

Central Bedfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information No

Title of Report **Central Bedfordshire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Preparing for Adulthood Strategy (14-25)**

Meeting Date: 02/04/2015

Responsible Officer(s) Report of Julie Ogley, Director of Social Care, Health and Housing (Julie.Ogley@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) and Sue Harrison, Director of Children's Services (Sue.Harrison@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Presented by: Julie Ogley, Director of Social Care, Health and Housing (Julie.Ogley@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Recommendation

1. **To approve the Central Bedfordshire SEND Preparing for Adulthood Strategy (14-25), as set out in Appendix A.**

Purpose of Report

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1. | The purpose of this report is for the Central Bedfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board to consider and approve the Central Bedfordshire Transitions Draft Strategy for Children and Young People (Preparing for Adulthood). |
| 2. | The Health and Wellbeing Board is also requested to note the preparation work officers have carried out and endorse the commencement of the implementation phase, across agencies within Central Bedfordshire. |

Background

- | | |
|----|---|
| 3. | The Children and Families Act came into effect in September 2014, setting out reform to the systems for adoption, Looked after Children (LAC), family justice and SEND. |
| 4. | The Children & Families Act takes forward reforms to the system of support for SEND that was originally set out in ' <i>Support and Aspiration: a new approach to SEN and Disability</i> ' (DfE 2010) by: |

- Replacing statements of special educational needs and learning difficulty assessment with a new single, simpler 0 -25 assessment process: Education Health and Care Plan.
- Providing statutory protections comparable to those currently associated with the statement up to 25 years in further education.
- Requiring local authorities to publish a local offer showing the support available to disabled children and young people and those with SEN, and their families.
- Giving parents of young people with Education, Health and Care Plans the right to a personal budget for their support.
- Improving cooperation between all of the services that support children and their families, requiring Local Authorities and Health to work together to improve outcomes by joint commissioning between Local Authorities, which from 2013, now include Public Health responsibilities, clinical commissioners, and universal commissioners (0-5).
- Ensuring mediation is in place for disputes prior to referral, to appeal, to tribunal and trialling, giving children the right to appeal.

5. The Support and Aspiration Programme was initiated by Children's Services to implement reforms to the system of SEND support, as introduced by the Children & Families Act 2014. Principally this centres on improved support for young people with SEND and their families to reach their full potential, receive appropriate support from birth to 25 years and jointly commission a range of universal and specialist services across children's, health and care services.

6. The Support and Aspirations Programme consists of a number of work streams, all of which have parent representation and work is being co-produced with parents in each area. Young people are involved through the participation work and are influencing the programme development. The Support and Aspiration Programme, reports to the Children's Trust Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

7. A key component of the SEND reforms is improving child to adult transition support, which will enable young people with SEND, including all disabilities, to build their skills and independence and access the care and support they need to move into adulthood and live fulfilling lives.

<p>8.</p>	<p>The 'Transition from childhood to adulthood' work stream reported into the Support & Aspiration Board, with the key aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a detailed needs analysis of needs to inform future strategic planning and commissioning of adult transition services. • Initiate a pilot for young people aged 14–25 with SEND currently accessing transitions support services in the north and south of the authority in order to redesign the transitions pathway. • Deliver a multi-agency transitions strategy and pathway for all disabled young people and adults aged 14-25, which outlines how all services and agencies, will work in partnership to offer a positive transition experience and improved outcomes. • Implement findings from the pilot for young people with SEND aged 14–25 years, informed by the work undertaken within the overall Support and Aspiration programme.
<p>9.</p>	<p>The Council commissioned Prospects, an external provider of services to young people and adults, primarily due to their extensive experience of working with people with SEND. Prospects were asked to examine existing transitions practice and research customer experiences, working with a broad cohort of young people and their family carers.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>A range of research methods were used to capture the views and experiences of young people and their family carers, which included face-to-face interviews and telephone based questionnaires. Research was undertaken at a range of venues including local schools and colleges to explore issues in more detail.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>In addition, innovative techniques were used to encourage young people to discuss specific issues and participate in the research activity. This included the 'Vox Box' video diary booth that enabled individuals and groups to record their views and expectations, and a group of 'Young Researchers' who were able to undertake peer-to-peer learning at each stage in the research and pilot activity. The findings of the research can be found in Appendix B.</p>

