

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: **Adult and Community Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee**
Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee

Date: **22nd June 2010**
20th July 2010

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

TITLE: TRANSITION STRATEGY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

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Chief Officer: Terry Rich, Director of Adult and Community Services
Gillian Pearson, Director of Children and Young People Services

Ward: N/A

Reason for report

The report sets out the action being taken by Adult and Community and Children and Young People services to support young people and adults with learning disabilities to lead more fulfilling and independent lives and to manage the cost pressures arising from growing numbers of children with a learning disability moving through to adult services. The report seeks Members' endorsement of the development of a cross portfolio strategy which encapsulates the Council's approach to working with children and families from an early age to prepare them for more independent lives as adults in the community.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Policy Development and Scrutiny Committees are asked to comment on the report and endorse the preparation of a joint Adult and Community and Children and Young People transition strategy for learning disabilities.

Corporate Policy

Existing policy: Building a Better Bromley priority to support people to live independently in the community and to ensure that all children and young people achieve their potential

Financial

1. Estimated cost None arising directly from the proposals in the report
 2. N/A
 3. Budget head ACS Learning disability placements budget; CYP Access and Inclusion
 4. Total budget for this head £13.8m (ACS); £30.3m (CYP)
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional) – The strategy will be prepared using existing staff resources
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours –
-

Legal

1. Statutory requirement:
 2. Call-in is not applicable:
-

Customer Impact

Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected) - approximately 1600 adults with learning disabilities

1. COMMENTARY

Background

- 1.1 In April 2009 the Adult and Community Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee endorsed a strategy for people with learning disabilities - "Fulfilling Lives Active Citizens". The strategy reflects the key priorities of the national strategy for learning disabilities, Valuing People, which was published in 2001 and updated in 2009 (Valuing People Now) .
- 1.2 Valuing People recognised that few people with learning disabilities had jobs, lived in their own homes or had the choice of who cares for them. It set out the opportunities that were to be made available for children and adults with learning disabilities and their families to live full and independent lives as part of their local communities.
- 1.3 The Council's Fulfilling Lives Strategy considers the needs of everyone with a learning disability living in or receiving services from the borough and sets out the Council's commitment to ensuring that people with learning disabilities have access to :
- their own home, whether as a tenant or owner
 - support to living as independently as possible
 - employment opportunities
 - meaningful daytime activity
 - mainstream transport services
 - social networks
- 1.4 The strategy outlines the key areas that the Council, together with partners in the NHS and voluntary and community sectors are addressing to further improve the lives of adults with a learning disability.
- 1.5 In recent years there have been significant increases in the learning disabled population nationally due to a number of factors such as improvements in the care of new born infants and better healthcare for people with a learning disability as they grow older.
- 1.6 The local strategy highlights the growing number of children with learning disabilities in Bromley which is above the national average. In contrast there are fewer older leavers of service as people live longer often with complex conditions. Statistically people with learning disabilities are more likely to also suffer from physical disabilities and sensory impairments, conditions such as epilepsy, long term health problems such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and/or have challenging behaviours. Individuals with these more complex needs require greater levels of support if they are to achieve independent lives and become part of their local community.
- 1.7 It is estimated that there are 1400 -1600 adults in the borough with a learning disability, of whom approximately 800 are in receipt of services funded by the Council. In 2004/05 10 young people reaching the age of 18 were estimated to be eligible for Council funded adult services, rising to 31 in 2009/10. As people eligible for Council funding have substantial or critical needs, the unit cost of care is inevitably high and involves a long term funding commitment. These pressures were reflected in the growth in the 2010/11 budget of £967k agreed by the Council's Executive in January 2010.
- 1.8 Within Adult and Community Services there is a focus on reducing the number of people with learning disabilities living in residential placements, particularly in high cost homes situated outside of the borough, and increasing the number of people living in the borough in supported environments (these would include purpose built schemes as well as mainstream housing). As well as improving the quality of life and life chances for people with learning disabilities, supported living provides a more cost effective model by reducing the unit cost of support.

Taken together the reduced unit costs and reduced numbers in residential care placements mitigate the impact of the growth in demand.

- 1.9 The commitment to the future for this group of people is reinforced in the Children's Disability Strategy "Improving Lives - Supporting Families" agreed earlier this year which includes a commitment to improved transition planning and to the principle that young people leaving school or college should not be receiving "segregated" services. An officer from Adult and Community Services is a member of the Disability Strategy Group which reports to the Children's Trust Board.
- 1.10 Adult and Community Services (ACS) and Children and Young People Services (CYP) work closely together with young people from the age of 14 and their families to ensure that robust transition planning arrangements are in place so that by the time they reach the age of moving into adult services (and budgets) they are better prepared for independent living. The departments are working jointly with a number of young people around age 16 and their families to determine the impact of personal budgets and direct payments on the type of services these young people need and to factor in ways in which they can access more mainstream as opposed to higher cost specialist services. ACS has also commissioned a new housing scheme for young people moving into independent living for the first time which is due to open in August this year. Young people from the age of 14 have the opportunity to receive support to prepare person centred plans which help them to plan and track their ambitions for the future.
- 1.11 For many young people with learning disabilities and their families a dependency on "institutionalised" care starts at a much younger age - for example if children have been placed in residential schools outside of the borough. This reduces opportunities to work with the children and their families to prepare them for a more independent adult life. By the time they return to the borough after completing school/ college their experiences and expectations may not have equipped them for leading a more fulfilling life within the wider community.
- 1.12 CYP have developed a Special Educational Needs Strategy overseen by a Member Officer Working Group which seeks to reduce the reliance on out of borough placements particularly in residential independent settings. This commitment coupled with the good working relationships established through the cross departmental and multi agency officer Transition Strategy Group provides a timely opportunity to look at the issue on a cross portfolio basis.
- 1.13 It is therefore proposed that a joint transition strategy be prepared by Adult and Community and Children and Young People Services which evaluates the outcomes of the current work under way with young people from age 14 and sets out the actions which will be taken to work with children and their families from an early age, moving through teenage and young adulthood to ensure that they are fully equipped for their future lives as adults.
- 1.14 Consultation will take place with all stakeholders including the respective Policy Development and Scrutiny Committees, families, young people with learning disabilities, the Children Trust Board and Health Social Care and Housing Partnership Board.
- 1.15 The draft strategy will be presented back to the policy Development and Scrutiny Committees for consideration in March 2011.

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 The overall net budget for placements for adults with learning disabilities is £13.8m in 2010/11. In common with Social Services Authorities across the country Bromley faces continuing pressures due to increasing numbers of service users and increasing care needs, as well as enhanced expectations from the community. After allowing for mitigating action to reduce residential placements and increase the number of people in supported living, £976k growth is

included in the Council's budget for 2010/11. Within Children and Young people Services expenditure on children with disabilities is included within the access and inclusion budget of £30.3m.

3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from the proposals in the report.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The proposals are in accordance with the strategic direction of Building a Better Bromley in respect of supporting independence and ensuring that all children and young people achieve their potential and the priorities set out in the Adult and Community Portfolio Plan and the Children and Young People Trust Plan.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Personnel implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Valuing People/ Valuing People Now Fulfilling Lives- Active Citizens Improving Lives- Supporting Families CYP SEN Strategy