



Dorset
Council



Dorset

Birth to Settled Adulthood

Programme Overview for the People and Health Overview Committee
24th October 2022

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Independent Chair, Birth To Settled Adulthood Board



Background, and initiating the work

- In 2021, Children and Adult Services recognised that the current operating model to support young people through the transition to adulthood across Dorset had not been delivering the outstanding service that our community require and we as an organisation aspire to
- A review was commissioned, which engaged with a range of young people, families and professional and stakeholder groups.
- The report was presented to the People & Health Overview Committee in September 2021, and made a number of recommendations for workstreams to improve the transitions pathway, under a stronger governance model.
 - This included as a priority to resolve the backlog of assessments that needed to be undertaken

Feedback that influenced the planning

During the Local Area SEND Inspection 2019 families told us, via the Dorset Parent Carer Council, that:

- They weren't provided with good information about preparing for adulthood
- The transitions assessment wasn't completed in good time
- The move to adult life was not well-planned

Through the Learning Disability Partnership Board, people with learning disability have also told us what is important:

- Making sure that young people and their families can get the right information
- Supporting access to advocacy services to help people speak up
- Making it easier for young people to move from children's to adult services
- Join up plans for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Do more to include support for young people when we think about planning and buying services.

Context

- Between May 2020 and May 2021, 153 new referrals were made to the transitions team
- 265 people aged 18-25 years (at May 2021) were receiving a support package from adult social care
 - of which 185 had a learning disability
 - 129 were supported through a direct payment.
- Between April 2019 and April 2021, the number of 18-25 year olds receiving a social care package rose by 30%
- There has been a shift in the identified primary need of young people in transition, with greater percentages identified year on year since 2018 as having a diagnosis of mental illness, autism condition, or a physical disability

Vision for a new service

- Our ambition is to be tenacious about enabling Dorset's children, young people and young adults to maximise their potential to achieve good life outcomes.
- Our aim is to implement an inclusive 0-25 service for children with special educational needs and disabilities, with targeted support for those who are likely to require ongoing services into adulthood. However, we know for some young adults, that by supporting those with additional needs up to the age of 25, they may not require ongoing interventions from adult services as well as some young adults who wouldn't routinely be entitled to services due to the Care Act (2014) but will benefit from support into adulthood (up to 25).
- Therefore, we also want to provide services for those young adults who we see as 'falling through the gap'
- To develop a service that can effectively support young people in their Preparation for Adulthood.

Feedback from the launch event

Dorset Parent Carer Council

Worries

- Fears – the cliff edge – what is out there? How do we find out? It is all so confusing...
- My child is not personally involved
- CAMHS - how can they transition care into adulthood
- Will my child be safe? How do I begin letting go? Will they have a big life?
- Inclusion in Dorset – need more disability awareness for everyone!

What a perfect future for their young person look like...

- Good life – I'm supported by people who know me. These people will understand strengths and support me to as much as possible with my life and will always be ambitious for me.
- I will live in my own home and feel safe and secure there.
- My family and those who care for me will work together as a team always.
- For my child to be able to fulfil a career in what interests them!



Overview of the key challenges identified in 2021

- Need for stronger collaboration and a vision that helped to articulate the journey of childhood to adulthood, not just for those requiring longer term support from services
- Lack of shared understanding of each directorate's role
- Lack of clear vision on what an operating model for transitions would look like, and what it can deliver
- Variable definitions across professionals about transitions, and the key points in a young person's journey
- Consensus on the need to start the process earlier in order for young people to gain the skills for independence and make the best use of their own and other available resources and community resilience
- Communication with families, strengthening young person's voice at the centre of the process with personalised planning
- A more clearly defined offer for children and young people with additional needs, including a clearer commissioning model for the provision needed
- Training on various elements of the pathway across all teams
- A more consistent and uniform approach to recording and reporting activity across teams to enable a 'single view' of a young person
- Challenges are not isolated to Dorset Council, but are reflected also in the integrated care pathway and CCG

