

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject:	Report regarding support for young people with Autism Spectrum Condition and SEND in transition to adulthood
Committee:	Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	19 September 2018
Cabinet Member:	Councillor McDonald (Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Families) Councillor Jon Taylor (Cabinet Member, Education, Skills and Transformation)
CMT Member:	Alison Botham (Director of Children's Services)
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Ref:	
Key Decision:	No
Part:	I

Purpose of the report:

The following report has been prepared at the request of the Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide members with a briefing on the support received by families with children and young people with high functioning autism and SEND, in particular, exploring housing support and transition into adulthood as requested by Scrutiny.

Corporate Plan

'A Caring Plymouth – 'Improved schools where pupils achieve better outcomes' and 'Focus on prevention and early intervention'.

This document provides an overview of the support offered to young people with autism spectrum condition in Plymouth, with a focus on the period of transition into adulthood.

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land

Not directly applicable as this report sets out an overview of the current offer.

Other Implications: e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management:

None for the purpose of this briefing report.

Equality and Diversity

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? Not completed for the purpose of this briefing report.



Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

For the Education and Children’s Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive the report for consideration.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

This is a briefing report only.

Published work / information:

None for the purpose of this report.

Background papers:

None for the purpose of this report.

Sign off:

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Originating SMT Member: Judith Harwood													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the contents of the report? Yes													

1.0 BACKGROUND

The following document provides a detailed report on the support received by families with children and young people with high functioning autism and SEND, in particular, exploring housing support and transition into adulthood as requested by Scrutiny.

The range of support and provision described is for young people aged from 14 – 25 years old. The report includes the work planned for the next 12–24 months through the Preparing for Adulthood Project Executive Group chaired by the Service Director for Education, Participation and Skills (Children’s Services). The Project Executive working group was established September 2017 following agreement by the Integrated Health and Wellbeing Board of the Commissioning and Development Plan to develop effective services to support transition to adulthood.

Integrated Commissioning Strategies identified that the differences between thresholds for support and models of care between adult and children’s services can often cause confusion for vulnerable young people and their families as they move into adulthood. We identified:

- Some vulnerable young people whose development has had significant disruption can struggle under an adult services response.
- Some 16 year olds have needs that can be met by adult services response.
- If transition planning begins early it can mitigate some of the difficulties of transition through the identification and promotion of additional life skills and independence skills and early planning between adult and children’s services of how to help young people and their families adjust.

Ideally the young person’s need should determine which service supports them. Integrated Commissioning Strategies highlighted the need to think flexibly across children’s and adults provision to ensure young people were enabled to access the right services to meet their needs

Plymouth uses the [Preparing for Adulthood framework](#) to plan and deliver all support services with our partners¹. The framework uses four key areas to plan for adulthood; these are Friends, Relationships and community; Employment; Good Health and Independent Living. Our vision for all young people, including those with SEND, is that we provide the right support to enable them to become productive, participating members of the community, with choice about their career, education, social life and where they are going to live as they become adults.

For a successful transition to adult care and support, the young person, their family and professionals need to work together. The Care Act 2014 gives the local authority a legal responsibility to cooperate both internally and externally “to ensure a smooth transition” i.e. that the appropriate stakeholders work together to get the transition right.

2.0 DATA ANALYSIS

a. Data regarding children and young people in Plymouth schools (School Census data)

There are 1196 young people with SEND who are 15–18 years old (NCY 10-14) attending Plymouth schools. Of this group, 434 young people have Education, Health and Care Plans and therefore will have support with transition planning. Within this group, we would expect that approximately 100 of the young people to require support to transition into adult social care services or be in receipt of NHS continuing care support.

¹ Framework and additional information can be found at <https://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/>

Our data indicates that 54% of the young people with SEND who are 15-18 years old, attending Plymouth schools, present with either Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) or Social, Emotional, Mental Health (SEMH) as their primary SEND need.

b. Data regarding young people in Education, Employment or Training

When considering data regarding participation in Employment, Education and Training, we can see that 86.6% of young people with SEND aged 16-18 years old are in education, employment or training. 11.32% young people are not engaged in education, employment and training, with 2.07% young people with a status of 'not known'. The participation rate figure of 86.6% compares favourably with the same time in 2017 where 85.2% were participating in education employment or training.

3.0 PARTNERS/STAKEHOLDERS

A coordinated multi-agency response is required to enable all vulnerable young people to achieve good life outcomes, this includes providing information, advice and support on preparing for adulthood, what adult social care is, transitions assessments, and what support they can expect.

SEND Strategy Steering Group

All planning is undertaken using a multiagency approach, attendance at the SEND Strategy Steering Group reflects this approach with representation from across all agencies including schools, Health, Adult services and Commissioning. Parents are represented by the [Plymouth Parent Carer Voice](#) group and young people by representatives from the [Youth Ascends](#) group.