<p>Reason(s) for the Action Proposed</p>	
<p>12.</p>	<p>The approval of the Central Bedfordshire Transitions Draft Strategy for Children and Young People (Preparing for Adulthood) is required to ensure cross agency support and commitment to implement the Strategy across Central Bedfordshire.</p>

Issues	
Governance & Delivery	
13.	Completion of the research phase of the transitions project led to the development of a clear offer for young people with SEND to prepare for adult life and meet their future care and support needs, as detailed below and documented formally within the draft Central Bedfordshire SEND Preparing for Adulthood Strategy (14-25).
14.	<p>The Strategy states that Central Bedfordshire Council and partners will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage young people to have aspirations and believe in what they can do and realise how much they can achieve. • Work with everyone who is involved in supporting young people as they approach adulthood to have positive aspirations for them and support them in a way that helps young people to achieve their goals. • Enable young people to live healthy and fulfilling lives, supported by a range of local care and support services and accessible healthcare. <p>Implementing the draft Central Bedfordshire SEND Preparing for Adulthood Strategy (14-25)</p>
15.	The Preparing for Adulthood Delivery Partnership has been established to move the project into an implementation phase.
16.	The Delivery Partnership is a constituent work stream of the Support and Aspiration Programme and will be important in the implementation of the draft strategy. It has a strong focus on co production and includes representation from family carers and young people themselves as well as a wide range of professionals from all services and agencies.
17.	This multi agency partnership will deliver, with young people and parent carers, the necessary change to ensure young people develop their skills and abilities, and build their independence as they move towards adulthood. It will also ensure families are appropriately supported and involved in this journey. The principles of the strategy and pathway are applicable to all young people no matter what their level of disability.
18.	<p>The first meeting of the Preparing for Adulthood Delivery Partnership was held on the 12 February 2015, at which the initial scope of the programme was proposed, as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Package 1 - Development of Commissioning evidence base and Joint Commissioning Intentions (14-25).

<p>19.</p> <p>20.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Package 2 - Creation of Preparing for Adulthood Design Principles. • Work Package 3 - Preparing for Adulthood Communications, Engagement and Training Programme. • Work Package 4 - Review of key worker role (14-25). • Work Package 5 - Define the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders involved 14-25, this includes the Young People, Parent Carers, CBC, Health and Education. • Work Package 6 - Development and implementation of the transitions (14-25) feedback/customer experience mechanism. • Work Package 7 - Ensure the Preparing for Adulthood pathway reflects improved & enhanced operational practice. <p>The current Support and Aspiration governance framework will remain in place to oversee the delivery of the whole programme across 2016-17.</p> <p>A detailed action plan will be reported through the Support and Aspiration governance framework with updates to the Children’s Trust Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board.</p>
<p>Financial</p>	
<p>21.</p> <p>22.</p>	<p>There are no immediate direct financial implications relating to the implementation of the draft Central Bedfordshire SEND Preparing for Adulthood Strategy (14-25). It is anticipated that the new strategy and resulting care pathways will improve outcomes for young people and ensure better value for money.</p> <p>Implementation costs of the draft Central Bedfordshire SEND Preparing for Adulthood Strategy (14-25) will be funded by base budgets.</p>
<p>Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)</p>	
<p>23.</p>	<p>Public authorities have a statutory duty to advance equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.</p>

24.	A full equality assessment will be conducted as part of development and implementation of the draft Central Bedfordshire SEND Preparing for Adulthood Strategy (14-25) to ensure that due regard is given to the impact of the draft strategy on the Council's residents, particularly those who are vulnerable and hard to reach.
25.	Furthermore the development and implementation of the draft Central Bedfordshire SEND Preparing for Adulthood Strategy (14-25) is likely to have a positive overall impact in terms of advancing equality of opportunity.
Are there any risks issues relating Public Sector Equality Duty - No	

Appendix	
Source Documents	Location (including url where possible)
Appendix A - Draft Central Bedfordshire SEND Preparing for Adulthood Strategy (14-25).	
Appendix B – Support & Aspirations Transitions Workstream - research phase findings.	

Presented by Julie Ogley