

REPORT OF THE PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: TRANSITIONS TO ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Cllr Nigel Simpson
Chair of the People Overview & Scrutiny Committee
April 2023

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet is **RECOMMENDED** to —
 - a) Agree to respond to the recommendations contained in the body of this report, and
 - b) Agree that relevant officers will continue to update Scrutiny for 12 months on progress made against actions committed to in response to the recommendations, or until they are completed (if earlier).

REQUIREMENT TO RESPOND

2. In accordance with section 9FE of the Local Government Act 2000, the People Overview & Scrutiny Committee hereby requires that, within two months of the consideration of this report, the Cabinet publish a response to this report and its recommendations.

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

3. At its meeting on 10 November 2022, the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a briefing on Oxfordshire's approach to supporting young people through their transition into adult services and the development and implementation of the Moving into Adulthood team in June 2021. The Committee sought to understand current progress in implementation and any associated improvement in the outcomes for young adults and to review plans for the future.
4. The Committee received the input of Cabinet member Councillor Brighthouse, the Corporate Director for Children's Services, Kevin Gordon, the Interim Corporate Director of Adult Social Care, Karen Fuller, the Interim Deputy Director Adult Social Care, Victoria Baran. The Committee also heard from Kathy Liddell, a family carer with a 26 year old daughter with learning disabilities. The Committee would like to thank everyone for their contribution to this item, particularly Ms Liddell.

SUMMARY

5. The Committee heard from Kathy Liddell, a family carer with a 26 year old daughter with learning disabilities. The family had first experienced Oxfordshire's social care services when Ms Liddell's daughter was 15. Ms Liddell spoke about joining a co-production group which included officers delivering services and young people who used the services. A key aspect which came out of the group meetings was having a named individual who could take families through the process from teenage years through to the age of 25. This did not just relate to educational needs but also included where the young person was going to live and how he/she was going to work and earn money. The group also looked at best practice at other county councils.
6. The Moving into Adulthood (MiA) Service was developed in response to recommendations made by the co-production group. The Service worked with young people from 18 to 25 years of age, with an in-reach into Children's Services from the age of 16. Having a named link worker from the age of 16 enabled the young person and their family to build a relationship with the Service from an early point and provided them with consistency through their journey into adulthood.
7. There was an emphasis on improving co-ordination between teams and partners, including operating a Multi-Agency Placement and Commissioning forum with a single route for all young people needing funding from more than one team. Children's and Adults' Social Care teams were also undertaking joint training in areas such as Mental Capacity, the role of social care in SEND and, the Working with Families training delivered by the Oxfordshire Family Support Network.
8. The Service was currently actively supporting 385 young people to plan for their journey into adulthood. Since the service launched in June 2021 it had worked with a total of 560 young people. 85% of young people open to the Service had had an assessment by their 18th birthday and there was confidence this would increase in the future. 27 young people had been supported to move out of residential education establishments back into the family home or into supported accommodation in a planned fashion.
9. Future plans included expanding the "Chair my own review" initiative, giving the young person choice and control and ensuring they were able to voice their aspirations for the future and aligning MiA planning with the SEND Planning Lives Process which takes place at age 14. This would further improve early planning and would enable young people to develop a single future plan that would take into account their education, health, and care support requirements.
10. Since the implementation of the team the number of children in relatively high-cost residential placements that move into residential placements as an adult was reducing. It was recognised that the old model of residential care and education provision outside the county was not tenable in the longer term. It was noted that steps were being taken to address this, including an additional 50 supported living placements being delivered in-county in 2022/23.

11. Overall, the Committee considered that there was progress and a vision in place as a result of the establishment of the Moving into Adulthood Service.

RECOMMENDATIONS

12. The Committee noted that longer term strategic activity, working in partnership with Housing and Planning and District Council colleagues, included the development of a joined-up Housing Needs Assessment (5-10 years) to help determine housing needs based on a strong evidence base. This would help ensure that the County Council is better linked to district plans and Section 106 funding, particularly in the context of delivering more supported living placements in county and moving away from the old model of residential care and education provision outside the county, something which is not financially tenable in the longer term.
13. Members of the Committee sought clarification that there was an appropriate strategy in place for the spending of S106 money and Community Infrastructure Levy receipts.
14. The Committee considered that there was a need for senior officers to have a more co-ordinated approach in order to identify opportunities for Section 106 funding in terms of housing needs. There was also an opportunity for more joined up working with the District Councils on how best to use the S106 funding to ensure the right mixture of housing for vulnerable residents, developing provision that better meets the needs of residents while reducing overall cost pressures in the long term.

Recommendation One: That senior officers work in a holistic and co-ordinated fashion in order to identify the potential opportunities for Section 106 capital funding in terms of housing needs.

NEXT STEPS

15. The People Overview & Scrutiny Committee will review the published Cabinet response to this report and its recommendations at the meeting of the Committee after Cabinet's response in accordance with part 6.2, 13(f), of the Constitution of the Council.
16. The Committee does not intend to examine transitions to adult social care again in this municipal year.

Contact Officer: Marco Dias, Interim Scrutiny Officer
marco.dias@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Annex: Pro-forma template – response to recommendations