Autism Partnership Board

The adult autism strategy ([Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives](#) (2010) and updated [Think Autism](#) (2014) state that it is essential that adults with autism and parents/carers are involved in the development of local services. It therefore recommends the setting up of local Autism Partnership Boards (APBs), or a similar mechanism, that "brings together different organisations, services and stakeholders locally and sets a clear direction for improved services. APBs are an integrated strategic planning forum that is responsible for developing autism provision across health and social care. These multi-agency forums bring together different agencies and stakeholders to identify local commissioning priorities and enable a more strategic approach to developing better outcomes for people with autism.

Plymouth Autism Partnership Board (APB) is made up of people with autism, parents and carers, statutory agencies and the private and voluntary sector.

The APB meets quarterly and all individuals attending the board work together to improve the lives of people with autism in the city. This involves being involved in achieving specific actions and pieces of work. Individual members are expected to provide progress reports to the board. All members' feedback information from the Partnership Board to their own networks. The APB consults, when required, with all relevant groups about its plans.

The APB uses other established networks to talk about the work of Partnership Board and make sure that the needs of the people with autism and their carers have a high priority.

4.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THIS COHORT

The Preparing for Adulthood Executive Working Group (which reports to SEND Strategy Steering Group) has developed a pathway process for all those with SEND. It sets out a process of planning that starts at 14 (Year 9) and joins education; care and health planning in line with Preparing for Adulthood agenda.

Preparing for adulthood planning should include support to:

- Prepare for further/higher education and/or employment
- Preparing for independent living
- Maintaining good health in adult life

- Participating in society, including support in developing and maintaining friendships and relationships.

For all children the following generic outcomes from the planning should be achieved through the pathway planning process:

- **Employment:** Young people engaged in education, employment or learning (including supported employment or bespoke learning for children with complex needs)
- **Independent Living:** Young people are in stable accommodation (including at home with families where appropriate), and have practical life skills appropriate to their level of ability
- **Community Inclusion:** Young people are engaged positively in their community
- **Health and Care:** Young people with complex needs are enabled to navigate the system and access the right short or long term support in adulthood²

Under the SEND Strategy Steering Group, work to date has included a review of the 16+ education market and the expansion/remodelling of the number of placements that can meet the actual rather than the perceived demand. Work has been carried out to develop the marketplace to bring new providers into the city to raise the quality and value for money of the placements.

A full review of the Post 16 offer from special schools is taking place between September and December 2018. The review will consider how young people with SEND can be supported appropriately on through their chosen employment pathway.

There are several emerging models for the delivery of housing options for children and young people with SEND who are not able to live at home. For young people in foster care “reach up” models of staying put allows them to remain with foster carers until they are ready to leave. Supported Living providers are now commissioned to develop “reach down” of packages of support to complex 16 year olds.

The adult services Supported Living Framework provides flexible and individually tailored support to people in a family supported living environment. The work is centred on interventions that improve each person’s ability to function in the community whilst taking responsibility for themselves and others. This service is available to young people with high functioning autism and SEND.

The Community Connections Team is a multi-disciplinary team, working across localities, with and in communities, to support and empower citizens to make sustainable change in their lives. The team provides information and advice about support services, housing options, improving people’s homes to help them live safely and independently and providing youth services and helping people into work and volunteering, to enrich their lives.

In addition there are a number of services that will provide interventions and support for young people with a diagnosis of autism or SEND. These include:-

- Young Person’s early intervention, homeless floating support service
- Supported temporary accommodation, the George Hostel and the Housing Information, Signposting and Support Services for People With More Complex Needs
- Advice Plymouth
- Working Well with Autism Hub (open Tuesday and Saturday)
- Caring for Carers (holistic carers assessment to include housing needs)

² NDTi Preparing for Adulthood
OFFICIAL

Considerable work has been undertaken to improve the transition from children's to adult support services. Workers have been identified in both the Children's Disability Team (SEND) and Adult Social Care to work specifically to support transitions. For disabled young people, care packages meeting the children's care plans do not cease until eligibility for adult services is determined or the adult support plan is authorised.

In addition there are improvements to the offer from NEW Devon CCG commissioned services. A transitions protocol in all Health Services has been agreed (e.g. CAMHS to AMHS). Clear guidance is being developed around what services are available to young people will ensure expectations are appropriate as they move into adult health services.

Adult and children's community nursing teams are working together to develop processes for transition alongside the long term conditions team to ensure a smooth transition regardless of team. An internal review of the offer in Personality Disorder Service for 16-25 year olds is being undertaken alongside the development of an all age pathway for Early Intervention in Psychosis.

The "[Ready Steady Go](#)" process is in place which allows for the transfer of children and young people requiring specialist services transfer from paediatrician to adult specialities

5.0 SUMMARY

Further work is required to continue to improve the experience of young people with a diagnosis of Autism or SEND as they prepare for and then move across to adult services. The existing mechanisms to deliver the required changes are in place in the SEND Steering Group and the Autism Partnership Board.

Building on achievements and best practice identified to date work will focus on developing services with partners and stakeholders that will provide ongoing support using a model of service delivery that will provide the right level of support, at the right time, in the right place as young people move across into adult life.