



Report to Policy Committee

Author/Lead Officer of Report: Joe Horobin

Tel:

Report of: *Andrew Jones Director of Children's Services*

Report to: *Education, Children and Families Committee*

Date of Decision: *April 2023*

Subject: *SEND Accelerated Progress Plan Briefing Report: Improving the multi agency support, services and outcomes for young people as they become adults including social care, education, and health.*

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
An initial assessment has been undertaken and further assessments will be undertaken as required through the delivery of the plan.				
Has appropriate consultation taken place?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has a Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below: NA				

Purpose of Report:

- To provide the Committee with an update to the Committee on progress made to improve transitions to adulthood for children and young people through the Multi Agency SEND Accelerated Progress Plan and Project Group.

Recommendations:

- *That the Committee note the content of the report.*
- *That the Committee note the action progress made to date to improve the Council's approach to supporting young people to adulthood and, more importantly, their experience and outcomes.*
- *That the Committee note the next steps for this work.*

Background Papers:

- [Link to the One Year Plan](#)
- [Link to the Council Delivery Plan](#)
- [SEND APP Plan and Overview](#)
- [SEND APP Strategy and Resources Committee Progress Update \(August 30 22\)](#)
- [SEND APP Update to Education Children and Families Committee \(September 27th 22\)](#)

Lead Officer to complete:-		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.	Finance: Liz Gough
		Legal: Sarah Bennett
		Equalities & Consultation: Adele Robinson
		Climate: N/A Briefing report for noting
	<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>	
2	SLB member who approved submission:	<i>Andrew Jones</i>
3	Committee Chair consulted:	<i>Cllr Dale</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Committee by the SLB member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	

Lead Officer Name: <i>Joe Horobin</i>	Job Title: <i>Director of Integrated Commissioning</i>
Date: 29 March 2023	

1. PROPOSAL

Background:

- 1.1.1 This report sets out the progress made in delivering Sheffield's multi agency transitions accelerated improvement plan. The plan was shared with committee in September 2022 and this report provides an update on the progress made since then in delivering the actions and demonstrating improved outcomes. The plan sets out Sheffield's multi agency education, health and care approach to improving the experience of young people as they move from childhood to adulthood. The term 'transition' is used in this report to describe any time in a child or young person's life where there is a planned change that needs to be effectively prepared for, so that they can be happy and fulfilled. This includes transitions across Education, Health and Care. (Definition from Sheffield's Transition Principles).
- 1.1.2 In the context of transition from childhood to adulthood for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) the term 'children and young people' means up to 25 years old and also covers the terms used in medical health: adolescents (10-19 years) and young adults aged 19 to 25 years.
- 1.1.3 The process of moving from childhood into adult life is a significant one for all children and young people and should be an exciting and positive experience for them and their families or carers. Preparation means a multi agency approach to preparing children and their families for the four pillars of adulthood:
- Employment - this includes higher education and employment opportunities where appropriate. (Employment opportunities cover supporting young people into work and/or volunteering – including apprenticeships and supported internships).
 - Independent living – this means young people having choice, control and freedom over their lives, the support they have, their accommodation and living arrangements.
 - Friends, relationships, and community - having friends, relationships, and community life.
 - Good health – being as healthy as possible in adult life, both physically and mentally.
- 1.1.4 For young people with SEND however this can be an anxious and challenging time, especially if they do not receive the right support at the right time that enables and empowers them to plan ahead and achieve their potential.
- 1.2.1 **Accelerator Progress Plan:** The SEND Accelerator Progress Plan was

developed during March and April 2022 after we were found to have made insufficient progress in the area at the February 2022 Ofsted SEND revisit. The process was led jointly by the Head of Commissioning (SCC, Integrated Commissioning) and the Assistant Director of Commissioning for the Sheffield CCG (now the ICB) with the Parent Carer Forum.

1.2.2 The Accelerator Progress Plan was signed off by DfE in May 2022 with input from NHS England and sets out the actions designed to lead to rapid improvement for multi-agency transitions to adulthood. The delivery of the plan is sponsored by the Director of Integrated Commissioning (Sheffield Council) and the Director of Planning (Sheffield Place Integrated Care Board – formerly Sheffield CCG) and its critical importance is reflected in its inclusion in the Council’s Delivery Plan (approved 30th August 2022).

