

Appendix c - Transitions Update

- Aberdeen City's Adult Health and Social Care Partnership and Integrated Children and Education services have recently committed to a joint 2 year national trial with Association for Real Change (ARC) Scotland, to embed the draft Principles into Practice Framework, which is supported and subsidised by the Scottish Government across a further 10 local authorities.
- Within this, there are 7 Principles of Good Practice for Transitions which provide clear indicators to meet when planning for young people prior to leaving education. The 4 national outcomes referenced on page 13 of Aberdeen City's Autism Strategy are intrinsically linked to the Principles of Good Transition and will therefore ensure A Healthy life; Choice and Control; Independence and Active Citizenship are at the forefront of all Transition planning.
- Agreement to the establishment of a Transitions Forum, as the localised oversight group to develop and implement our Transitions Pathway in the city. There is a strong emphasis on involving young people and their families to support identify where change is required. This reflects the legislative progressions, cultural shift and increasing alignment to the UNCRC and The Promise.
- An increased number of multi-agency planning meetings have been held to ensure all young people and their families are supported to identify and plan for the immediate to medium term supports they require, to function safely and sustainably post education. This has seen young people who may not meet the criteria for social work's Transition Service, receive input into their planning from a wider professional team to ensure, despite the impact of COVID, as much support as possible is provided. The learning from this experience aims to ensure regular transition meetings are held for all young people with additional support needs regardless of eligibility for funded social work services. This is in recognition that the group of young people and their families who tend to fall out with the realms of eligibility are often those living with an ASC diagnosis.
- The future development of a 14 - 25-year-old Transitions Service is still under an options appraisal which is running parallel to the 2 year ARC trial. Learning to date has highlighted that the current preferred option is to explore expanding the reach of the current Adult Learning Disability Transitions Service. An expanded team would encompass young people with ASC, who have a need for support. This preferred option is based on an understanding that many young people with Autism who do not receive a supported and planned transition post education often latterly come to the attention of three adult service areas: Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Adult Support and Protection.
- Analysis of data on ASC young people who are currently deemed ineligible for a Transitions Service (based on current criteria being dual diagnosis of a learning disability) but who have presented back to Adult Services (health and/or social care) in crisis, is currently taking place. This analysis will inform future practice improvement around the support for young people with an ASC diagnosis from the age of 14yrs, in preparation for their transition.
- The Aberdeen City Transitions Pathway proposes to identify pathways of support for those eligible for Adult social work services as well as those who do not.