

TITLE OF REPORT: **How Adults and Children’s Services Are Working Together**

REPORT OF: **Caroline O’Neill, Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing and Learning**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report will look at examples of how well Adults and Children’s Services are working together. Joint working has shown significant impact in the way in which services are delivered and how this has enabled and empowered individuals and families to be more independent and self-sustaining which allows them a greater opportunity to thrive.

Background

1. Care, Wellbeing and Learning (CWL) is made up of five areas – Adult Social Care, Learning and Schools, Early Help, Commissioning and Quality Assurance and Children and Families.
2. CWL was formed in October 2014 as a result of the amalgamation of Public Health, Adult Social Care and Independent Living, Commissioning and Business Development, Children’s Commissioning, Family Support, Children and Families and Learning and Schools
3. There are interdependencies between the Services and each Director responsible for the Service is part of the Management Group, which is chaired by the Strategic Director.
4. The Director of Public Health is also part of this group.
5. The structure within CWL allows for enhanced understanding of roles and responsibilities and enables more effective and co-ordinated decision making across the group as a whole.
6. There will always be areas of business within Children and Adult Services that will remain discrete and independent.
7. There are also different governance arrangements within both Services and different regulatory bodies and procedures such as CQC for Adults and Ofsted for Children.
8. Although Early Help is not a Statutory Service, there are still inspection frameworks and Government Departments that guide and scrutinise our work such as Youth Justice Board for Youth Offending and Department for

Communities and Local Government for Troubled Families/
FamiliesGateshead.

9. The diversity of the work across Children and Adult Services allows for different approaches and ways of working. Some are more effective working across the Group and for others it is more appropriate to maintain that level of independence.
10. This report will focus on examples of working together.

11. Transitions and Children's Services:

The Care Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to conduct Transition Assessments for children, children's carers and young carers where there is a likely need for care and support after the child in question turns 18 and a Transition Assessment would be of 'significant benefit'

12. The Transitions Team is responsible for identifying young people who have a disability/impairment who:

- Are currently in receipt of children's services
- Those who are not in receipt of children's services but may have care and support needs as adults.
- Providing advice and guidance with a view to preventing the need for adult services once they reach the age of 18, or preventing the development of care and support needs.
- Providing advice, guidance, and where appropriate, Carers Assessments when the cared for person is approaching the age of 18.

13 Case Transfers/allocations:

- Disabled Children's Team provides the Senior Practitioner, Transitions Team with a monthly caseload list. These are allocated on or around the young person's 17th birthday unless there is an identified need for earlier intervention.
- Looked after Children (LAC) team refer cases no later than the young person's 16th birthday, they are usually referred via the Health and Transitions Group which meets three monthly.
- Safeguarding and Care Planning and Family Intervention Teams refer on an ad hoc basis, usually in the form of a request to attend a CIN or CAF meeting.
- Self/carer referrals are placed on the allocated list and allocated around the service user's 17th birthday.

14. Transitions and Early Intervention/Prevention:

Within this area of work cases are allocated as early as possible to:

- Address young people and carer expectation.
- Be clear about eligibility (this is particularly important for Looked After Children to determine who will take the lead on their support post 18, accommodation arrangements etc.

- Provide advice and information about universal, costed and cost-effective services to meet need.
- Be part of the Education, Health and Care Plan process, with the aim of preparing young people for adulthood and having clear, concise and SMART outcomes

15. Transitions and Special Schools:

- To enable the Transitions team to identify those who may have care and support needs as adults, but are not in receipt of children's services, there is a dedicated Assessing Officer who works within the special schools in Gateshead and out of the borough schools who have Gateshead pupils in placement.
- Dedicated Assessing Officers attend Education, Health and Care Plan Reviews from the transition review in Year 9, provide information and advice regarding preventative, universal and specialist services, signpost to health colleagues and offer assessment to those who require it.

16. Work experience - Children's and Adult Services:

- Voiceworks is a work experience project that aims to improve the employability skills, aspirations and goals of young people in Gateshead who have an Education, Health and Care Plan, autism, learning or physical disabilities.
- It offers a wide range of high quality, person centred work experience placements to young people aged 14-18 who have traditionally found it difficult to access meaningful work experience.
- Young people are given the opportunity to enhance real-life work skills in a range of placements which helps them make decisions about vocational pathways in the future.
- For many the opportunity to progress onto Internships and employment has prevented the need for adult social care and support.

17. Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Adult Social Care (ASC)

- The Senior Practitioner is an active member of the Post 16 SEND Panel and is involved in the discussions relating to progression from statutory education for those students who have Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) and whether to issue or cease EHCPs and high cost placements.
- A member of the Transitions Team will attend Year 9 reviews for those pupils who may have a future entitlement to a Care Act Assessment for ASC.
- There are close links to Voiceworks, who provide work experience opportunities/support for young people with SEND.
- In some cases, young people with EHCPs have access to three days college education and ASC ensure arrangements for the remaining two days.
- The Senior Practitioner within Transitions is an active member of the Post 16 SEND panel and is involved in discussions, including progression from statutory education for those with EHCPs.

