

Health and Wellbeing Board

18 September 2024

Birth to Settled Adulthood Integration – Progress Report

For Review and Consultation

Cabinet Member and Portfolio:

Cllr. C Sutton, Children's Services, Education & Skills

Local Councillor(s): All

Executive Director:

T Leavy, Executive Director of People - Children

J Price, Executive Director of People - Adults

Report Author: Louise Ryan
Job Title: Head of Service
Tel: 01305 224238
Email: louise.ryan@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Brief Summary:

The Birth to Settled Adulthood Service is an integrated model of service delivery between Children and Adult Social Care for children and young people with complex health needs, disability and SEND. This is now a 0-25 service hosted in Children Directorate. The service supports integrated working with Adult Social Care to support young people 18-25 to achieve a settled position in adulthood. The commitment to launch the service as agreed under the partnership agreement has been achieved. The remainder of 2024/25 will ensure that operational implementation is delivered. Phase two will focus on opportunities for integration with NHS Dorset. The newly formed service began on 30th April 2024.

Recommendation:

This report is to update the board on progress with the Birth to Settled Adulthood Programme and an opportunity for questions and comments.

Reason for Recommendation:

This was last presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in September 2023. This is an update on progress for the members of the Health and Wellbeing Board since that time.

1. Report

- 1.1 The Birth to Settled Adulthood (B2SA) launched on 30/4/2024 and achieved the timescales which were committed to in the Partnership Agreement between Children's Services, Adults Services, Housing Services, NHS Dorset and Dorset Parent Carer Council. This was agreed as phase one.
- 1.2 Dorset Council's approach was to ensure that a partnership approach has been used with a focus on improving outcomes for children and young people. Also ensuring there is support in place for parent-carers, young carers and adult carers. Planning at an earlier stage and ensuring assessment and care planning happen in good time will help to achieve better outcomes for children and young adults. The approach will imbed principles of independence, strong links with communities and an ambition that young people are supported to thrive.
- 1.3 There was an Area SEND Inspection Local on Dorset Local Partnership completed by OFSTED and CQC in March 2024. This inspection found that the local area partnership's arrangements for children and young people who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) typically lead to positive experiences and outcomes. The reports noted that the local area partnership was taking action where required. The Birth to Settled Adulthood Service was designed to improve children and young people's experiences further and with greater integration. The SEND delivery plan is published on Dorset Council website.
- 1.4 The partnership is underpinned by an effective and equitable Joint Commissioning Strategy that enables us to come together in a place-based service. A prominent feature of the service design is Locality based support which is strong in Children and Adult Services. The ethos is that children and young adults should be supported to live safely in their own communities where possible.

- 1.5 The Head of Service was appointed and took up the position in April 2024. There have been some internal management changes. Two Service Managers have now been appointed. One with a focus on Children's Social Care responsibilities and one with a focus Preparing for Adulthood with a blending of knowledge of legal frameworks and skills required for integrated working.
- 1.6 The operational staff have been completing a programme of induction and training which is planned between April 2024 and September 2024.
- 1.7 The Children's Services adopted Department for Education strategy Stable Homes Built on Love, implementing a Pathfinder programme and a new operational structure across the whole division in June 2024. There are features of the Birth to Settled Adulthood service which are aligned and support this new way of working. There will be more integrated working in safeguarding and child protection. This will help to ensure that there is consistent practice for disabled children and young people. Lead child protection social work roles have been created in B2SA and will integrate to the Locality Child Protection Teams.
- 1.8 Since the launch, Best Start in Life Advisors have joined the service with a focus on education and development for 0-5 years. The Young Carers Service have also been included.
- 1.9 Adult Services have identified the staffing resource required to work with the young adults aged 18-25 who are not yet settled in adulthood. This resource will reach down to start working with young people before the age of 18 meaning that the Care Act assessment can happen at the right time and ensure care and support planning for young people with complex needs has sufficient time for the necessary planning. The focus again is on early intervention, prevention and support through the use of assistive technology and digital as well as supporting people with complex needs navigate into adulthood.
- 1.9 B2SA is currently supporting 672 children and young people who are moving into adulthood. This includes those being supported by the Disabled Children's Occupational Therapy Service. There also 260 people aged 18-25 being supported by Adult Teams who have not yet achieved a settled position in adulthood. A total of 972 aged 0-25 are being supported by this service at the present time. This work also encompasses the Transitional Safeguarding approach to ensure that

vulnerable young people do not get missed in the steps between children's and adult safeguarding frameworks.

- 1.10 The Preparing for Adulthood Team as part of B2SA will also be able to support referrals from other Children's Teams, not within B2SA, and the Transition Steering Group to ensure that young people's needs are identified and supported into early adulthood. This includes transitional safeguarding arrangements. This will ensure that the young person health and social care needs are clearly understood, and they have the support available for a successful move into adulthood.
- 1.11 The partnership felt strongly that the focus should be on improving the outcomes for children and young adults. A clear outcomes framework has been developed which are suited for the age and stage of the child or young person's development. Practice standards and guidance are in development that will take account of Children's Services Practice Standards and Adult Services Practice standards. The quality assurance framework for each service area is being reviewed to ensure the needs of both are met.
- 1.12 Planning has begun on a Dorset Council Integrated Commissioning Strategy with a focus on development of the market and services for the 16-25 age range. This again will support improved outcomes for children and young people as well as providing best value for Dorset Council. These discussions will need to include NHS Dorset for placed based health commissioning.
- 1.13 Planning and workshops have begun integrated the commissioning and purchasing processes with support services for 0-25. It is important that this service is better joined up and they also focus on safety and quality of services, as well as ensuring that services are purchased in accordance with Dorset Council's terms and conditions.
- 1.14 Mark Rogers, Independent Chair, B2SA Partnership Board, left his role in June 2024 and has provided a report on achievements and reflections on progress up to that point.
- 1.15 Cecilia Bufton has been appointed as the Independent Chair of the Delivery Board. The first meeting for the B2SA Delivery Board is scheduled for 14th October 2024. These will take place quarterly. This will provide independent oversight on the delivery progress of please two and integrated working with NHS Dorset.

- 1.16 Planning is also underway for the CQC Quality Assurance Framework for Dorset Council Adult Services which will be the first assessment under the new inspection framework. It is expected this will take place at some point during 2025.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 There has been investment in the Birth to Settled Adulthood Programme from both Children's and Adults Services. The programme aims to improve in outcomes for children and young people which will provide better value and use of financial resources for Dorset Council.

3. Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications

- 3.1 This is not having any additional implications.

4. Well-being and Health Implications

- 4.1 The aim of the programme is to improve the health and wellbeing of children, young people who have complex health needs, disability and SEND, and reduce the impact of disadvantages and inequality. The service also aims to ensure that parent-carers, young carers and adult carers are well supported.

5. Other Implications

N/A

6. Risk Assessment

- 6.1 HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 7.1 We have an internal Equality Impact Assessment, attached as Appendix A. The external document is currently being reviewed and updated.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A: B2SA EqIA Report Final May 2024

9. Background Papers

None

10. Report Sign Off

This report has been through the internal report clearance process and has been signed off by the Director for Legal and Democratic (Monitoring Officer), the Executive Director for Corporate Development (Section 151 Officer) and the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s)