Programme structure



Mark Rogers

Independent Chair,
appointed January 2021
for two year term

The role of the Independent Chair

- Supporting and challenging the partnership to be the best it can for Dorset's children, young people and their parents and carers.
 - Acting as a strategic adviser to the partners and the partnership: bringing perspectives and experience from elsewhere; acting as a critical friend; and ensuring the voices of children and young people are always central to the programme.
 - Testing the thinking, planning and implementation of the programme, especially the formulation of the "future operating model".
 - Monitoring and evaluating impact: are the changes improving outcomes.
- **B2SA Board – chair Mark Rogers, meets 6-weekly**
 - Will consist of Senior Officers and decision makers from Adults and Children's Services and partners from health, housing, Elected Members, NHS, Adults and Children's Social Care, Education, Police and Independent Voluntary sector and community partners and executives who will provide strategic vision and governance to the programme to develop and deliver the new Transitions model in Dorset.
 - The Board will have an independent objective and authoritative identity.
 - The Board will link/report to – People Health & Scrutiny, Health and Wellbeing Board, People & Health Overview, Strategic Alliance CYPFP, A Better Life Board and SLT.
 - **Programme Board – chair Theresa Leavy, meets 6-weekly**
 - Will provide strategic Leadership at an operational level to develop the service and provide effective delivery of the improvement programme.
 - Ensure regulatory, best practice, quality and policy standards are introduced/engaged.
 - Engage and support B2SA Board with understanding the vision for transitions across Dorset Council and holistically with the multi-agency partnership – reporting and holding to account.
 - Provide understanding and clarity of governing legislation for both Children's and Adults services.
 - Ensure the development of a Jointly commissioned, co produced, shared policy for transition across Education, Children's and Adults Services
 - Supported by two workstreams:
Business Intelligence, Commissioning & Finance; and Service Design.

Early priorities, and scope for service re-design

Early priorities

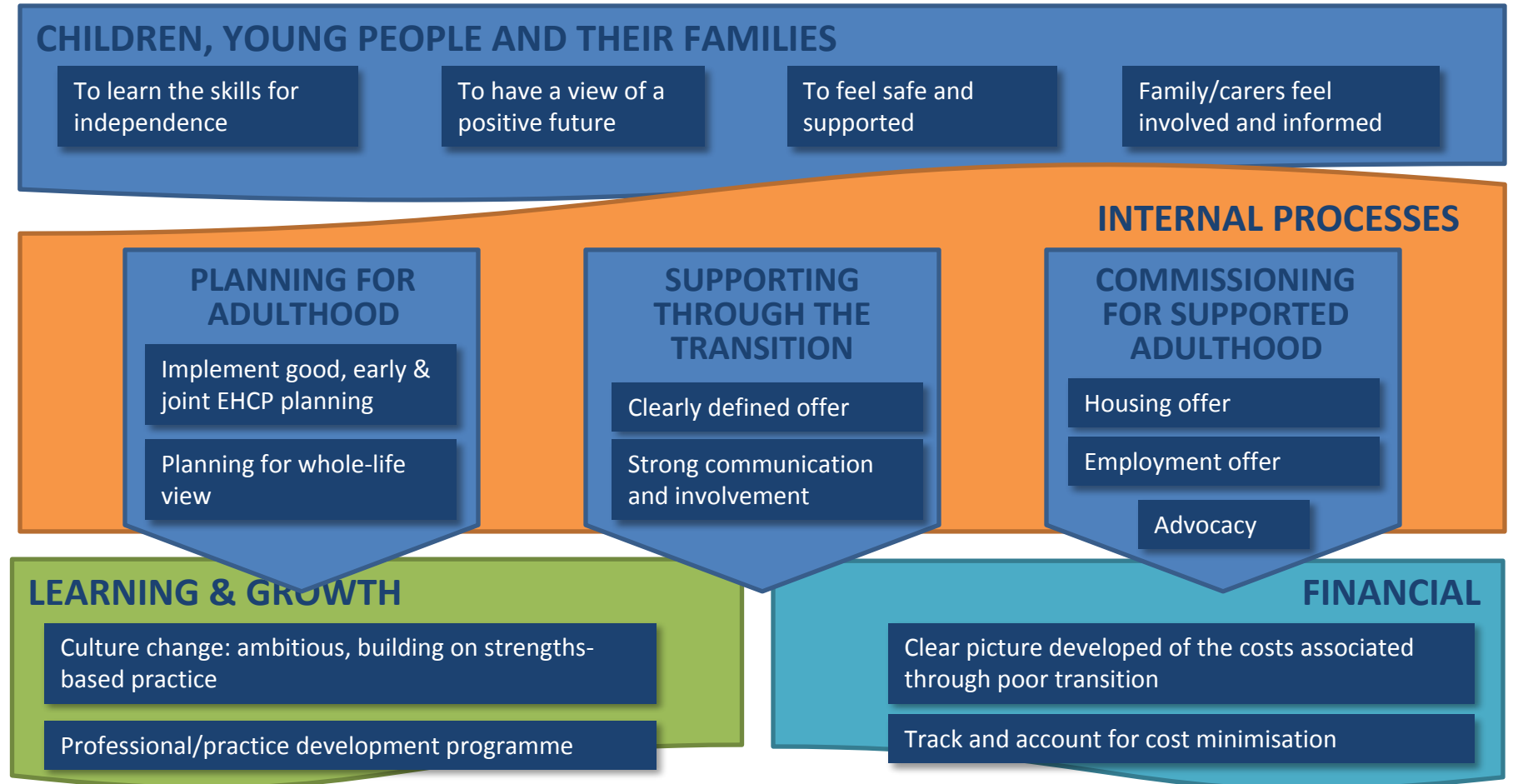
- 1. Deliver a Change Process (Hearts & minds)
 - To develop an approach to engage with services outside Children who are Disabled Team i.e. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Care Leavers, Looked after Children, Special Educational Needs Team and develop a Model of delivery i.e. 0-25
- 2. Priority action with immediate activity
 - To approach backlog of assessments outstanding and target the additional 77 Young people identified via the finance work to look at early help planning.
 - To review the model, cohort and scope within Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care and understand the risks of not ringfencing capacity for work with young people.
 - The proposals set out take into consideration the principles and values that were presented to Health Overview Committee in September last year. These were co-produced with parent carer forum and will be involved in ongoing co-production and are a member of the B2SAB.

