

Decision Maker: Care Services Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee.

Date: 4th September 2012

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

Title: INTEGRATED TRANSITION STRATEGY - UPDATE

Contact Officer: Andrew Royle, Strategic Commissioner Disabilities (ECS Commissioning)
Tel: 020 8461 7612. E-mail: Andrew.Royle@bromley.gov.uk

Debi Christie, 16-25 Commissioning Manager (ECS Commissioning)
Tel: 020 8461 7896. E-mail: Debi.Christie@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Lorna Blackwood, ECS Assistant Director Commissioning & Partnerships
Tel: 020 8313 4110 E-mail: lorna.blackwood@bromley.gov.uk

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 This report updates the Policy, Development and Scrutiny (PDS) Committee on the draft Integrated Transition Strategy for young people with learning difficulties/ disabilities and the impact of the emerging findings from SEND Pathfinder
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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 **Members of PDS are requested to comment on the revised approach to the Transition Strategy in light of forthcoming legislative changes and the outcomes from the SEND Pathfinder.**

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People Supporting Independence:
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Contained within current resources.
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: ECS Learning disability services; SEND budget; Pathfinder Grant (DoE)
 4. Total current budget for this head: £16,193,530 (ECS) £24,954,510 (SEN), £150,000 (Pathfinder)
 5. Source of funding: ECS and SEN budgets
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-Statutory - Government Guidance: The SEND Pathfinder is part of the Green paper consultation. A Draft Children & Families Bill will be published in September 2012
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): 305 Young People over the next 10 years will be transitioning to Adult services
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The draft strategy reported to ACS PDS in September 2011 and CYP PDS in October 2011 set out the context in which all agencies in Bromley would work to ensure a successful transition for young people to independence in adulthood. By successful we mean that the transition to adulthood takes account of the views of young people and their parents, is well planned and coordinated and enables as seamless a transition as possible across organisational boundaries. A successful transition will also support independence, choice and improved outcomes.
- 3.2 A consultation process was commenced that involved Bromley Parent Voice, Bromley Mencap, Burgess Autistic Trust and Advocacy for All acting as critical routes into parents/carers and young people. Easy read versions of the strategy and consultation questionnaire were also produced in order to ensure accessibility to the process and capture the views of young people (e.g. through the Young Advisors group). The Learning Disability Partnership Board and its representative sub groups were also used to advertise the consultation process and ensure engagement. Copies were also sent to all the special schools in the Borough, all mainstream school SENCO officers and a number of consultation events were held with parents/carers including a workshop at the CYP Partnership Forum Event.
- 3.3 Coinciding with this consultation activity the 18 month SEND pathfinder programme was launched with a completion date of March 2013. During this time the pathfinder will test many of the proposals of the Green Paper, *Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability*, Department for Education, 2011.
- 3.4 In recognition of the work being carried out on transition in Bromley representation was made to the Department of Education for our Pathfinder to be designated a Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) pathfinder. This was duly agreed by the Department in March 2012 thus allowing us to access additional support from the PfA national team.
- 3.5 Under the Bromley SEND Pathfinder a Transition Workstream has been put in place to take forward both the testing of the Green Paper proposals as well as the wider issues identified in the Transition Strategy and reflect comments received during the consultation process. This workstream is led by the Strategic Commissioner for Disabilities and the 16-25 Commissioning Manager. Two parents are also members of the core group. A copy of the action plan is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.6 Given the intensive work being carried out by the Transition Workstream, coupled with the rapidly developing landscape of the Governments intentions regarding the 0-25 pathway (e.g. the impact of the Education Funding Reforms from April 2013; the release of the draft Children & Families Bill in September 2012) the further development of the Transition Strategy has been put on hold.
- 3.7 It is the intention to issue a communication identifying the main issues raised from the Transition Strategy consultation and what actions are being put in place to address them. This communication will also identify areas that cannot be addressed until the Bill is progressing through Parliament and the impacts are assessed (e.g. The SEN Statement process will be phased out, at this time we do not have clarity on what it will be replaced with, if at all, or if an eligibility criteria will be introduced).

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The overarching 'Improving Lives – Supporting Families: Disability Strategy for Children and Young People in Bromley' clearly identified amongst its key aims the improved transition planning for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no additional resource implications arising from the Transition Strategy. All actions arising from the consultation process will need to be met within existing resources.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Pathfinder has been implemented as part of the Department of Education's consultation on its Green Paper. In summer 2012 a draft Children & Families Bill will be published that reflects the initial out comes of the Pathfinders. The proposed timeline is that this Bill will receive Royal Assent in April 2014.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	ACS PDS Report & CYP PDS Report (Integrated Transition Strategy) http://cds.bromley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=119&MId=3675&Ver=4 Weblink to the National Pathfinder Programme: http://www.sendpathfinder.co.uk/ Weblink to the Department of Education Green Paper website: http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/send/b0075291/green-paper