



south ayrshire
health & social care
partnership

Transition Development work in Learning Disability Services



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The work in relation to Transitions from Children to Adult Services has been an area that has required development for some time. While there had been historic work prior to Covid 19 the pandemic hindered this work for some time.

The previous Learning Disability Strategy 2019 -2022 highlighted transitions within the action plan. This was an area that still required developmental work and had not achieved reasonable progress.

The Health and Social Care Partnership recognised the need for funding for a senior practitioner to focus solely on transitions and take this work forward. Attempts had been made informally to take this forward in Adult Services, however this did not provide the direction and clarity required. It was recognised that to progress in this area a post was required, and this required to be a senior practitioner with some management experience. This post was advertised, and we secured an experienced social worker who was also a Mental Health Officer. The new practitioner came into post on a fixed term of 24 months on 16th November 2021. The postholder has worked closely with all parties to develop pathways to support young people and carers or attorneys to have clarity around the differences for Children coming into Adult services.

The senior practitioner post was made permanent in February 2023 as the need for this post to remain in place to focus on progressing this area of work. The development of this service to date being:

- Dedicated Transition team in Adult Services of a Management post Social Work post and Community Care Assistant.
- Dedicated post in Children services to align with Adult team being progressed.
- Leaflets and Literature for young people and families currently being compiled.
- Transition Procedure refreshed and now a Policy (Appendix 1).
- Moving On document (Appendix 2) laying out the process across staff teams
- Team round the person approach with health involved in all transitions dedicated staff identified in Adult services.
- Joined up approach with schools South Craig and Invergarven, Staff from Adult services attending open nights and reviews where support will be required in transition. Children and Family social work team already attend these.
- Separate resource allocation group for young people in transition where workers both Adult and Children service bring an assessment for funding approval.
- Housing and care options considered at all stages of transition to ensure best fit for the young person moving to the Adult phase of their life.

- Learning Disability Team Development sessions to assign actions from the new Learning Disability Strategy (Appendix 3) and to develop our transitions work within the wider Learning Disability Service.

This work has by no means finished and is being honed and revised as the needs of our young people and older residents with a Learning Disability require a unique or different response. The new Learning Disability Strategy remains a driver to ensure we are working to support good robust transitions within South Ayrshire.

The new Learning Disability Strategy sets out the thoughts of young people and carers which for some was that “transitioning is just a change of social worker” We are clear that this is not good enough and we require to work hard to develop an approach to transitions for young people as laid out within the strategy pages 21 and 22

- There was recognition that the pandemic has impacted people’s transitions, however there was little evidence of positive transitions taking place before the pandemic.
- Parents said that their children were often in their mid-twenties before transitioning to the adult team which meant they were missing out on planning and vital information around support, funding, and activities.
- People who had experienced transition said that they were given limited options after leaving school of either attending college or a day centre.
- Parents with learning disabilities highlighted that they find accessing the right support at the right time challenging and that communication between organisations is poor.

Within the strategy we said we were going to do:

- By December 2022, we will co-produce an action plan for improving the delivery of Self-Directed Support to people with learning disabilities. This will address recommendations from the recent Self-Directed Support Scotland report.
- By September 2022, we will create a Transitions Action Plan for young people with learning disabilities based on the Principles of Good Transitions 3. This will include an Improvement Plan based on the Principles into Practice.
- By December 2022, we will agree and implement a process which involves services such as further education, skills development, welfare, and housing as part of the transition planning process.
- We will work closely with schools to help them prepare young people for transition to adulthood.

This work along with the wider actions within the New Learning Disability Strategy will be reported to the performance and audit committee and updated on Pentana quarterly.

Within Learning Disability our residents are living longer some into their 90’s with many into their 70s and 80s. This is a progression in this area due to good medical advancements, excellent care provision, housing and aids and adaptations. We work closely with our older residents and other parties to ensure they are

residing in the right setting and have opportunities the same as the general older population in South Ayrshire. For some this means more aids and adaptations to their current homes, a move to a core and cluster housing development, for others this can mean a move to a suitable residential or nursing home to meet their aging needs. This is work that is sensitive, specialist and multi-disciplinary and ensures that we have completed a needs led assessment taking the person along the process with easy read materials and social stories to maximise their understanding of the reasons for the changes and where they will move to in a way that meets their learning. This is transitions work that often goes unnoticed and does not fully celebrate our older residents with a Learning Disability or the work of the Learning Disability staff teams and providers who work well in this area.

Appendices 1, 2 and 3 available as separate documents.