solution focused, and increase creativity
- Improve communication between the different disciplines and individual professionals.

Budget Implications

15. There will be a transfer of staff resource from the People Directorate to WCF and a contribution to the development and management of the service.

16. Additional costs to facilitate an integrated area-based model will be found within efficiencies in both WCF and the People Directorate.

17. Budgets for placements and care packages will remain for pre-18 year olds in WCF and post-18 year olds in the Council but both will be delivered and managed through the All Age Disability 0-25 Service.

Governance

18. The SEND Improvement Board will be transformed into a new All Age Disability 0-25 Partnership Board co-chaired by the new Director of All Age Disability 0-25 and a Health Lead. The People Directorate will have representation on the Board.

19. There will be an agreed set of Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) for this Service and a monthly report on those along with a finance report that will be shared with the Strategic Director for People and the CEO/Director of Children's Services.

Risks

20. Risks have been mitigated for. The changes do not anticipate any redundancies as deleted positions are likely to find a comparable position in the new service.

Purpose of the Meeting

21. The Panel is asked to:

- consider the information and comment on the proposal,

- determine whether any further information or scrutiny on a particular topic is required, and
- agree whether it would wish to make any comments to the Cabinet Members with Responsibility.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Proposal Paper for Transformation and Restructure – Integrating the adult services Young Adult Team (YAT) service into new All Age Disability Service (0-25)

Contact Points

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

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