

## SERVICE UPDATE

<b><u>Name of Function:</u></b>	Children's Social Work and Family Support
<b><u>Date:</u></b>	8 July 2025
<b><u>Title of Update:</u></b>	Improving Transitions
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### 1. Purpose of Service Update

- 1.1 Update to the Education and Children's Services Committee on the work being progressed to improve the transition of young people from Children's Services to Adult Services.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 Committee members will recall that the outcome of the Care Inspectorate's Thematic Inspection into services for Children with a Disability was presented to Committee in 2024. While this was a national thematic inspection Aberdeen City Council was one of four local authorities areas which were subject to a 'deeper dive' as part of the inspection.
- 2.2 Feedback from the deeper dive spoke positively of the relational practice children and their families experienced in Aberdeen City. One of the key findings from the thematic inspection at a national level was the need to improve the experience for young people and their families/carers moving from children's social work to adult services. This was an area which locally had been identified where improvement was required.
- 2.3 While some of the findings from the inspection required a response at a national level, a number of others required multi-agency partners to collaborate at a local level to deliver the identified improvement. Committee members requested that an update on progress on delivering improvement be presented to committee in Autumn 2025.

### 3. Current Position

- 3.1 In August 2024 we established an 'Improving Transitions' workstream to improve the experience of young people with significant social care needs as they transition from school to adulthood. The group includes staff from Adult Social Work, NHS Grampian, Children's Social Work and Education its aims have been to responds to feedback from families and findings from the 2024 Care Inspectorate Thematic Review, which highlighted unpredictability and uncertainty in current transitions.
- 3.2 We envision that ***'young people in Aberdeen City will experience a well-planned, person-centred transition that enables them to reach their full potential as adults'***.

3.3 The project, aligns with the Scottish Government's Principles of Good Transition 3 and the UNCRC. Locally, the approach emphasises:

- Early identification and planning
- Cross-service collaboration
- Person-centered support
- Clear, accessible information for young people and families
- Ongoing engagement and evaluation

3.4 Key achievements so far include:

- Improved data sharing between Education, Social Work, and Health to identify young people needing support post-18
- Early planning mechanisms being developed to support transitions at an earlier juncture than the national 2-year benchmark
- Collaboration strengthened through co-location of services
- Use of the national Compass Toolkit to guide transition stages and responsibilities
- Process mapping completed to identify and address service disconnects
- Standard Operating Procedures being developed to ensure consistency

3.5 A phased approach has been adopted and this consists of:

Phase	Focus	Target Completion
Phase 1	Vision, internal processes, staff/family guidance	July 2025
Phase 2	Service redesign, health transitions integration	October 2025
Phase 3	Evaluation and continuous improvement	March 2027 onwards

3.6 This approach has supported the development of new transitions processes which meet our vision and align to work already taking place within the primary areas of Children's Education and Social Work and Adult Social Work. In time we will expand this to include Children's and Adult health services.

3.7 In recognition of the overlapping focus a report will be presented to the Education and Children's Committee later in 2025, which will combine the update on delivering the findings of the thematic inspection and the conclusion of the work to improve transitions for young people who move from children's to adult services.

**Graeme Simpson**

**Chief Officer – Children's Social Work and Family Support Services/CSWO**

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