- ASC, Children and Families and Early Help are members of the Post 16 Co-ordinators Group and the Post 16 Pathways Group which looks at developing provision, innovative ways of working and gaps in the market.
- In partnership with ASC, the Post 16 Co-ordinating Group and SEND developed the Post 16 SEND Transition Protocol.
- In partnership with the Transitions team and the Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) team, the Post 16 Planning Group was set up to identify the cohorts of post 16 students transitioning. This data was used to aid planning and service delivery and to identify the post 16 provision needed to commission, based on the needs of those cohorts. It also helped identify those cohorts transitioning to ASC earlier.
- A member of the Transitions team attends the Autism Information Hub monthly drop-in session along with a SEND team member, to provide information about the EHCP process and ASC where relevant.

18. **Learning and Skills and Adult Social Care:**

- Community learning programmes are delivered within some of our Gateshead care homes to improve the health and wellbeing of residents.
- Learners who have learning difficulties and disabilities are supported through open door referrals from ASC which leads to collaborative working between Learning and Skills and ASC. This also leads to better outcomes and contributes to the Thrive agenda.
- Older people with mental health issues receive support covering multiple topics at Gateshead Clubhouse from Learning and Skills.
- Learning and Skills staff attend review meetings with the Transitions team supporting learners into Gateshead Access to Employment Service (GATES) provision and Learning and Skills Internship.
- An enterprise course is currently being developed for GATES learners due to start in September. This will provide enrichment opportunities for learners over 25 through community fairs and marketplace events.
- 90+ learners take part in a range of 17 courses over 36 weeks per year, supported by tutors and support staff, at no charge to learners, following the core SEND curriculum.
- A Learning and Skills representative will attend review meetings when appropriate, particularly to help learners who are moving into independent living accommodation

19. **ASC Provider Service's and Children's Services:**

- **GATES Employment Service** - GATES supports people with learning and physical disabilities to secure paid employment. GATES have presented their success (54 people with disabilities in the last 4 years) to schools and transitions hosted events.
- **'Next Steps' Enterprises** - Next Steps Enterprises are 6 user led enterprises (in Retail, Recycling and Upgrading furniture, Training, Catering, Garden maintenance and Information and Advice) which support people with disabilities to develop their skills, confidence and work based competencies as a 'stepping stone' onto paid employment. Next Steps have absorbed placements from people with disabilities within children's services to provide them with a flavour of the world of work. Next Steps have also absorbed placements through the links with Voiceworks.

- **Special Olympics Gateshead and Angling 4 All** - Two sporting clubs that provide weekly sports training to athletes / anglers, equipping them with the skills and confidence to then participate in regional, national and international competitions. Both sporting clubs provide sports training and competition opportunities for any child with disabilities in Gateshead from the age of 8.
- **Shared Lives** - Connection with Children services is via Transitions in respect of Foster Carers transitioning into Shared Lives carers.
- **Marquisway Resource Centre** - Gibside School and Dryden School have linked with Marquisway surrounding the provision of their wheelchair dance and Special Olympics Motor Activities Training Programme (MATP).

20. **Adult Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Children's Services:**

- Operation Encompass – this project aims to safeguard and support children and young people who are involved in or affected by incidents involving domestic abuse. Adult MASH, Children's Services, Schools and Early Help are part of this initiative. New Multi Agency Adult Referral Team (MAART) and Integrated Referral and Assessment Team (IRAT) are working together to develop working practices, which will enable services to offer a holistic family approach.
- MASH and IRAT share any concerns for children when vulnerable adult concerns are raised when children reside in the property and children services are not aware of the concern.
- Partners from the MAART attend strategy meetings when appropriate and where there is involvement with the adult to ensure a co-ordinated response to the issues.

21. **Areas for development:**

- The review of the Domestic Abuse Service will bring together Children and Adults Services across the Council into one co-ordinated unit.
- The Domestic Abuse Service will work with Adults and Children through a holistic model of support.
- The work between Transitions and Children's Services can be strengthened to enable a seamless service and effective transition as our children with SEND and disabilities move into adulthood. A review of SEND and Disabled Children Team (DCT) is being undertaken to look at systems, processes and procedures.
- Children and Adults Services are committed to ensuring that support for vulnerable children and adults is given in a co-ordinated way and that process or systems does not allow for anyone 'to slip through the net'.
- An ICT review and replacement programme will allow for integrated IT data and processes across Children and Adults Services.
- Early Help model is fluid and flexible and can be transferred and used across Children and Adults Services. Phase two of the model will concentrate on how the continuum of need across both services can be seamless.

Recommendation

22. It is requested that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the contents of this report.

CONTACT: Val Hall

EXTENSION 2702