

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 8 June 2023

Report of the Executive Director of Adult Services and Health & Wellbeing

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Caring for the vulnerable;
Delivering better services

Adult Social Care Transition Policy Statement

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Brief Summary

The Adult Social Care Transition Policy Statement sets out how services should work together to identify *as soon as possible*, those children and their families who may need support to prepare for adulthood, and to support their long-term aspirations. It also supports the county council's corporate priorities:

- Delivering better services; and
- Caring for the vulnerable.

The Policy Statement focuses on young people who are likely to have eligible social care needs when they reach the age of 18, based on the Care Act 2014 eligibility criteria.

The Policy Statement is intended for Lancashire County Council services, partners and members of the public.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the requirements of Standing Order C19 have been complied with.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve the Adult Social Care Transition Policy Statement as

set out at Appendix 'A'.

Detail

The Adult Social Care Transition Policy Statement, as set out Appendix 'A', sets out the statutory duties placed upon Lancashire County Council, in relation to children and young people with care and support needs, young carers, and adult carers of young people, who are preparing for adulthood.

Both the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014 place duties on Local Authorities in relation to arrangements for young people with care and support needs in preparing for adulthood. These two pieces of legislation capture the principles of personalisation, inclusion, participation, and co-production.

Approaching adulthood is a time when young people and their families are thinking about their aspirations for the future. If children are likely to have eligible care and support needs when they reach the age of 18, early joint planning is needed to maximise the gains that can be achieved both before and after transfer from Children's Services to Adult Services.

This Policy Statement sets out how services should work together to identify early, those children and their families who may need support to prepare for adulthood and to support their long-term aspirations, and is based on the principles of the Preparing for Adulthood programme (delivered by the National Development Team for Inclusion). The county council's Transition Service supports the following four approaches, to ensure young people with special educational needs and disabilities have improved life chances.

- **Personalised approach** to all aspects of support using person centred practices, personal budgets and building communities.
- **A shared Lancashire vision** of improving life chances with young people, families and all key partners.
- **Improved post-18 options and support** developed that lead to employment, independent living, good health, friends, relationships, and community inclusion; and
- **Raised aspirations** for a fulfilling adult life, by sharing clear information about what has already worked for others.

The Transition Policy Statement aims to:

1. Enable a smooth transition to adulthood for young people and their families, ensuring that there are no gaps in support.
2. Incorporate person-centred planning into transition planning, enabling choice and control in future planning with young people.
3. Clarify the process, roles, and responsibilities to enable a co-ordinated and



transparent approach, monitored across partners at both an operational and strategic level.

4. Improve the outcomes achieved by young people in relation to the 4 Preparing for Adulthood Pathways – Employment, Independent Living, Community Inclusion, Health.

The Adult Social Care Transition Policy Statement also aims to ensure all Lancashire County Council staff involved in the care and support of young people (between the ages of 13 and 25) are aware of the council's responsibility under the Care Act 2014 in carrying out their duties.

Consultations

The Multi-Agency Preparing for Adulthood Strategy Delivery Group and the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnership Board have been engaged with the development of the Transition Policy Statement.

The Preparing for Adulthood Strategy Delivery Group is a multi-agency group attended by adults and children's social care colleagues, commissioning staff, SEND managers, education providers, NHS Integrated Care Board representatives and parent carer representatives.

The SEND Partnership Board brings together all the agencies in Lancashire which provide special educational needs and disability services for children, young people, their parents and carers, with representatives from those who use the service including parents/carers and self-advocates.

Appendices

Appendix 'A' is attached to this report. For clarification it is summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Adult Social Care Transition Policy Statement

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The Care Act Statutory Guidance sets out that the county council should develop and maintain policies in relation to a number of subject areas covered in the Act. If the recommendation is not taken forward, the county council may be at risk of future legal challenges.



Workforce

Support for Lancashire residents is guided by the county council's adult social care policies and practice guidance. The accuracy and relevance of these documents is essential to support practice and the delivery of high-quality services.

Subject to approval of the Adult Social Care Transition Policy Statement, detailed practice guidance will be drafted to support staff in applying the Policy Statement.

The Transition Service has been given additional staffing resources via an Invest to Save proposal approved at Cabinet in November 2022. The application of the Transition Policy Statement is to ensure a more planned approach, combined with additional dedicated resource, which will result in better value for money, achieving the identified savings as well as delivering better outcomes.

Equality and Cohesion

The Care Act was implemented following a period of consultation, and its provisions were assessed for their equality impact. Policies and any subsequent procedures and guidance documents are primarily intended as a guide for social care employees in applying the Care Act 2014, and in ensuring delivery of quality care and support. It is an intrinsic requirement that these are applied objectively and fairly to all people with protected characteristics (age, disability, gender identity, sex/gender, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity and marriage or civil partnership status) and that, where necessary, reasonable adjustments are made to assist disabled people to participate in the process, or other steps are taken to meet the requirements of the Equality act 2010.

Furthermore, in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty , each policy document has been considered by the Equality and Cohesion Team, and a short section added to highlight the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty and protected characteristics in a proportionate manner. It is intended that this will provide staff with a bespoke summary of how each policy, procedure and guidance may impact on protected characteristics groups and that this is proportionate means of showing due regards in relation to each individual policy, procedure and guidance document.

It is anticipated that the Adult Social Care Transition Policy Statement will contribute positively towards meeting the Public Sector Equality Duty's general aims and particularly to the aim of advancing equality of opportunity and its sub-aim of increasing participation in public life for those children/young people affected by it. The Policy aims of supporting employment, independent living and participating in community life are fully complimentary to this aim.

Financial

The application of this Adult Social Care Transition Policy Statement will support earlier and more effective planning, to ensure a more positive experience for young people, and their families, as they mature into adulthood. Also, through stronger collaboration across children and adult services, the application of the policy will secure better value for money and reduce budget pressure each year in relation to



new young people supported under the Transition Policy, which is approximately £3.4m per year.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

