

Transitions Task Group Meeting
17th March 2009 at Maylodge Children's Centre

Agenda

- Introductions and apologies
- Updates
- Action Plan
 - What does Valuing People say?
 - What do people think should be our priorities?
 - How do we move forward?
 - Timelines for action

- Partnership Board Day 17th June – Volunteers
- Next meeting Tuesday 19th May 1-3pm Maylodge Children's Centre

Present

Carla Pawson, Liz White, David Brewster, Andy Jennings, Sumayya Ahmed, Rhiannon Bevan, Jean Riley (Parent), Sue Gibbons, Julie Doughty (Cauwood), Caroline Wagstaff (Milestone).

Apologies

David Keeton, Jackie Holmes, Jane Anderson-Hawkes (no longer in same role so not attending)

Updates

LDD Pathfinder Group

Carla informed the group about the LDD Pathfinder Group which has now come to an end. She informed us that a Regional Transitional Steering Group had been set up as a follow on from the Pathfinder Group but it is in the early stages. The steering group will aim to put a transition protocol and pathway across North Yorkshire. There are representatives from education, employment, health and the voluntary sector most of which are management status. Carla attends the steering group as a representative of the provider arm of the PCT. Trisha Radford from Children and Young Peoples Service is the County Council is the lead for the group. Carla has not yet received guidance about where the information from the steering group will be fed back to. Carla will feed our local concerns into the steering group and keep the transitions task group informed of any progress made.

A discussion was held around the point of having the Pathfinder Group as it does not appear to have made any differences. A debate was held around whether there would be a real difference between the two groups but Carla assured the group that the steering group was of higher status and it was adamant to move transitions forward. Carla showed the group a copy of the LDD Pathfinder's report as many people had not seen it. There were negative views about the report. Feedback from parents/ carers suggests that they are sceptical about things changing.

General Discussion

There were particular issues about transitional care managers. 'Parents needing to know who their care manager is', was one of the main pieces of feedback from parents/carers groups. A discussion was held around needing a specific transition team. The North Lincolnshire model is thought to be a good example of how this can work and benefit young adults in transition. Services should be responsible for their own individual assessment of need. It was thought that professionals can create barriers to a smoother transition period by not sharing and communicating information. It was felt that professionals tend to work in isolation and can be negative about services that others provide. Professionals can become confrontational about responsibilities/ services at inappropriate times, for example review meetings.

There was a discussion about the vast differences between criteria for children and adult services. Some children care package could 'drop off' but this doesn't seem to be the case at present.

A discussion was also held around the issues young adults face when choosing colleges. There is a lot of confusion around of the funding of college placements which limits choice for many individuals. Many educational placements are out of area. There are concerns that out of area placements can often result in the person returning home and losing valuable progress and contacts that have been made.

PCR's

Liz has done some work with Springhead School and PCR's have now been completed for Year 9. The school was hesitant at first but things are running very well now. It was thought that it may be useful to train parents to do PCR's but it may not be practical as it requires 5 days of training.

Scoping/ Consultation Meetings

Carla and Liz have met with professionals, parents and carers and pupils from the 3 special schools in the area. Some key issues were raised as a result of these meetings.

- Pupils did not understand what 'transition' meant so there is some definite language issues. It was found that pupils prefer the term 'moving on'
- Having a helpline would be useful for parents/carers as it was felt that there is not enough signposting in order to know where to get information from.
- Reviews are too long and need to be kept short.
- Pupils felt that decisions were still being made for them.
- A transfer passport has been developed between schools so that they now have pupil packs of information when students move between schools.
- Mixed response from parents/carers. Felt that mainstream schools are often isolated and left out of the process of transition.
- Lack of co-ordination in all transitions.

- Concerns were raised that there were individuals who had a lot of key information regarding transition – people expressed a concern as regards to loss of that information if individuals left the services.

There is a possibility of another session with mainstream schools. Carla and Liz are putting together a report of their findings and bringing it to the next meeting.

Transition Care Manager

Sumayya's post will end at the end of March but Sumayya will stay on until the post is filled. The post is now advertised. There were concerns raised as regards to the turnover of staff (especially during the past year) and the lack of care managers and resources in this field. Families reporting they are unclear as to who is fulfilling this role for their young person.

Discussion around action plan

It was felt that the action plan should reflect and link to Valuing People. It was established that Valuing People talks a lot about PCR's. The group recognised that good work had been done in Springhead School but this now needs to be transferred to other schools in the area. The group agreed that Welburn Hall School should be the focus of the PCP-PCR process. Liz to continue to monitor Springhead school's progress with PCR's.

It is felt that it would be a good idea for the task group to prioritise the goals of what we need to change in this area. The Partnership Board meeting in June would be a good opportunity to voice opinions.

Young People's Independent Leisure Pathway

Andy Jennings fed back history of Senior Springboard programme and how it developed and then appeared to stall. Provision has been revisited with NYCC Disabled Children's Services with a clear focus to promote the independence of young people, maximising their abilities and enhancing their skills and knowledge; through the provision of high quality, responsive programmes of development, support and access to a range of universal and, as appropriate, specialist social and leisure opportunities.

Key objectives are to assist young people aged 12 – 18 in the development of self help and independence skills, and confidence in attending main stream activities as individuals or as a peer group, with appropriate individual packages of support, and to provide a continuum of self help and independence skills development, appropriate to age, complementing Junior Springboard (8 – 11 years) and Independence Support (18-25 years) services.

Action Plan

Discussion was held regarding ideas and thoughts for the future direction of the group:

- Lobby agencies regarding the transition process
- PCP-PCR role out to Welburn Hall School
- What does the Partnership Board want from the task group? Do we have a "Transition Champion"? Bring up task group chairs and how do we feedback?
- Feedback key point to June Partnership Board Meeting regarding consultation and give recommendations.
- Health – invite Lynne Taylor (Health Facilitator) to meeting to discuss transitional issues and talk about what she is doing.

To discuss further at next meeting and begin to populate an Action Plan with Targets and dates.

Next Meeting:

**Tuesday 19th May – Cherry Tree Avenue – Children's Centre (Maylodge)
at 13.00 til 15.00.**