

Birmingham City Council

Report to Cabinet

7th September 2021



Subject: REFRESH OF THE TRANSITIONS STRATEGY TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS FOR LATER LIFE

Report of: Professor Graeme Betts
Director of Adult Social Care

Relevant Cabinet Member: Cllr Paulette Hamilton - Health & Social Care
Cllr Sharon Thompson - Vulnerable Children and Families

Relevant O &S Chair(s): Cllr Rob Pocock - Health and Social Care
Cllr Narinder Kooner - Education and Children's Social Care

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Are specific wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):		
Is this a key decision?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference: 009221/2021		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:		

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 In June 2018 Cabinet approved the establishment of a Transitions Project and the implementation of a Transitions Strategy 2018-2021 to support the delivery of 'The Whole of Life Disability Strategy' and the 'Strategy for SEND and Inclusion 2017-

2020' as agreed by Cabinet in December 2017. The three-year Transitions Strategy included a shared vision and approach by Children and Young People's Services and Adult Social Care and Health for young people who are in transition, with an initial focus on children and young people with a disability and their families. The purpose of the Strategy was to adopt a whole system, life course approach improving outcomes for the young person and enhancing life chances linked to opportunities in relation to education, employment, health and community engagement.

- 1.2 The 2018-2021 Strategy was conducted at pace and was not co-produced. As co-production is at the heart of our services in Birmingham, we took the opportunity to adopt a more inclusive approach to refreshing the Strategy prior to its expiry in April 2021. We consulted key stakeholders across health and social care and once we had collated feedback we worked with the People for Public Services Forum and the YES (Youth Empowerment Squad) group to design and write the Strategy.
- 1.3 The report draws together the methodology employed to ensure that services and citizens were engaged in the process of refreshing the Strategy which is attached at **Appendix 1**.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Cabinet: -
 - Approves the refreshed Transitions Strategy to support young people with additional needs for later life.
 - Notes the co-production involved which has provided a genuine voice for our young people and their parents/carers.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Transitions Strategy 2019-2021 set out the partnership approach in Birmingham to prepare young people with additional needs for adult life. The Strategy encapsulates the ethos of ensuring a rich and fulfilling transition from childhood to adulthood. The Strategy has driven a programme of work which is transforming the way we work with our young people and their parents/carers across the whole system. For example, a two-year proof of concept is testing and growing a whole system life course approach in Birmingham which is focussed on the commissioning and delivery of new innovative integrated models of support that are defined by outcomes for the young person and family rather than by age and diagnosis. Work has progressed year on year, which has resulted in a firm foundation for the continuation of the existing model of delivery.
- 3.2 The Strategy was due to expire in April 2021 and therefore we felt it was opportune to execute a different approach to the refresh. We acknowledge that the existing Strategy was based on a desktop exercise and was completed at pace. Although the Strategy went through the necessary governance arrangements, it was not co-

produced. The expiry of the Strategy provided an opportunity to enrich it with the voice of young people, carers and the community.

3.3 The voice of our young people and their parents/carers on our person centred, strengths-based approach, is pivotal to the work across the health and social care system which reflects Birmingham's four thematic high-level principles:

- Effective planning and strong partnership engagement,
- Provision of high-quality information,
- Full participation of children, young people and their families,
- An array of opportunities for living life

Within the past three years, progress has been made against the five key strategic intentions outlined in the Strategy:

- Early identification, intervention and prevention
- Reclaim practice
- Personalisation and innovation
- Workforce development
- Joint commissioning

In year one, partners ensured that the foundations and infrastructure for whole system change were in place, which included: an agreed vision, protocol and pathways. In year two the partnership moved into the delivery model which included extending the age of the designated cohort and establishing a workforce development programme. In the final year, the focus has been upon integrated delivery and implementation.

3.4 In 2018 Cabinet approved the establishment of a Transitions Project of which the Strategy was one element. In March 2020, a two-year Preparation for Adulthood proof of concept commenced which forms part of the operational delivery across the system with specific teams and services being established to deliver the programme. The programme consists of three elements:

- Integrated Transitions Team which supports young people from the age of 14-30 to realise their aspirations and ambitions linked to 4 key outcomes of Employment, Housing, Community Connections and Relationships and a Healthy Life as they transition into adulthood.
- Transitions Hub, commissioned through St Basils, to support young people whose journey towards adulthood has been seriously impacted by adverse childhood experiences and trauma.
- Vulnerable Adults Team which support younger adults, from the age of 14 to 30, who have experienced trauma which has resulted in risky

behaviours to achieve the outcomes listed above. The key focus is on mental health, homelessness and reducing criminality.

