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**Learning from Collaborative Practice Discussions (CRPDs)**

**6 Step Briefing**

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| **Title of Thematic Review - date completed** |
| **Support for Young People with Disabilities Transitioning to Adults’ Services**  **September 2021** |

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| **Context / reason for thematic CRPD** |
| **Internal quality assurance activity guided us to undertake a review of cases where young people were transitioning to adult social care. This was to support our understanding of the quality of the work we do, and how well young people are being prepared for adulthood and/or independence. 26 records were reviewed from the three Disabled Children’s Teams, including 20 children in need, 5 children in care and 1 young person on a child protection plan. In addition, 7 records from Children in Care teams and 5 from the Leaving Care team were reviewed, meaning that 38 young people’s records were reviewed in total.** |

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| **Working well** |
| * **For the majority of children outcomes have improved as a result of interventions.** * **Where young people are referred to the Moving into Adulthood Panel (MIAP) as soon as the need is recognised, their future accommodation and education needs are arranged and communicated with families in advance of their 18th birthdays.** * **Children have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan when this is in their best interests, which is regularly reviewed, and these address longer term outcomes with achievable smaller steps.** * **Pathway plans seen, mostly have a clear exploration of the young person’s needs and how they like to be supported, with the voice of the young person present, even when young people are non-verbal.** * **It is clear that social workers and other practitioners spend time getting to know young people and trying to understand their wishes and feelings.** * **There is an increasing number of young people in care attending their reviews and contributing to the meeting.** * **Young people clearly enjoy and benefit from the delivery of short breaks and activities and some of these continued throughout the lockdown period, relieving pressure and stress for families.** * **Practitioners are starting to record visits and other meetings in more child-friendly language and a few are writing ‘to’ the child which will help young people and their families to understand their journey more clearly.** * **Assessments and plans are being authorised by managers, and managers are writing a rationale accompanying their authorisation making it easier to understand the decision making process.** * **Care leavers benefit from a good relationship with their Personal Advisors and their voices are clearly heard and responded to** |

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| **Worries** |
| * **52% of records reviewed for this report saw young people’s referrals to adults not progressing quickly enough, either because of delayed referrals by children’s services or the time it takes for referrals to be accepted by adult social care (reasons not clear on records); this risks there being insufficient time to prepare as fully as we would expect for the transition into adulthood.** * **30% of young people’s records reviewed show them approaching adulthood with a thorough and up to date assessment of their needs, and an exploration of their current risks and their strengths, we would want this to be the case for all young people so they can be more effectively supported through the transition.** * **Preparation for adulthood is not explicitly addressed in all plans or reviews meaning that goals and outcomes for young people are not clearly outlined and this can lead to drift, with young people lacking preparation for adult life.** * **Fathers are often involved in the care of their children - we need to make sure we capture their views fully in assessments and plans alongside the views of mothers.** * **In 35% of records reviewed the recording could be more clear about the input and impact of the range of agencies working with young people, this would make it easier to understand how young people are progressing against all their identified needs.** * **Families sometimes have to wait too long for services to be delivered, especially in setting up support through direct payments.** * **71% of records reviewed suggested social workers are not receiving formal supervision in time meaning they may not be being guided to provide a good service, and also making it hard to understand the current situation for young people. Our social workers have fed back previously that they feel supported by managers and we are aware that informal support is frequently provided. We need to continue to focus on ensuring formal supervision takes place in a timely manner and is good quality. The Supervision focus week in September and the launch of NCT’s new Supervision policy will support uplift here.** * **For a minority (31%) of young people, their outcomes have not improved as a result of intervention** |

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| **What needs to happen – agreed actions** |
| * **We will consider establishing a multi-agency Transitions Forum for all young people who are likely to require services once they reach adulthood with a view to commencing transition work early and to allow adult services to plan for future service needs** * **We will consider how best to offer support around writing aspirational pathway plans** * **Managers should ensure through supervision that assessments are updated at least on an annual basis and sooner if circumstances change for young people** * **Managers’ quality assurance of plans should make sure that they are ambitious, child-focused and with clear outcomes. Plans should be very clear about expected progress, how this will be monitored and how everyone (including the family and young person) will know that sufficient progress is being made.** * **Managers and workers should ensure that all recording is uploaded and updated so that the child’s current situation is clear.** * **Contingency plans should provide families with a clear indication of what will happen if the current plan is not working, or there is a crisis.** * **We will consider the introduction of person centred planning for young people** |

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| **Good practice** |
| * **For the majority of young people whose record were reviewed it was clear that outcomes were improving** * **What comes across clearly is that workers want the best for the young people they work with and celebrate their successes and achievements.** * **For those young people whose outcomes are improving there were some significant changes that had made a real difference for them, such as finding the right placement to more effectively meet their needs, sourcing a good educational setting or supporting families to function better.** |