1.3.1 **Governance:** The SEND Transitions Group has been established to drive delivery of the APP. It is a multi-agency group and includes the Sheffield Parent Carer Forum (SPCF) and reports to the Inclusion Improvement Board under the oversight of the Sheffield Health and Wellbeing Board via the newly established Children’s Delivery Group of the Sheffield Health and Care Partnership. The governance arrangements are illustrated in Appendix A.

1.3.2 **Action Plan Workstreams:** The actions are grouped into workstreams aligned to the Council’s Inclusion Strategy:

1. Planning for Adulthood
2. Post 16 Opportunities
3. Transition Processes
4. Coproduction, Communication and Information
5. Workforce Development

1.3.3 More detail about these workstreams can be found in the previous report of September 2022.

1.4 **Accelerated Progress Plan Update**

Since the last report to committee outlining the SEND APP governance, workstreams and next steps (September 2022), we have made significant progress as a multi-agency team and within our service areas. The most challenging aspect of the plan’s delivery has been the necessary culture change to shift from interagency working (from within the confines of our respective service structures and cultures) to multi-agency working that is truly integrated and thinks and problem solves collectively in the service of the young person and their family.

1.5 **Six Month Summative Review – Key Findings**

Sheffield received the 6-month summative review from the DfE in November 2022. We were expected to demonstrate significant progress and impact on the actions within the plan.

1.5.1 **Positive Progress:** The feedback from DfE and NHS England was overall positive whilst highlighting areas for continued focus and development that meant we were required to continue with monthly monitoring visits for the second six months. The feedback is summarised here:

1.5.2 *We were pleased to note that you have made clear progress against the activities in your APP and that there is evidence that your work is having a positive impact. Both in your paperwork, and during your progress review, you demonstrated:*

- *Significant progress in planning for adulthood (PfA) evidenced by the use of the social care record management system to capture positive feedback about transition support from social care.*
- *The workforce development workstream have completed a gap analysis and strategic workforce development plans are being designed based on this. The number of people trained has risen to 89 and is expected to rise significantly further.*
- *There is now a local area governance structure in place that is supported by Elected Members.*
- *Discussions about SEND are starting to occur naturally in conversations between education providers.*
- *Employers are becoming increasingly engaged in Post-16 employment schemes including Supported Internships and this is being monitored.*
- *The voices of children and young people are included in commissioning cycles and influencing service delivery. There has been a multi-agency review of the transition process, priorities have been identified and the new arrangements are being communicated to parents, carers and young people.*
- *The number and quality of Annual Health Checks continues to improve and has reached 24% for 14–17-year-olds and 32% for 18-25-year-olds.*

1.5.3 **Areas for further development:** As well as highlighting areas of success, DfE and NHS England also shared some areas they felt we needed to pay particular attention to over the second half of the programme:

- There is a need to achieve a shared understanding across the Local Area of strategic multi-agency working and, where appropriate, take multi-agency actions to strengthen areas of development.
- All services and agencies need to prioritise preparation for adulthood (PfA) outcomes and associated practices and use the PfA structure to secure high quality strategic multi-agency

working.

- Whilst Annual Checks continue to increase in number there is a multi-agency requirement for agencies and APP Workstreams to identify and confirm their role in improving the number of Annual Health Checks for young people with Learning Difficulties.
- There needs to be a significant increase in collating impact measures, especially in relation to measuring the degree to which children, young people, parents, carers understand the transition process and the step in adult services.

1.5.4 ***Progress at 10 months:*** The following paragraphs describe the progress highlights made over the course of the 10 months of the APP delivery programme across the workstreams:

1.5.5 Preparation for Adulthood:

- Social care information including detail on transitions has been coproduced with the Parent Carer Forum for the new Transitions Guide and online Local Offer website.

1.5.6 Post 16 Development:

- SEND Employment Forum launched end of Feb with 42 people attending from across Sheffield's employment community.
- Members shared current strengths in this space and ideas for improvement – will form the basis of a co-produced 3 year action plan to increase the number of supported internship places and employment opportunities for young people with SEND.
- Next business brunch will take place at Sheaf Training in March.
- Information is improving with half-termly Pop-Up Surgeries and monthly Coffee Mornings for families - we have received positive feedback about the usefulness of these events.
- We are looking at gaps in opportunities further:
 - Where gap is about information – improvements to Local Offer website are being made.
 - Further work underway to identify and commission to address gaps in opportunity, and address the barriers to young people accessing the opportunities that are available.

