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| Cabinet Date | 27 th January 2021 |
| <i>Insert the Cabinet Member's Portfolio here (e.g. Highways and Flood)</i> | <p>Cllr Richard Boyles – Cabinet Member for Children’s Safeguarding and Early Years.</p> <p>Cllr Carole Allaway-Martin – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Commissioning</p> <p>Cllr Kathy Williams - Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Delivery</p> |
| Key Decision | No |
| Background Documents | <p>There are key legislative drivers for this strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and Families Act 2014 • Children Act 1989 as amended by the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and the Children and Young Persons Act 2008. • Care Act 2014 • SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years 2014. <p>There are also relevant NICE guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition from children’s to adults’ services for young people using health or social care services, NICE guideline [NG43] Published date: February 2016 |
| Location/Contact for inspection of Background Documents | <p>Children and Families Act 2014 https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/contents/enacted</p> <p>Children Act 1989 as amended by the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and the Children and Young Persons Act 2008. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/contents</p> <p>Care Act 2014 https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted</p> <p>SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years 2014 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25</p> <p>Transition NICE guideline https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng43</p> |

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| Main Consultees | Key stakeholders include Adult and Children’s services operational staff, NHS staff, Education staff, Parent Carers and the VCS sector. Stakeholders were engaged virtually in this current climate. |
| Planned Dates | Post Cabinet meeting, a series of planning events will take place to further engage stakeholders to complete a detailed action plan in order to implement the priorities outlined in the strategy. |
| Divisional Councillor | All |
| Officer | Chris Spencer, Executive Director of Children’s Services Tel: 01452 583502 Chris.spencer@gloucestershire.gov.uk Dawn Porter, Director: Adult Social Care Operations Tel: 01452 583618 Dawn.porter@gloucestershire.gov.uk |
| Purpose of Report | To seek approval from Cabinet for the Preparation for Adulthood Strategy for Gloucestershire. |
| Recommendations | That Cabinet (a) Approves and adopts the Preparation for Adulthood Strategy set out in the Appendix. (b) Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Children’s Services to implement the Preparation for Adulthood Strategy, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People |
| Reasons for recommendations | A key theme that cuts across the Care Act 2014 and the Children and Families Act 2014 is the importance of robust preparation for adulthood. Local authorities and health services should plan strategically for the support children and young people will need to prepare for adult life. Preparation for adulthood needs to start early; with the engagement of adult services beginning well before a child/young person approaches the end of their education. |
| Resource Implications | Through the implementation of this strategy, services will work together to achieve positive outcomes for young people as they approach adulthood. The Strategy will be delivered within existing resources and budgets. Any future decisions requiring the commitment of additional resources will be taken in line with the Council’s Constitution. |

MAIN REPORT CONTENTS

1. Background

1.1 The focus of this strategy is young people who will need significant ongoing provision of services or additional support as an adult due to the long-term impact of their impairment or vulnerabilities. The main cohorts of young people who will need additional support to transition to adult services are:

- Young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities
- Young people who are in the care of Gloucestershire County Council or on the edge of care.
- Young people with long term health conditions
- Young people who are at risk of going on to become NEET (not in education, employment or training)
- Young carers

1.2 There will be overlap between these cohorts. Parents and carers of these young people who are transitioning into adult services should also be supported throughout the process.

1.3 This Preparation for Adulthood Strategy (set out in the Appendix) brings together the key priorities for young people, where seamless transition to adulthood is particularly important. There are many achievements across the education, health and social care system where young people and their families have been prepared well as they move into adulthood, however this strategy seeks to pull priorities across the system together in one place, and to develop one overarching action plan to deliver the priorities.

1.4 This strategy is focusing on preparing young people for adulthood rather than transferring young people into adult services. We acknowledge that not all young people will meet the threshold for adult services and where this is the case we will ensure that young people and their families understand the options available to them when they leave children's services. This will include opportunities for education,

community engagement and housing. We will work in partnership with adult services to provide young people and their families with relevant information to enable them to begin to plan for adulthood with professionals in children's services from age 13 years. For those young people who will go on to receive support as an adult, adult social care services will work closely with them from the age of 16yrs to ensure a smooth transition.

1.5 Gloucestershire's guiding principles for effective transitions to adulthood are:

- Early identification and planning
- An holistic, young person focused approach
- Active involvement of young people and their families
- Raising aspirations and focusing on key life chances
- Provision of information and advocacy
- Flexibility in transfer arrangements i.e. arrangements may need to continue over a period of years
- Working together to ensure integrated streamlined assessment and planning processes across all agencies

1.6 The Strategy outlines the following key priorities:

1.7 Young People Leaving Care:

- Care leavers have timely and good quality pathway plans that reflect assessed strengths and needs and are co-produced and reviewed with them.
- Care leavers understand their health histories and have good access to provision for their full range of health needs from primary care to specialist help.
- Care leavers inform and benefit from a comprehensive, county-wide offer that involves a wide range of partners and helps them live stable, happy and productive lives.

