

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham CABINET 4 DECEMBER 2017		 h&f hammersmith & fulham
IMPROVING TRANSITIONS - TASK GROUP FINAL REPORT		
Report of the Chair of the Task Group – Councillor Rory Vaughan		
Open Report		
Classification: Task Group recommendations - for Cabinet endorsement Key Decision: No		
Wards Affected: None		
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Health, Adult Social Care & Social Inclusion Policy and Accountability Committee formed a task group to consider how the council can improve the experience for young disabled people transitioning from social care services for children to social care services for adults.
- 1.2 After considering the shortcomings and challenges of the current arrangements and looking at what parents and professionals thought a good transition experience would be, the task group made recommendations in the following key areas:
 - The creation of a new ‘Preparing for Adulthood’ team that was co-designed with parents and young disabled people – and was accountable to them.
 - Ensuring there was greater transparency and improved communication.
 - Empowering professionals to do their jobs effectively and efficiently.
 - Improving the housing pipeline so young disabled adults had suitable housing available when they needed it.
- 1.3 The task group’s report and recommendations were endorsed by the Children and Education Policy and Accountability Committee on 11 September 2017 – an extract of the minutes from that meeting is attached at Appendix 2.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Cabinet endorses the recommendations of the task group listed below - and tasks officers with implementing the task group's proposals.

Recommendation 1 – A new 'Preparing for Adulthood' team

The key to achieving our vision for a better transition service is the creation of a new 'Preparing for Adulthood' team. Rather than having separate groups in Children's Services and Adult Social Care there should be a single team that brings together professionals from both departments. This team would work with young disabled people throughout their transitions journey - from the age of 14 to 25 - ensuring they have the support and guidance they need to achieve the best possible outcomes.

- 1.1 **Funding** - The team will be funded from pooled budgets from both Children's Services and Adult Social Care but will have the autonomy necessary, through delegated powers, for agile decision making.
- 1.2 **Staffing** - The team would be multi-disciplinary - including staff currently working within Children's Services, Adult Social Care, and SEN key working in Health roles.
- 1.3 **New ways of working** - On creation, this new team would lead a review of the protocols, procedures, and ways of working around transition to improve their clarity, efficiency, and responsiveness.
- 1.4 **Advocacy** - There should be a shared understanding of cases to take the burden off parents. The new team should have an advocacy and understanding role to guide parents through the options and pathways open to them.
- 1.5 **Co-design and accountability** - The new service should be co-designed with parents and young disabled people and once it is up and running they should be able to feed into its management and development. This could be achieved through a 'shadow board', similar in concept to a board of non-executive directors.

Recommendation 2 – Greater transparency and improved communication

- 2.1 Communication with young disabled people and parents should be improved. They need to understand how decisions are made and why. The young person's pathway and the options available to them should be clear and transparent to everyone involved and it should be reviewed on a regular basis. The end goal should always be in sight and parents and professionals should have a shared view.
- 2.2 The new Preparing for Adulthood team should create a new set of forms and documentation that are accessible, clear, and transparent to users.

- 2.3 The transitions information on the LBHF website should be updated to reflect the Preparing for Adulthood team's new ways of working and to bring it in line with best practice examples from around the country.
- 2.4 The council should encourage partners to sign-up to a 'duty to communicate' - an agreement that they will be meaningfully involved in discussions at panels and annual reviews. If professionals are not able to attend meetings they should provide written evidence to ensure important decisions are not delayed.

Recommendation 3 – Empowering professionals

- 3.1 To ensure panel meetings and annual reviews are meaningful and efficient, the council should empower professionals by devolving decision-making down wherever possible. Team managers should be trusted to make the right decisions.

Recommendation 4 – Improve the housing pipeline

- 4.1 The council's Housing department should work closely with the new Preparation for Adulthood team and be involved in the annual assessment process. There should be a clear pipeline, using data from the Preparation for Adulthood team, to accurately predict the numbers of young disabled people coming through the system and their likely housing needs. This would allow for clearer communication with parents about their housing options.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

None.

LIST OF APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Improving Transitions – Task Group Final Report

Appendix 2 - Children and Education Policy and Accountability Committee extract of the minutes – 11 September 2017