1.5.7 Transition Process Improvement: This workstream has focused on two main areas:

- Continuing work to increase awareness and update of Annual Health Checks - by end of March/early April, performance will be at 60% for 14-17 year olds and 70% for 18-25 year olds
- Developing and refining the transition process document;
 - Working through with individual services/pathways
 - Bringing together education, health and care elements
 - Gathering feedback from young people and families
 - Integrating with the transition guide and Local Offer website.

1.5.8 Coproduction, Communication and Information:

The Youth Advisory Group are now established under the name **#SENDing voices** and have developed their first film

- Transitions Guide: Parent Carer focus group took place w/c13th February to review draft plan. Resultant activity with services to finalise content before submission to design team.
- Local Offer linking work with Post 16 opportunities and developing information based on gaps:
 - Pages reviewed and updated: *'Finding and Keeping a Job'*, *'Apprenticeships, Traineeships and Supported Internships'*, *'Taking part in your community'*, *'Opportunities to get involved'* and *'Volunteering opportunities'*.
 - New section developed for *'Post 16 Education Opportunities'*.
 - New advice page in development with Business Sheffield to promote how they can support young people with SEND in setting up their own business.

1.5.9 Workforce Development:

- Training programme delivered to date includes:
 - PFA slides shared
 - PFA training days (Jan)
 - PFA conference days (March)
 - Extended support plan training (Autumn to present)
 - 247 grid (June to present)
 - Feedback is positive with attendees reporting significantly increased confidence with PFA.
- SEND basics training for all professionals in contact with children and families – to be rolled out in April
- Ongoing work booked through March 2023 – 'utilising the voice of the young person'
- Initial results of most recent audit of annual reviews show that no area, individual EHC Plan or Annual Review was inadequate. Overall 64% were rated 'good' or 'better' – the following % in terms of good or better:
 - Views and aspirations of Young People – 64%
 - Person Centred Approach - 57%
 - Holistic assessment of need – 70%
 - Strengths based 70%
 - Provision appropriate – 67%
 - PFA content – 51%

1.6 Summary of progress:

It is anticipated that with this accelerated rate of progress maintained towards the 12 month APP Monitoring Review, we are likely to achieve the DfE criteria for sustainability. To ensure this we are particularly focused on:

- Ongoing work in social care (Children's and Adults) to improve the

transitions process by starting preparation for adulthood earlier, embedding it into all contact and conversations with Children, Young People and Families.

- Developing plans to address the gaps in the offer for young people not eligible for formal social care but who need more than the standard 3 day post 16 education offer.
- Continuing to support and embed multi agency working across our systems – based on trust and mutual respect and focused on the needs of the young person and their families – rather than our services.
- Exploring how we support our voluntary and community sector to provide opportunities for young people with SEND.

1.7 **Next Steps:**

The next steps for the Accelerated Progress Plan will be to present the evidence of action implementation and resulting impact and improved outcomes to DfE and NHS England at our 12 month review in May. We are confident that significant further progress is being made in all areas and will also be setting out our APP Sustainability Strategy at the 12 month review that will include:

- How we will continue with ongoing development and embedding of the work in the five workstreams at pace
- Setting up further 6 and 12 month multiagency reviews of the APP document an associated KPIs overseen by the Inclusion Board to ensure accountability for continued improvement focus and evidencing of outcomes.
- Integrating the workstreams into the Local Area strategic plan
- Ensuring the action for Local Area improvement includes further planned improvement activities based on outcomes and, feedback from young people and parents / carers.

2. **HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?**

- 2.1 The delivery of the SEND Multi Agency Transitions Accelerated Progress Plan will contribute to ensuring that every person in Sheffield can achieve their full potential and to delivering on the commitments described in the One Year Plan and the Council's Delivery Plan. The improvements address educational inequalities and support people to stay fit and healthy, so fewer people reach crisis point and families can thrive. The delivery of the SEND APP also contributes to delivering the Sheffield Health and Care Partnership key priority for the Children's Delivery Group to improve SEND transitions for children and young people in the city.

