

# Education, Children and Families Committee

**10am, Tuesday, 7 November 2023**

## **Policy for the Transition from Children to Adult Support – Update**

Executive/routine  
Wards  
Council Commitments

### **1. Recommendations**

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- 1.1 It is recommended that Education, Children and Families Committee notes the update from the Policy and Sustainability Committee, 22 August 2023.

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# Report

## Policy for the Transition from Children to Adult Support – Update

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This policy was approved by Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 with a request of a further report in 2 cycles providing an update to address queries raised by members.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 The previous policy was last updated in 2015.
- 3.2 This report addresses the points raised by Committee members in March 2023:
- 3.2.1 Why the policy had not been updated before now
  - 3.2.2 The impact of not having an updated policy for young people
  - 3.2.3 Consultation with young people

### 4. Main report

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- 4.1 The reasons identified for a delay in the update to the policy include.
- 4.1.1 Management restructures, with 3 different senior managers in post within Children's Services during the timeframe.
  - 4.1.2 The challenges faced during the Pandemic being prioritised.
  - 4.1.3 Workload pressures across both Children and Adult Services.
- 4.2 Whilst there has been a delay in the Policy being reviewed, Council Officers have continued to support young people through implementation of the existing procedure, and are confident the delay has had limited impact on the success of young people in transition from children to adult services, with many improvements evident:
- 4.2.1 Edinburgh Development Group (EDG) were commissioned between 2018 and 2020 and worked collaboratively with the Young Adult Disability Team and Children and Families:

- Producing individual Profiles in partnership with families, St Crispin's and Braidburn schools, detailing skills, interests, and communication needs.
- Working directly with young people to ensure their 'voice' is heard.
- Directly supporting families in preparing for transition.
- Providing workshops and information for families on the path to transition.

4.2.2 There has been continued and improved collaborative working between the Children Affected by Disability Team (Children's Services) and the Young Adult Disability Team (Health and Social Care Partnership):

- Pre-Covid, the two teams moved to be in the same office and continue to work together closely.
- Regular shared development sessions have supported positive relationships and clearer understanding of roles and direction.
- Both teams track and support young people and this is overseen by two lead officers across both services.
- Both teams have worked on Principles into practice; a pilot project with ARC Scotland (Association for real Change) alongside 10 local authorities, enabling discussion around positive practice and overcoming barriers.
- A working group inclusive of Young Adult Disability team, Children Affected by Disability team, 3<sup>rd</sup> sector and Education Services representatives; has focussed on the tasks co-produced from the Principles into Practice pilot and developed these locally, improving practice and outcomes for young people.

4.2.3 Two-year fixed term funding was secured for a Transitions Development Officer through a short life working group with previous Vice Convenor of Children's Services, Alison Dickie, parents of young people with disabilities and representatives from both children and adult services.

4.2.4 The post holder commenced in January 2022 with an aim of bringing all services together to help make post school transitions a smoother, more joined up process for young people and their families. This includes working with schools, social work teams, day service providers, Skills Development Scotland, employability services, college, charities, and the Scottish Transitions Forum.

4.2.5 A Parent and Carer Guide (Appendix 1) and Professionals Guide (Appendix 2) has been developed to provide detailed information and guidance on post school transition planning. Training sessions have been ongoing in schools to embed practice and compliment these guides, which has been well received.

4.3 The City of Edinburgh Council Internal Audit Team conducted an audit of Transitions for Young Adults with a Disability from Children's Services to Adult

Social Care as part of the 2022/23 internal audit plan approved by the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee in March 2022.

- 4.3.1 The objective of this review was to assess the design and operating effectiveness of the key controls established to support the transition between Children affected by Disability Practice Team and the Young Adult Disability Team.
- 4.3.2 Reasonable assurance was reported, concluding there is a generally sound system of governance, risk management and control in place. Some issues, non-compliance or scope for improvement were identified which may put at risk the achievement of objectives in the area audited.
- 4.3.3 To address the issues highlighted within the audit, an action plan has been agreed with a planned timescale of October 2023 and work is already underway in relation to:
- Development of the procedure to support Policy implementation across both children and adult services.
  - Timetable of periodic review to support the review of the Policy, procedure and any supporting guidance documents.
  - Continuous improvement and performance monitoring
  - Review of joint planning documentation
  - A Transitions Oversight Group has been established and will meet bi-monthly. Terms of Reference are in the process of being agreed and an action tracker has been developed to capture improvement actions.

#### 4.4 Consultation:

- 4.4.1 Consultation with young people in transition from school was led by EDG as outlined above. This is now led by the Transitions Development Officer and through individual conversations between practitioners, young people, and their families. Examples of recent events include:
- Parent Focus Group sessions (8 weekly)
  - School visits and engagement with young people
  - Information events
  - Questionnaires
- 4.4.2 A presentation from young people with lived experience was held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023 sharing their post school transition experiences. The aim of this event was to hear young people's stories of transition, both successes as well as issues and to give advice on the transitions process. Attended by young people across 3 specialist schools, feedback (Appendix 3) has been positive and will be helpful in shaping future events.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 The Transition Procedure is currently being developed with key stakeholder involvement and will be completed by October 2023.
- 5.2 The Transition Policy will be reviewed and updated annually.
- 5.3 The Parent and Carer Guide and Professionals Guide will continue to be reviewed and updated as required, at least annually.
- 5.4 Consideration is being given to evaluating and continuing the post school's development worker post.
- 5.5 The work of the above areas will allow officers to review with families, young people, and stakeholders how transitions are being progressed and for action to be taken where this is identified.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 No financial impact.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 A wide range of staff from children and adult services have been involved in developing the policy and will continue to inform service improvement.
- 7.2 An Integrated Impact Assessment was completed.
- 7.3 Young people and carers views has and continues to inform the development of work around transitions.
- 7.4 National collaboration through Principles into Practice Pilot, Scottish transitions Forum and Members of the Scottish Parliament Question Time to inform the new proposed transitions Bill.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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None

## **9. Appendices**

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- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Parent and carer Guide on post school transition planning.



PARENT GUIDE –  
ASN Enhanced Tran

## 9.2 Appendix 2 - Professionals Guide on post school transition planning.



PROFESSIONALS  
GUIDE - ASN Enhan

## 9.3 Appendix 3 – Young People with lived experience event



Feedback from  
Lived experience eve