Scope for service re-design

- In scope for service re-design are services, pathways and systems for:
 - Children and young people known to services who have a disability
 - Children with SEN who have a EHCP and are likely to have care and support needs into adulthood
 - Children aged 14 plus requiring support for mental health who are likely to need care support
 - Children with high-cost education packages (>50k/yr)
 - Young people who are at risk of abuse or exploitation and may not meet Care Act eligibility criteria (contextual/transitional safeguarding)
 - Children and Young people who have Continuing Care funding.

Building a Balanced Scorecard

To help monitor progress, and maintain the programme's focus on what matters to young people and families, a Balanced Scorecard is being developed. Domains have indicators from existing performance management systems underneath, which will be refined and developed as the programme evolves.



Progress update

- Recovery and Improvement plan to look at improvements and quick wins
- Held a Parents and Carers launch event with Dorset Parent Carer Council (June)
- Held a Joint Directorate workforce webinar (August)
- Undertaken a deep dive audit of 36 Young People
- Mapped the current training available across Adults and Children's and where the gaps are
- Created a Performance Dashboard to help track young people through transitions and understand what difference we are making
- Reviewed the range of commissioned services we have with a view to identify gaps
- Education, Employment and Training Service now delivered in house
- Launched a new Supported Employment service with Pluss for people 16+
- Appointing a single Direct Payment support provider for Children's and Adults & Housing
- Offered free holiday activities for 16 to 25 year olds as part of our 'Summer in Dorset' programme

Current focus and next steps

- Focusing on changes that can be made now to improve the experience for young people and their parents and carers.
- Working groups with a range of representation to work through how we can improve experiences now.
- Sharing colleagues' skills and experience.
- Identifying young people with high level of needs at an earlier stage
- Commissioning Services to support young people build skills and confidence as they approach adulthood.
- Understanding the current transitions pathways
- Working with Oxford Brookes university to develop a method to help us understand the experiences of our employees and our children, young people and families
- To continue to open up communication, including regularly with families and young people
- To expand co-production opportunities, and the opportunity for more of our staff to be involved in shaping and deepening the programme
- Including a joint training programme and further use of case studies to share best practice