**Portsmouth City Council Young Adult Safeguarding**

**Pilot**

Background and context:

We are working to tackle transitional safeguarding which is being built on a newly set of foundations of partnership response for our children and young adults. It has been developed as a collaboration between the Local Safeguarding Adult Boards (4LSAB) covering the Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton (HIPS) area and is fully supported and endorsed by the Local Safeguarding Children’s Partnerships covering the HIPS area. The Framework aims to strengthen the safeguarding support available to young adults aged 18 years with pre-existing vulnerability and risk factors as they move into adulthood. It is recognised that safeguarding arrangements for young adults need to take account of their distinct safeguarding needs. This Framework is designed to enhance and build on existing safeguarding arrangements ensuring these are relevant to safeguarding at risk young people. The Framework it is designed to support effective partnership working and good practice in this complex and challenging area of safeguarding work.

Proposal:

To embed this Portsmouth are piloting 6 weekly Safeguarding Transition Panel, the aim of the panel will be to consider referrals and offer information, advice and guidance in relation to transition planning for children and young people in order to safeguard from exploitation and abuse. The purpose of the triage will be to reduce the risk of vulnerable young people 'falling through the net' and avoiding cliff edges for young people and to ensure effective and robust multi-agency safeguarding service provision in all aspects of young peoples lives.

The Transitional Safeguarding Panel is a strategic, multi-agency case decision making forum for young people 16-25. To refer a young person please see attached

**The Six Key Principles of Transitional Safeguarding:**

1. **Empowerment:** A Young person should be encouraged and supported to make decisions for themselves and give consent. Empowerment means giving a young person as much independence and power over decisions that relate to them as is reasonably possible.
2. **Prevention:** Practitioners should take action to prevent harm, abuse or neglect occurring, rather than dealing with it after it happens. Careful planning is essential in achieving this principle. Having a solid safeguarding policy in place, and ensuring that all practitioners understand it, can help the team identify risks, and take action before they escalate. In addition, learning from previous incidents and safeguarding issues is also important. Good links with other services, who can help facilitate support and prevention, is important in achieving this. Access to local services, in a timely manner, can also prevent further deterioration of a situation.
3. **Proportionality**: Proportionality is deciding how to respond to a safeguarding issue, so that the least intrusive response is made to the risk presented. This applies to both preventing, and when responding to safeguarding issues which have already occurred. If young people are part of the decision making and consulted, they are more likely to cooperate.
4. **Protection**: Protection refers to the act of providing support and care to the person when they are vulnerable. The service should also be aware of a young person's capacity to make a specific decision and if there are any control or coercion issues at play for the young person.
5. **Partnership**: Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and specialist services may be able to offer expertise and give advice around the situation. It is important for practitioners to build relationships and partnerships with the young persons, family friends and professionals, to protect and support the young person, and the wider community.
6. **Accountability**: practise should be accountable and transparent. All processes should be documented clearly and transparent clear records should be kept. A young person should be consulted and involved in the process at all times, and kept informed avoids happening, unless there are safeguarding reasons why this is not possible or advisable.

**Making Safeguarding Personal**

Making safeguarding personal is a person centred and rights-based approach to adult safeguarding, which was incorporated into the Care Act 2014 guidance. Making safeguarding personal and transitional safeguarding, relationship-based practise, and a multi-agency approach, around support. It engages young person in a conversation about how best to respond to their safeguarding situation in a way that enhances their involvement, choice and control as well as improving their quality of life, well-being and safety.

**Criteria Threshold:**

Any young person over the age of 16 who have been opened to Children Services or in care and where there is an outlined need for support to manage the transition to adult safely and issues of safeguarding identified. If the young person being discussed is over 18 or not open to Children Social Care there will need to be a new consent form signed for the referral to be made to the panel.

**Aims of the Safeguarding Transition Panel**

* To consider referrals and offer information, advice and guidance in relation to transition planning for young people at risk of abuse and exploitation and in line with the transitional safeguarding framework.
* To support transition planning for the young person at the earliest opportunity.
* To work with a broad range of services including voluntary and statutory in supporting transition with a focus on safeguarding.
* To determine the most appropriate service/team.
* To have a collaborative approach to safeguarding young people preparing for young adult hood
* To reduce the risk of vulnerable young people “falling through the net”
* To identify commissioning gaps and opportunities for improving services and to assure that support plans are implemented.

**Principles**

* Panel members must have sufficient influence within their respective organisation, to ensure that support plans are agreed completed and decisions are implemented.
* Processes and decisions must be person centred and consider the voice of the young person and their support network, with a focus on improving outcomes and reducing the risk of harm.
* Actions should be completed in a timely manner and outcomes reported back to the panel.
* The ethos of the Panel will be based on a “can do” and collaborative approach.
* All young people will be considered with sensitivity to protective characteristic including gender, identity, disability, cultural, ethnicity, race and religious background.
* The panel will consider any potential transitional safeguarding and offer advice about appropriate responses.
* The panel will not replace existing pathways for young people who have care and support needs.
* The panel will not replace existing pathways for young people who are transitioning from Tier 4 CAMHs services into adult mental health services.
* The panel will not replace existing pathways in respect of safeguarding including Strategy Discussions and MARMS.

**Panel Membership**

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| **Role** |
| Adult Social Care Manager  |
| Adolescent and Young Adult Manager  |
| Transition Lead  |
| Transition Lead Supporting Your Futures  |
| Adult Social Care Lead Mental Health  |
| Police  |
| Probation/Youth Justice Service |
| Children Social Care Manager  |
| Housing  |
| Adult Legal  |
| Drug and Alcohol support  |
| Two Saints  |
| Health |

**Frequency and Administration**

Panels will be on a 6-week basis every Thursday afternoon with referrals being submitted to the panel administrator Katie Hockley 1 week prior to panel. The panel will be held for 2 hrs with an aim for the referred young person to have a 20 min slot, time to be agreed.

**Recording:**

Recording for each individual children will be added to MOSAIC case notes by the panel administrator if opened to CSC

**Review:**

The panel’s implementation will be reviewed after 6 months and again at one year to identify outcomes. The terms of reference will be reviewed as part of the pilot and then on an annual basis. The next review will be held January 2024.

**Success Criteria:**

The work of the Transitional Safeguarding Panel process is intended to lead to the following outcomes:

* Agreement about levels of risk and management accountability as senior management level.
* A single risk management plan adopted by all agencies involved with the young person
* Actions agreed by individual agencies to ‘unblock’ progress, to reduce risk and improve outcomes with specific timescales.
* Improved care planning arrangements based on review of all options.
* Improved senior management oversight of complex transition cases
* Promotion of individual choice as far as reasonably possible.