



SEND Green Paper Transition Workstream – overview of activity

The Bromley Transition Workstream is led internally by:

- **Andrew Royle** – Strategic Commissioner, Disabilities
- **Debi Christie** – 16-25 Education Commissioning Manager

The workstream has two parent representatives as partners on the workstream. Parent reps have been selected through Bromley Parent Voice and their role is to bring their own personal experiences to the table, offer support and also to constructively challenge us as we develop and deliver activities through the pathfinder project. The workstream meets once a month for the duration for the pathfinder project. Bromley is also part of the national Preparing for Adulthood reference group.

Transition Workstream - Key Activities

Through the Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Pathfinder project, we are changing cultures, developing ideas and testing a variety of models to support our young people and their families in preparing more effectively for adult life:

Internal structures

1st April 2012 saw the integration of Bromley Children and Young People Services and Adult Services, now **Education and Care Services**. As part of this structure, there is now one central commissioning division, which provides a really good opportunity for more synergy across the age ranges. This is incredibly valuable, particularly for the work that we are doing under the Pathfinder Project.

A Shared Vision for our Young People

With the support of the national Preparing for Adulthood team (commissioned by the Department of Education DfE), Bromley held a visioning day in June to develop a collective vision and commitment to support young people through the process of transition, maximising their potential and helping them develop skills to live full and meaningful lives. The day was attended by nearly 50 people representing a wide range of stakeholders (including young people, families, voluntary sector, borough services, health and education providers). Alongside developments internally to support the vision, the borough will be supported to develop a number of specific areas including:

- Working together for change - effective support planning
- Creative housing options
- Supported employment and internships
- Person centred planning for young people going through transition

- Developing links between pre and post 16 education and developing the post-16 curriculum

The Local Offer

The SEND Green Paper next steps document confirms that local authorities will be required to publish a 'local offer' which provides clarity for young people and families around what support is available and from whom. We are working with local voluntary sector partners to research current provision and consult with families and young people to determine gaps in the market. Partners will also be reviewing current published 'local offers' within adult services and test the most effective way(s) in which to present information.

Developing Meaningful Day Opportunities

Bromley is committed to developing its day services in line with the SEND Green Paper proposals. It is widely recognised that there is little value in having days services which just provide a 'building' for young people – activities need to be meaningful and outcome focussed. These will include employment, health, living skills and community. Many of the other activities (shared vision, improved education, local offer and maximising potential) will feed directly into the review and development of services.

Improving Local Education (Raising Aspirations & Improving Choice)

In partnership with schools, colleges and third sector partners, we are developing the local education offer to develop more flexible packages for young people with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD) in their local mainstream college but with more specialist support. The national Preparing for Adulthood team are contributing a significant resource to this project, which aligns to the borough's Special Educational Needs and LDD strategy to build local capacity to enable children and young people to remain within the Borough to access education through high-quality facilities, teaching and support.

Bromley has been successful in winning a substantial amount of funding from the Education Funding Agency (£2million) to completely remodel facilities within Bromley College so that learners with more complex needs can be supported in their own community. The project is due for completion in Spring 2013.

Through developing the local offer and facilities, in partnership with its special schools, Bromley will be engaging with a small pilot group of young people (10-15) with higher support needs, for whom we can build more flexible learning and support packages to enable them to remain within their local community and access the local Further Education (FE) college, with more specialist support. This project will in essence reduce the number of young people who have been forced to look outside the borough for education provision, normally high cost residential placements.

Testing the Education Health and Care Plan

We are testing the use of the single plan at Transition, both 16/19yrs from school into FE and from FE into 'adult services'. Virtual testing has been completed and we are currently working with four young people and their families to test the plan as they move on from their existing placement.

Early Support & Key Working

The Early Support Consortium (ESC) has been commissioned by the DfE to test the principles of early support and key working across the age ranges. We are working closely with the ESC to support the development of training and materials to ensure that the principles can be adapted effectively throughout the age range (0-25yrs).

Maximising Potential

This project is looking specifically at ways in which we can work with and support young people aged 14-25, both within their local communities and education placements, to increase the opportunities for them to maximise their potential on their transition into adulthood. The project will recruit 2 full time equivalents (FTE) to provide young people with personalised support at a much earlier age than we have been able to in the past in order to raise aspirations and manage expectations as they prepare for adult life.

Integrate the end to end commissioning

We are working internally to bring together our commissioning and decision making processes across age ranges (strategic and individual) including health, social care and education into one model