

Decision Maker: CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES PDS COMMITTEE
AND ADULT, CARE AND HEALTH PDS COMMITTEE

Date: 14 March 2023

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

Title: 0-25 PROGRESS REPORT

Contact Officer: Mark Smith, Head of Service, 0-25 Service
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**Chief Officer/
Sponsor Lead:** Director of Children's Children Education and Families

Ward: All Wards

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To update the CEF PDS and ACH PDS Committees of the progress of a 0-25 service launched on 1st September 2022
- 1.2 The Council's [Transforming Bromley roadmap for 2019 to 2023](#) sets out the Children's Services and Education workstream but is cross cutting with Adults, Housing and Health and Commissioning.

This includes the following statements:

- *Statement 5* - Review transition plans and service pathways *and Statement 6* - Explore opportunities for developing an integrated 0 – 25 service offer for children and young people with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability).
- 1.3 Mark Smith has been appointed as the Head of Service, of the new 0-25 Service. On the 1st September 2022, the initiation of a 0-25 Service became a reality.
 - 1.4 This report provides a summary of key developments since the 1st September 2022 and highlights areas for development over the next 6 months.
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2 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 That the update on the new 0-25 Service be noted.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: The 0-25 Service has a significant impact on the support provided for children and young people with SEND and their successful transition into adulthood.
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Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority
 - (1) For children and young People to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
 - (2) For adults and older people to enjoy fulfilled and successful lives in Bromley, ageing well, retaining independence and making choices.
 - (5) To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Estimated Cost No Cost Not Applicable: Further Details
 2. Ongoing costs: Recurring Cost Non-Recurring Cost Not Applicable: Further Details
 3. Budget head/performance centre:
 4. Total current budget for this head: £
 5. Source of funding:
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Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional):
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement Non-Statutory - Government Guidance None: Further Details
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: No Executive decision.
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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
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Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: Not Applicable
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Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: Not Applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users or customers (current and projected):
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not Applicable

3. COMMENTARY

3.1 The 0-25 Service key focus is preparing young people for adulthood, whilst addressing any internal challenges in working across departments and the local area.

3.2 It is widely acknowledged both nationally and locally, that the transition from children to adult services can be a 'cliff edge'¹. In Bromley through collaborative working, we have always endeavoured to ensure that pathways are understood, and families and young people's anxieties are minimised. However, we also recognise that we can do more to improve this. We wish to improve transition with a 'smooth pathway', which resulted in the development of the 0-25 service.

3.3 The changes in the Children and Social Work Act 2017 where the Local Authority is responsible for young people up to the age of 25 and the Children and Families Act 2014 establishing the responsibility to support young people with SEND up to 25, together with the improvement journey of children education and families and the realignment of adult services provides an opportunity to shine a light on what we can do better and/or differently.

3.4 Within children services, there is a collaborative approach with parent/carers and the child. However, when a young person reaches the age of 18 and accessing adult services the focus rightly moves to the young adult. The service has started this journey of cultural change, discussing how the preparation for adulthood can be owned by all departments and agencies as the children of today become tomorrow's adults. The service has now been initiated, however at the early stages of cultural change and developing early planning of a child's journey collaboratively with adult and commissioning services. It is paramount that we ensure parent/carers and most importantly young people are part of this process and work together to support this change, prior to the young person acquiring adulthood status.

3.5 Vision:

3.6 Our vision is set out in our [SEND Strategic Vision and Priorities for 2019 to 2022](#):

'That our children and young people have their needs met locally, as far as possible, growing up alongside their peers and able to live, learn and work in their local community'.

3.7 The agreed collective vision for this project was agreed at the 0-25 governance board:

- To recognise the vulnerabilities of our children and young people who have SEND and consider the safeguarding issues when reviewing all aspects of this project.
- To develop meaningful relationships with our children and young people, their parents and carers, our colleagues, and the wider community.
- To have a strength-based approach, identifying the positive contribution our children and young people who have SEND offer to society.
- To be aspirational and to support our children and young people to take appropriate risks to reach their full potential.
- To achieve excellence.
- To embrace the 'Preparing for Adulthood Pathways (PfA)² which are Employment, Independent Living, Community Inclusion and Health.
- To address all forms of discrimination and disproportionality, recognising that children and young people with a SEND are likely to need support and empowerment to

¹ <https://cerebra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/transition-in-england.pdf>

² <https://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/SiteAssets/Downloads/y1fzx4tn636398691202503873.jpg>

achieve, without having to deal further with prejudice and discrimination. The project will need to embrace the nine protected characteristics of the [Equality Act 2010](#).