1.8 Young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities:

- Agree pathways for transition out of children's services to include timescales for assessments and decision making
- Young people should have a named worker to support their preparation for adulthood. This should be a professional who has a good relationship with the young person.

- Develop information about preparing for adulthood for young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families (including information on the Mental Capacity Act and consent). This will be made available on a website and therefore be accessible to those who are not in education or receiving support from services.
- Join up the preparation for adulthood across health, education and social care by using Ready Steady Go as part of the EHCP Transition Planning Process.

1.9 Young people with long term health conditions:

- Agree transition Continuing Health Care pathways to include timescales for assessments and decision making.
- Develop information on children and young people's continuing care and NHS Continuing Healthcare for adults so that young people and their families understand the differences and the implications right from the start of transition planning
- Continue to promote the Ready Steady Go Programme and develop improvements with clinicians between children and adult services.

1.10 Young people with mental health needs:

- Developing a new approach to supporting young adults aged 18-25 which bring together partners in health, social care, education and the voluntary sector.
- Ensuring that care leavers have access to appropriate mental health and emotional well being services. This includes the Linked In Plus service, which provides Tier two emotional and mental health support for care leavers. This commenced in 2019 on a pilot basis and currently around 20 young people are receiving either an assessment or service.

1.11 Young people who are at risk of going on to become NEET (not in education, employment or training):

- Young people are supported with transition between and within settings to enable high quality post 16 provision
- Good quality information, advice and guidance (IAG) is available to all

2 Risk Assessment

2.1 There are no specific risks to manage at this time resulting from the production of the Preparation for Adulthood Strategy. An action plan will be implemented and managed using a project management approach, with a risk and issues log being actively managed.

3 Officer Advice

3.1 A key theme that cuts across the Care Act 2014 and the Children and Families Act 2014 is the importance of robust preparation for adulthood. Local authorities and health services should plan strategically for the support children and young people will need to prepare for

adult life. Preparation for adulthood needs to start early; with the engagement of adult services beginning well before a child/young person approaches the end of their education.

4 Equalities considerations

4.1 A due regard statement has been completed which considers the Preparation for Adulthood Strategy in relation to the Equality Duty. The assessment highlights the potential for priorities identified within the strategy to achieve positive impacts for young people in Gloucestershire.

4.2 Cabinet Members should read and consider the Due Regard Statement in order to satisfy themselves as decision makers that due regard has been given.

5 Consultation feedback

5.1 We have been listening to our providers and practitioners and our parent carer forum to determine the priorities for the Preparation for Adulthood Strategy. Consultation and feedback has been undertaken virtually over the summer of 2020. Ongoing engagement will continue with all stakeholders to develop and implement actions plans, to deliver the priorities that this strategy sets out.

6 Performance Management/Follow-up

6.1 Once authorised, officers will oversee the delivery of this strategy as a sub group under the integrated commissioning forum.

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| Report Title | Preparation for Adulthood Strategy |
| Statutory Authority | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and Families Act 2014 • Children Act 1989 as amended by the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and the Children and Young Persons Act 2008. • Care Act 2014 • SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years 2014(Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities) |
| Relevant County Council policy | <p>Care Leavers Strategy 2019</p> <p>Post 16 Education Vision and Strategy</p> <p>Gloucestershire Looking to the Future Strategy 2019</p> <p>Right Placement First Time Sufficiency Strategy 2018</p> <p>Gloucestershire's Future in Mind</p> <p>Gloucestershire's Strategy for people with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASCs)</p> <p>SEND Commissioning Strategy 2019-2024</p> |
| Sustainability checklist: | |
| Partnerships | Partnerships across children and adult services to support better outcomes for young people in Gloucestershire. |
| Decision Making and Involvement | n/a |
| Economy and Employment | Supporting young people's employment opportunities. |
| Caring for people | Securing outcomes for vulnerable children, young people and families. |
| Social Value | Preparing young people for adulthood will deliver additional social, economic and environmental benefits to Gloucestershire. |
| Built Environment | n/a |

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| Natural Environment' including Ecology (Biodiversity) | n/a |
| Education and Information | Supporting young people and their families to access employment and education. |
| Tackling Climate Change | Carbon Emissions Implications? Neutral Vulnerable to climate change? No |
| Due Regard Statement | Has a Due Regard Statement been completed? Yes Yes - considerations included in main body of report A copy of the full Due Regard Statement can be accessed on GLOSTEXT via http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1 Alternatively a hard copy is available for inspection from Stephen Bace, Democratic Services Unit, e-mail: stephen.bace@gloucestershire.gov.uk . |
| Human rights Implications | None |
| Consultation Arrangements | As described in the body of the report. |