

## Inspection Update: Transitions

The Ofsted SIF inspection identified an issue with regard to transitions arrangements, with the following recommendation made by the inspection team: *Ensure that the transition arrangements for disabled children are focused on the needs of the individual child and that clear plans are in place well before their 18th birthday.*

While the recommendation was primarily focused on arrangements between children's and adult social services, transition is a wider issue encompassing other partners, with particular emphasis on health.

### **Social Care & Health**

Senior Managers within Children's and Adult Services have agreed in principle that transition should begin at 14 years of age; this requires formal approval and consideration of budgets in order to achieve this as there would need to be changes to resourcing. In the meantime, a transitions operational group has been established and meets monthly to review those who are due to transition. A list of young people aged 13 and over was shared with colleagues in Adult Services to identify those young people who are expected to receive support from Adult Services in the future. The transitions group is focusing on the 17 year old cohort, with plans to work downward chronologically through the full list.

The group has also worked with young people to co-produce a Transitions Guide, providing useful information for young people and their families.

The 0-25 Joint Commissioning Group ensures that there is discussion with health colleagues around transition cases and individual need. With regard to health, the main issues tend to lie in the eligibility for adult services compared to the offer in children's, along with the timeliness of provision of those services.

### **Education & Employment**

From September, Crosshill will be delivering post-16 provision, targeted at those 16-18 year olds who are not quite ready to access further education in a mainstream FE college, thus providing additional time to get children and young people ready and developing their independence. The bigger issue in relation to SEND is post-19 transition; for some of our most complex children attending Newfield, once they reach 18 there is a lack of suitable, specialist provision in-borough. Parents tell us they want a safe place for their young adults to go during the day but there is nothing in-borough that families feel is appropriate. This was a feature of the SEND annual review. There is some work to do with parents and carers to agree on a "perfect week" (or something similar) might look like, however provision does need to be addressed.

The Head of Strategic Commissioning (Adults, Communities and Prevention) is leading on the development of community provision; a working group has been established and the first meeting scheduled for September. This will explore how personal budgets could be used, and how we can link in with the adult learning provision in borough.

In terms of employment opportunities, the Post-16 Team Leader is leading on the development of supported internships, to look at how we can offer employment opportunities and development for care leavers and also children with SEND. There was a separate recommendation within the Ofsted report: *Improve work experience and apprenticeship opportunities for care leavers.*

Transition arrangements will be under scrutiny in any future inspection in Blackburn with Darwen, whether this is part of a focused visit under the ILACS (Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services) framework (where progress against the SIF inspection action plan will be reviewed) or as part of the local area inspection of arrangements for children with special educational needs and disabilities. Both of these inspections are likely within the next six to twelve months.