



People Scrutiny
Transitions from Children to Adults
7th March 2022



Recommendations

This report provides an overview of the present situation regarding young people in 'transition' between Children and Adult Social Care services in Bristol. It highlights the key challenges for the Council and for partners in working to support this cohort of people, and outlines plans for future work to address them.

The duty to make transitional arrangements is through the following legislation:

- The Children and Families Act 1989 (specifically SEND Code of Practice)
- The Care Act 2014
- The Mental Health Act 1983
- The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017



Transition

The process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another.

Bristol Context

A red silhouette of the Bristol skyline is visible in the background, featuring various buildings, a bridge, and a hot air balloon.

- 85,700 children under 16
- 72,700 young people aged 16-24 (ONS 2021).
- 28% of children aged under 16 from BME backgrounds (Census 2021).
- BCC data for 2021 for Disabled children indicates there are over 1,297 disabled children (under 15) in Bristol.
- In 2011, 3,250 children in Bristol had a 'limiting long term illness or disability'. 4.1% of the local child population, and higher than the national average.
- Almost 10% of Bristol's children and young people experience emotional health problems and self-harm.
- In 2019/20 (academic year) 16.1% of Bristol pupils received SEN support or have an EHCP which is higher than the national average of 15.7%

A dark red silhouette of a city skyline with various buildings, a bridge, and a hot air balloon, set against a lighter red background.

Context

- Increasing number of young people transitioning from childhood to adulthood requiring social care and associated services. Transitions account for 5%, and growing of overall ASC numbers representing the longest term commitment to BCC.
- Shortfall of good local provision, meaning some people move ‘out of area’ to access the right support.
- ‘Out of area’ placements tend to be more expensive. Overall costs of supporting young people is high.

A dark red silhouette of a city skyline, including various buildings, a bridge, and a hot air balloon, set against a lighter red background.

Context

- Without the right service and accommodation solutions, it is difficult to help young people with enduring needs to truly plan for adulthood and to make choices that will be realistic and achievable.
- Can lead to anxiety and uncertainty and an over-reliance on services that have been commissioned to support them as children rather than as young adults.
- We are exploring different service models which could be adopted in Bristol to improve transitions, which could reduce anxiety and dependence, improve outcomes, and reduce costs.

Bristol's Transitions offer

There are currently several teams within the wider council who support Children and Young People with transitions across the city, they include:

- SEND assessment and planning team – Children and Young People up to 25
- Pathway to Independence Team – 14+
- Preparing for Adulthood Team – 18-25
- Participation Team – 16+
- Disabled Children's Teams
- Children's Social Care Teams
- Youth Homelessness -16+

Pathways to Independence (P2I) Team

- Work with Young People (14+) who will need adult services at 18 with a particular focus on Education and Employment, independent living, having friends and relationships, and being part of their community, and being as healthy as possible – including emotional and sexual health
- Young People may be from the SEND, Through Care Team or Disabled Children's Team
- Work with Young People and their families either directly or alongside allocated workers and lead on transitional planning for Young People from age 14 to co-create SMART plans that are focused on preparing for adulthood outcomes
- Work with internal and external partners either directly or by signposting Young People and their families to appropriate services
- Develop a transition plan, help skill up other teams to focus independence and PFA outcomes, plus preparation work towards the Care Act Assessment which is then undertaken by the PFA team

Preparing for Adults (PFA) team

- We use the term 'preparing for adulthood' to describe the parts of a child's life where change may happen as they move through their teenage years into adult life.
- When a young person reaches 18, the responsibility for providing social care support moves from children's services to adult social care
- Work with young people from 16+, if appropriate, with a trajectory to future support from adult social care
- Help develop young people's independence by supporting them to live independently and help with employment, training, community inclusion and health
- Undertake assessment of need, with the young person and consult with others to determine eligibility for ongoing support and arrange support
- Take a strength-based approach to maximise independence and help people live as equal citizens
- Support to people with a wide range of needs, including young people with learning disabilities, physical impairment, mental health issues, autism & children leaving care

Outcome Framework

- Coproduced outcomes framework
- planning for independence
- Relationships Children and young people aspire to have great relationships with family and friends
- Health Children and young people are healthy and safe
- Learning and Employment Children and young people are successful learners, get good quality work experience and paid employment
- Sufficiency planning
- Reduce need for out of city placements

Commissioning intentions

- Drive is towards better market sufficiency and sustainability.
- improved data sharing and forecasting demand
- emphasis towards Outcomes Framework and Care Act eligibility.
- Housing and Bristol Registered Supported Landlords (RSLs) to develop accommodation models
- different support models that meet the increasing prevalence of complex learning disabilities and autism.

Housing typologies

- It is important for ASC to ensure that the right accommodation is available to young people in transition as this can be the biggest factor in attaining wider outcomes identified.
- As of June 2021 ASC are forecasting the following demand:

Age	18-25	17	16	15	14	13
Year	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27
Complex Needs	10	4	16	8	5	0
Residential	4	7	6	2	2	0
Supported Living	33	34	32	34	24	4
Shared Lives	8	0	6	10	4	5
General needs Housing stock (with ASC Support)	61	56	43	28	16	18
Total Number	116	101	103	82	51	27

New Activity

- National pilots together in health and social care:
- The 'key worker' of young people aged 16+ model
- Relationships with staff that will support them into adult life
- National DFE pilot with the centre for systemic social work
- Piloting the 'Independent Service fund' for young people

Listening to young people

- Any further changes we make to how we design our service, will have the involvement of young people that use the service, with their parent and cares, so we can learn from their experience.
- We need to make sure parent carers know there is a plan and they are not alone
- The Outcomes Framework will help us as we can hear what is needed longer term, earlier.

The Future

- Bringing the belonging Strategy to life [Bristol's Belonging Strategy for Children and Young People Vision Statement](#)
- Bristol Belonging Strategy: [Belonging in Education](#)
- Bristol Belonging Strategy: [Belonging in Families](#)
- Bristol Belonging Strategy: [Belonging in the Community](#)
- Bristol Belonging Strategy: [Belonging from the Beginning](#)
- We need a seamless service that is life long
- We need a focus on people living in their community as independently as possible
- A single lead professional that can understand the systems and make them work
- Care Act assessments and planning services when they are needed