

Additional information relating to realignment of Learning Disability Service/Transitions.

Background The Transitions Team in Middlesbrough was formed 10 years ago to provide support for young people with Learning Disabilities from 14-25 years preparing them for adulthood

The team evolved to support young people with a wide variety of additional needs and it has become clear that although some of the processes which have been established are good practice, there is a clear disparity in the way in which we support young people dependent upon their primary need.

Young people who do not have a Learning Disability but for example have Mental Health needs or Continuing Health Care Needs often have two points of transition- one at 14 years and another at 18 years-this clearly is not the best way to support them.

Throughout the same 10 year period, changes in Adult Social Care have resulted in the disbanding of a Specialist Learning Disability Service which has been seen to have a negative impact upon the continuity of service for adults with Learning Disabilities.

Re-alignment of Learning Disability / LD transitions service From August 2019 young people with disabilities 0-18 years will be supported by the Children with Disabilities Team, contacts and referrals should be directed to the manager of the CWD team for consideration.

An adult Learning Disability Service will be realigned with current adult social care staffing structure being re configured. The newly formed team will therefore only provide support to adults with a diagnosed Learning Disability.

Transitions Forum will continue to be the arena for young people preparing for adulthood to be discussed and a plan for their future support into adult services to be agreed.

This will be held quarterly from January 2020 and chaired by Head of Specialist and Lifelong services from Adult Social Care.

Cases currently open to a Middlesbrough Social Worker /Team will be presented close to their 17th birthday for the multi- agency forum to identify the most appropriate pathway into adulthood.

For example be Mental Health services or Continuing Health Care support from the CCG.

The identified adult worker/team will become the “involved “ until the young person becomes 18 years old, when the adult worker , if the young person is eligible for support, will take on the allocated worker role.

Outcomes

- All young people with additional needs, eligible for adult social care support, have the same point of transition into adulthood.
- Transitions forum will continue providing an opportunity for multi-agency discussion.
- There will be the continued opportunity for joint working and planning, prior to the young person becoming 18 years old.
- Young people who do not have a Learning Disability do not have two points of transfer
- Adults with Learning Disabilities have consistency of support.