- 3.8 The voice of children, young people and their parents are at the centre of [Children and Families Act 2014](#), clearly set out in the principles in [Section 19](#). This dictates that children, young people and their families should be involved in decision making at every level of the system. These values and requirements are key to the project.
- 3.9 **Present Structure:**
- 3.10 Following recommendations made to the Transformation Board, an agreement was reached on the development of a new 0-25 Service. It was agreed that the new 0-25 service would be initiated on the 1st September 2022.
- 3.11 The plan is the service will include 4 teams within a 0-25 Service: Social Work team for Children with Disabilities, Short Breaks team, a Preparing for Adulthood Team and the Occupational Therapy (social care) team.
- 3.12 The Social Work team for Children with Disabilities will focus on supporting children and families requiring the most support. This will include children with disabilities who need to be safeguarded, children who are looked after with severe/profound disabilities and Children in Need (where a high level of support is required to prevent a child needing to be looked after, emerging issues of harm and/or complex issues which require a higher level of multi-agency support). The team will also be responsibility for the completion of children and family assessments.
- 3.13 The Short Break team will assess and review the children receiving short breaks, which includes the present on-line assessment process. As and when specific issues arise regarding safeguarding or complexity, they can be transferred to the Children's Disability Team. The aim is also for the team to develop the short break offer for all children and young people, including improvements for young people 14-25.
- 3.14 At present the Children's Disability Team and Short Breaks Team are one team; with the planned changes it will support each team to focus on their area of work, as opposed to the present structure leading to priority being given to safeguarding and children looked after, leading to lesser priority given to the delivery and development of short breaks.
- 3.15 The Occupational Therapy Social Care team will remain within the present structure in children's social care but will come under the 0-25 service. The primary focus of the service is to assess and review a child's home environment and to consider interventions, aids and adaptations to improve the child/young person's outcomes.
- 3.16 The Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) team will work with young people from 14-25. From 14-18 this will be alongside the childcare Social Workers, thereafter, taking full case responsibility from 18 years of age. The PfA workers will hold case responsibility whilst an EHC plan is in place and until there is transition into adult care services. Once a care package in the home has been implemented or alternative accommodation in place, (such as supported living), a 6 weekly review will be held to ensure the support is meeting stated outcomes and thereafter adult services will take on responsibility. Due to EHC plans potentially going up to 25 years of age the transfer could occur from 18 up to 25 years of age. The PfA Pathways of Employment, Independent Living, Community Inclusion and Health will be a key focus of their work.

3.17 Progress to Date:

- 3.18 The two Social Workers within the Adult Learning Disability service, who had been specialising in the PfA work have transferred into the new 0-25 service. Agreement has now been reached that a third worker can be recruited to the PfA Team. Recruitment for this position will be started in January 2023. This will support more pro-active planning for children transitioning into adulthood, whilst also supporting earlier planning following a young person's schooling or college placement.
- 3.19 The vision remains to support earlier planning, at least from 14 years of age. This will need to include all members of the 0-25 service to embrace the PfA pathways, therefore this will include all Social Workers working with young people and families to make them aware of options and processes for young people from 14 years of age. However, more detailed input will be provided through the PfA workers as young people approach 18.
- 3.20 Mark Smith attends ongoing 6 weekly 'catch ups' with the Nikki Gage Assistant Director, Operations, Adult Social care to ensure there is a co-ordinated and joined up approach to the development of the service. He also attends the adult managers meeting every 4 weeks, which informs the 0-25 service of themes arising in adults, whilst also sharing issues present for children's services which are relevant for adults. He also attends the Adult Senior Leadership Meeting as and when required.
- 3.21 The work with adult commissioners is ongoing, with a key area being the development of targeted support for young people transitioning. A key focus has been ensuring the overnight short break provision in adults can offer a similar level of short breaks offered to young people/families as provided prior to 18 years of age. A further 'coffee morning' is being arranged for March 2023 with parents of 17 year olds presently using Hollybank to visit Widmore Road. It is recognised that there are issues being raised by families and young people regarding the need for adult services, including respite to be more focussed on young people; being able to support young people who might present with behaviours which challenge; having relevant equipment, including sensory stimulation for those young people transitioning, whilst achieving the correct balance to support them as young adults.
- 3.22 There continues to be a greater commissioning focus on young people transitioning and the offer has improved to ensure that day opportunity providers offer more targeted offers that are attractive to young people, whilst also offering more day opportunities both at weekends and holidays. There needs to be more information and correctly targeted at young people who will have 'care and support' needs as an adult to ensure they are aware of the local opportunities available, instead of opting for more expensive out of borough provision. To date there has been two transition events since the launch of the project, which will continue as this has been an important forum for sharing information and local opportunities available within Bromley and the surrounding area.
- 3.23 **Development areas of the 0-25 Service (next 6 months):**
- 3.24 There is a detailed action plan in place. The action plan covers the four individual teams. However, the PfA team has the most significant development required from their previous model of working. This aspect of the action plan remains focussed around the four key 'Preparing for Adulthood pathways', which requires extensive collaboration from the Local Area. This will be linked in with the present SEND Governance Board action plan.
- 3.25 In January 2023 interim arrangements have been put in place to support one of the PfA workers to provide supervision for the other team member and to lead on allocation. It is anticipated that a 3rd PfA worker will be in position within the next 2/3 months. This will

strengthen the transition to adulthood for young people, aiming to deliver a more pro-active approach, supporting a seamless transition, which in turn leading too improved outcomes.