3.5 In line with the cited principles, transition to adulthood should form part of an on-going dialogue with partner agencies and our citizens. In order to fully involve groups as part of the process to refresh this Strategy, during January to March 2021 we engaged the following stakeholders:

- Adult Social Care Senior Management Meeting
- PFA Project Board
- SEND Improvement Board
- Birmingham Children's Partnership Senior Executive Delivery Group
- Birmingham Children's Partnership Operational Group
- Life Course Board
- Parent/Carer Forum
- RISE Forum
- People for Public Services Forum
- Corporate Parenting Board
- Autism and ADHD Partnership Board
- BCT Transitions Group
- Adult Social Care Transitions Team
- PFA Integrated Transitions Team and Vulnerable Adults Team
- Yes Group
- Young Parents Project

The Head of Service either presented the Strategy to the meeting or, as some meetings did not take place due to redeployment due to COVID, feedback was sought via email.

3.6 Once all feedback had been collated, a focus group was established with 6 volunteers from the People for Public Services Forum and the YES group to co-produce the final Strategy. The group held a series of meetings in which they considered the content, language, terminology and layout to ensure that the document was accessible for all our citizens. The refreshed Strategy seeks to build upon the work undertaken during the first three years. It embraces the person centred, strengths-based approach.

3.7 Much work is being undertaken across the whole system to support young people as they transition to adulthood. The two-year proof of concept is one example of such work. It was felt that, in order for the Strategy not to date, that all work on transitions be captured via a link to [Waiting Room](#) and [Connect to Support](#) which is an excellent reference point for citizens to access information. Having the information on the website enables it to be regularly updated to provide our citizens with the most current information.

3.8 The accompanying Protocol, attached at **Appendix 2**, outlines the way in which agencies will work together to deliver the Strategy. It includes the agreed vision, protocol and pathways which are applied now this model of working is being implemented.

- 3.9 In terms of governance, a report was presented to the Life Course Board on 29th October 2020 detailing the proposed methodology to engage stakeholders in the refresh of the Strategy. The Board approved the approach and endorsed the methodology. Upon completion of the work, a further report was presented to the Life Course Board on 15th March 2021 seeking approval and a decision regarding sign off. The Board approved the report and recommended that it be presented to Councillor Hamilton at a Cabinet Member briefing which took place on 20th May 2021. At the briefing session, Councillor Hamilton requested that it be included on the Forward Plan for discussion at a future Cabinet meeting.

4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal

- 4.1 The proposal is to note the approach to engaging services and citizens in the refresh of this Strategy and to engage comments.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 This Strategy was co-produced and therefore a number of external stakeholders were involved in the process: the Parent/Carer Forum, the People for Public Services Forum and the YES (Youth Empowerment Squad) group were involved through the whole process as were representatives from statutory services specifically: Birmingham Children's Trust, Birmingham Children's Partnership and the CCG.
- 5.2 A range of multi-agency Boards, comprising of senior Council officers were consulted in the process of refreshing the Strategy, namely: The Life Course Board, the Preparation for Adulthood Board, SEND Improvement Board and the Children and Young People Integrated Commissioning Board. There was also consultation with relevant Council teams, such as the PFA service and Statutory Transitions Team in Adult Social Care.

6 Risk Management

- 6.1 The Council has duties to meet eligible needs under the Care Act 2014 and our contribution to this system wide approach to supporting transition will assist the Council to meet those duties.

7 Compliance Issues:

7.1 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?

- 7.1.1 Ensuring a rich and fulfilling transition to adulthood is consistent with the Council priorities that Birmingham is a fulfilling city to age well in and that it is an aspirational City to grow up in.'

7.2 Legal Implications

- 7.2.1 The Council will continue to meet individuals' eligible needs in compliance with the statutory obligations such as the Care Act 2014, the Children and Families Act 2014

7.3 Financial Implications

- 7.3.1 The refresh of the Transitions Strategy does not commit the Council to any additional specific expenditure.
- 7.3.2 Currently there are no known savings expected in relation to the refresh of the Strategy but the adoption of a whole system approach to transitions has the potential to generate longer term savings by preventing young people hitting other parts of the system further down the line. This will be scoped as part of the medium-term financial planning as and when individual initiatives are brought forward.

7.4 Procurement Implications (if required)

- 7.4.1 There are no procurement implications associated with the refresh of the Transitions Strategy.

7.5 Human Resources Implications (if required)

- 7.5.1 There are no Human Resources associated with the refresh of this Strategy.

7.6 Public Sector Equality Duty

- 7.6.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty is set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. The duty requires that the Council must have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

- 7.6.2 An Equality Assessment has been undertaken, attached as **Appendix 3**.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 **Appendix 1:** Preparation for Adulthood Transitions Strategy 'Working Together in Equal Partnership to Prepare Young People with Additional Needs for Adult Life'

8.2 **Appendix 2:** Preparation for Adulthood Transitions Protocol 'Working Together in Equal Partnership to Prepare Young People with Additional Needs for Adult Life'

8.3 **Appendix 3:** Equality Assessment

9 Background Documents

[Cabinet Report 26th June 2018 - Transition Project Preparation for Adulthood](#)