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

- 3.1 The SEND Transitions Group is fully committed to coproduction across each of its workstreams and has parent carer representation on the group and within workstreams. As the plan progresses, the emphasis will increasingly be on ensuring that the voice of young people and their carers are at the centre of our evidence about whether the actions are improving the experience and outcomes.
- 3.2 Coproduction, engagement and consultation is via a range of channels, opportunities, forums etc. and in collaboration with a range of partners to ensure the broadest range of voices are heard including those of people with communication support needs and from communities that our services historically have not sought the voices of.
- 3.3 Sheffield Parent Carer Forum has been a key partner in informing how we engage with young people and their families and the pathways we need to build. They play a crucial role in the oversight, monitoring and challenge of this plan and act as a conduit to gaining the voice of families across the city.
- 3.4 Our Youth Service plans has engaged young people with SEND into their committees and volunteer platforms. These will provide an opportunity for engagement and consultation to inform change.
- 3.5 The Youth Advisory Group are now established under the name #SENDing voices.
- 3.6 The Transitions Guide has been coproduced with parent carers with a focus group w/c13th February to review the draft plan. This has led to further work between parent carers and services to finalise the guide before it was sent to design last month.
- 3.7 The Online Local Offer has linked with the Post 16 opportunities and developing information based on gaps:

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality Implications

- 4.1.1 The work described above contributes to tackling inequalities for children and young people moving from children's services to adults services. An initial assessment of equality impact has been undertaken and further assessments will be made and regularly reviewed through the course of the SEND Accelerator Plan delivery and as the work moves into business as usual.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 Prioritisation of business change, commissioning and service delivery resources to coordinate the delivery of the plan.

4.3 Legal Implications

4.3.1 There a number of statutory requirements in relation to supporting children through to adulthood as set out below. The improvements to children and adults social care and the multi agency approach to SEND transitions will support the Council to ensure it is compliant with these:

4.3.2 When a child reaches 18 years of age, they are legally an adult and responsibility for meeting their needs moves from the council's children services to its adult services. The legal basis for assessing their needs changes from the Children Act 1989 to the Care Act 2014. However, councils can decide to treat a children's assessment as an adult assessment and can also carry out joint assessments.

4.3.3 Sections 9 and 10 of the Care Act 2014 require councils to carry out an assessment for any adult with an appearance of need for care and support. They must provide an assessment to everyone regardless of their finances or whether the council thinks the person has eligible needs. The assessment must be of the adult's needs and how they impact on their wellbeing and the results they want to achieve. It must also involve the individual and where suitable their carer or any other person they might want involved.

4.3.4 The Care Act 2014 gives councils a legal responsibility to provide a care and support plan (or a support plan for a carer). The care and support plan should consider what needs the person has, what they want to achieve, what they can do by themselves or with existing support and what care and support may be available in the local area. When preparing a care and support plan the council must involve any carer the adult has. The support plan must include a personal budget, which is the money the council has worked out it will cost to arrange the necessary care and support for that person.

4.3.5 Section 27 of the Care Act 2014 says councils should keep care and support plans under review. Government Care and Support Statutory Guidance says councils should review plans at least every 12 months. Councils should consider a light touch review six to eight weeks after agreeing and signing off the plan and personal budget. They should carry out reviews as quickly as is reasonably practicable in a timely manner proportionate to the needs to be met. Councils must also conduct a review if an adult or a person acting on the adult's behalf makes a reasonable request for one.

4.3.6 Improvements through the SEND Accelerator Plan will ensure that the Council and Health partners are compliant with DfE requirements.

4.3.7 Other improvements meet wider statutory duties such as the provision of information and advice regarding, for example, changing funding

arrangements and the differing legislative frameworks that apply as young people grow into adulthood. For example, the Mental Capacity Act 2005 that applies to young people at the age of 16, and the National Framework for Continuing Health care 2007 which sets out changes in the availability of Continuing Health Care for children as opposed to adults.

4.4 Climate Implications

4.4.1 There are no climate implications for this report.

4.5 Other Implications

4.5.1 There are no other implications for this report.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 There are no alternative options identified as this work is a requirement to ensure compliance with regulatory frameworks of CQC and Ofsted and the DfE SEND Accelerator Progress Plan.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The report sets out the commitment of the Council and the Sheffield NHS ICB to continuing to work with children, young people and families as well as our health and independent sector partners to improve the systems and processes that support them through this key journey into adulthood and ensure that there is a wide range of opportunities that they are about to access and which support the fulfilment of young people's needs and aspirations for their future.

Close of Report