- 3.26 A new Group Manager, for the Children's Disability Service will start on the 30th January 2023. This will support the deferred work of developing a short breaks team within the 0-25 service. The aim of the Short Breaks Team is to support more efficient responses to online assessments and ensure standards are met in completing yearly reviews of short breaks. The team will also lead on the allocation of places on the additional holiday schemes that have been commissioned and developing (with commissioning colleagues) future short breaks that meets the needs of a children and young adults with disabilities.
- 3.27 A service day is planned for the complete 0-25 service in February/March 2023. This was deferred to support attendance form the new Group Manager for the Children's Disability Team. A key focus of this day is ensuring there is a shared vision for the service, with a key focus being preparing young people for their journey into adulthood.
- 3.28 The transfer of budgetary responsibility continues to be reviewed as to how care packages and decision making can be transferred/shared with the Head of Service, for the 0-25 service. He presently attends the Practice Review Group meeting where decisions are overseen in relation to resource allocation. His attendance is focussed on young adults within the PfA team to ensure joined up working between children and adults, whilst work continues on budgetary alignment.
- 3.29 Additional training sessions will be provided for members of the Children's Disability Service not yet trained in Mental Capacity Assessments. This will be alongside relevant work shadowing opportunities through the PfA team, Deprivation of Liberty and Adult Learning Disability Service. The Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) are still being awaited for their formal implementation. The Head of the 0-25 Service will continue to attend the LPS working group. The Deprivation of Liberty Service Manager and Community DoL Social Worker also attend the Deprivation of Liberty Panel held within children's services.
- 3.30 The focus of the initial changes of the 0-25 service have been for those with learning disabilities, however stage 2 of the development of a new 0-25 service, will be the transition for young people's whose primary need is a physical disability. At present these young people will transfer at 18 to the locality teams within adult services.
- 3.31 The transition for young people within the Occupational Therapy team is also being reviewed. However, it is presently acknowledged that the transition runs smoothly between services, which is aided by the Principal Occupational Therapist offering clinical supervision to the Team Leader of the Children's Occupational Therapy Service. However, the aim is to review if the transition can be further improved by extending the transfer date until an EHC plan ceases. This is viewed as stage 3 of the development of the service. This is presently on hold, whilst the service offer is being reviewed alongside the Bromley Healthcare Occupational Therapy Service.
- 3.32 The transition for young people's primary need is a mental health condition will remain the same, whereby if a young person meets the threshold for intervention for adult mental health they will transition on to a well-established multi-agency community mental health team based within Oxleas Foundation NHS Trust at 18. Although as part of the work on transition development, we will need to ensure that the same key performance indicator of completion of Care Act Assessments at 17.5 is adhered to.
- 3.33 We are in the process of implementing a Performance Management Framework and working with our client database system (Liquidlogic) to ensure we are able to closely monitor progress

of the service and report back to the board on the improvements and/or any challenges in delivering a better offer for young people with disabilities and their families. A key performance indicator is ensuring the completion of Care Act Assessments are finalised and provision agreed for the young person by the time they reach 17 ½ years of age. Once a third PfA worker is recruited performance data will be collated and shared.

- 3.34 The service also aims to identify young people who will meet the Care Act criteria from a younger age, ideally from 14 years of age, to enable improved individual planning and strategic commissioning. A 'Transition Plan' document is in the process of being developed for Liquid Logic. We are presently awaiting feedback from colleagues in adult services, to ensure it meets their future commissioning needs.
- 3.35 The Learning Disability Transition Nurse continues to fulfil her role in supporting young people with learning disabilities to support their health transition into adulthood. Although meetings have been held, a decision is still required as to how this work can be strengthened through working with the 0-25 service.
- 3.36 Bromley Healthcare have a transition working group in place which the 0-25 Head of Service has attended on a couple of occasions. However, further work is needed to ensure information is disseminated on the work being completed and action taken to implement good practice for the health transition.
- 3.37 **Governance Arrangements:**
- 3.38 The Head of Service, 0-25 Service reports to Vicky West, Assistant Director for Specialist Services in Children's services, whilst having scheduled discussions with Nikki Gage, Assistant Director, Operations, Adult Social Care.
- 3.39 At the 0-25 Governance Board of the 18th January 2023, it was agreed that the 0-25 Service governance would be overseen and scrutinised by the present 0-25 SEND Board, which is attended by relevant senior managers/directors and local area representatives.
- 3.40 It is also recommended that a Transition Operational Working Group be developed to progress the transitional working practices. Areas this will include are the running of transition events, development of information and improving the practice of implementing the PfA pathways within the Local Area.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children; Policy/Financial/Personnel/Legal/Procurement Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	[Title of document and date]