

## APPENDIX 1

### Scope of Scrutiny Task Group Review

#### Background

There are a number of important transitions for children and young people before a young person transitions to adulthood. Transitions are central to children's development and emotional wellbeing, and the way in which transitions are handled can have a significant impact on the child's capacity to cope with change in the short and long term.

Support for children transitioning to adulthood can be fragmented, with differing age thresholds for service access and eligibility and with differing services available to young adults. Transition should be viewed as a process rather than a single event and children, practitioners and parents should all be involved in the process. Transitional Safeguarding is "an approach to safeguarding adolescents and young adults fluidly across developmental stages which builds on the best available evidence, learns from both children's and adult safeguarding practice and which prepares young people for their adult lives".<sup>1</sup>

Transitional Safeguarding is not simply transition planning for people moving from children's to adult social care services, but rather it is about activity which often fall outside of the traditional notions of both 'transitions' and 'safeguarding', emphasising a needs-led, personalised approach. It requires all involved in services for children and adults to consider how they might work together and think beyond child/adult silos for the benefit of young people at a key life stage.

There are several reasons why a more fluid and transitional safeguarding approach is needed for young people entering adulthood. These are summarised as:

- Adolescents may experience a range of distinct risks and harms, and so may require a distinctive safeguarding response.
- Harm, and its effects, do not stop on the 18th birthday.
- Many of the environmental and structural factors that increase a child's vulnerability persist into adulthood and can result in unmet needs and costly later interventions.
- The children's and adults' safeguarding systems are conceptually and procedurally different, and governed by different statutory frameworks, which can make the transition to adulthood harder for young people facing ongoing risk and arguably harder for the professionals who are trying to navigate an effective approach to helping them.
- Young people entering adulthood can experience a 'cliff-edge' in terms of support, exacerbated by the notable differences between

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<sup>1</sup> Holmes & Smale, 2018, 'Mind the Gap: Transitional Safeguarding – Adolescence to Adult'

thresholds/eligibility criteria of children's and adults' safeguarding and health services.<sup>2</sup>

Research in this area has suggested that there are a number of areas and questions local authorities with safeguarding partners may consider when developing local transitional safeguarding practice:

- What do we really know about our local population of older adolescents, and their lives, as they become young adults? How are we planning for their needs?
- What leadership behaviours do we demonstrate to enable courageous, creative and coherent practice and services for these people?
- What learning is there from Serious Case Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews, and Domestic Homicide Reviews around how our approach to safeguarding across transitions could be improved?
- How are we ensuring that our strategic approach to this group is underpinned by data, research, practice wisdom and people's lived experience?<sup>3</sup>

Transitional Safeguarding is not a prescribed model. It is a joined-up approach to policy and practice that is being developed and applied in different ways according to local circumstances. Since 2019, the Council and its safeguarding partners have been developing its transitional safeguarding approach, which is being informed by national and local developments.

There is a strong rationale for the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to set up a members' scrutiny task group to look at transitional safeguarding. The evolution of practice nationally and the development of transitional safeguarding arrangements in Brent make the creation of the scrutiny task group timely, and will enable members to review these arrangements at an early stage.

### Objectives

It is proposed that the scrutiny task group is set up to review the development of transitional safeguarding practice in Brent. Members of the scrutiny task group are in a unique position to question and challenge executive power by holding it to account and ensuring that decision-making is accountable and tested. As non-executive members, they are able to judge proposals against their unique knowledge of the borough and its communities. The scrutiny task group will make recommendations that are clear and directive and based on rigorous challenge and detailed evidence which can then be implemented.

The methodology will be to gather qualitative and quantitative evidence to help develop its recommendations. In particular, it is proposed that the scrutiny task group will undertake a series of interviews with those involved in developing transitional safeguarding arrangements in Brent.

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<sup>2</sup> Homes & Smale, 2018, 'Transitional Safeguarding – Adolescence to Adulthood: Strategic Briefing'

<sup>3</sup> Research in Practice

### Terms of Reference

The following Terms of Reference are proposed and will be subject to confirmation at the first meeting of the scrutiny task group:

- (i). Understand the practice of transitional safeguarding, its evolution nationally and the applicability of its implementation in Brent.
- (ii). Consider how Brent is developing transitional safeguarding practice as part of an improvement to children and young people's services, and what the current offer is.
- (iii). Understand Brent's particular social demographics and the scale of the risks for adolescents in Brent.
- (iv). Explore the next steps and potential further development of transitional safeguarding by the local authority and its partners.

### Timescale

It is proposed that the scrutiny task group will report back to the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on its progress on 24 January 2022, and will present its final report on 22 February 2022. It is envisaged that the report would be presented to Cabinet for consideration in March 2022.

The schedule of scrutiny task group meetings will be outlined in its project plan.

### Membership

The following membership for the Task Group is proposed:

#### *Councillors*

Cllr Ketan Sheth (Chair)  
Councillor Anita Thakkar  
Councillor Claudia Hector

#### *Co-opted members*

Helen Askwith, Church of England Schools

### Other key stakeholders to be invited as appropriate

In carrying out the scrutiny review, it is proposed that the scrutiny task group invites a range of key stakeholders to contribute through evidence sessions so they can share their expertise and experiences of services. The proposed key stakeholders to be invited are detailed below:

Representative(s) from Children and Young People, Brent Council  
Representative(s) from Community Wellbeing, Brent Council  
Representative(s) from Public Health, Brent Council  
Representative(s) from North West London Collaboration of Clinical Commissioning Groups  
Representative(s) from Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust

Representative(s) from North West London Basic Command Unit  
 Representative(s) from the Probation Service  
 Representative(s) from the Voluntary Sector

It is also proposed that the scrutiny task group invites young people and/or their families as appropriate to share their expertise and experiences of services.

### Evidence Sessions

It is proposed that there will be three evidence sessions for the scrutiny task group. The proposed structure for the meetings is detailed below:

<b>Evidence Session 1</b>  <b>December 2021</b>	<b>Themes/Area for Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is transitional safeguarding?</li> <li>• How is transitional safeguarding evolving nationally?</li> <li>• What are some examples of best practice?</li> </ul>	<b>Attendees/Organisations</b> <i>As appropriate</i>
<b>Evidence Session 2</b>  <b>January 2022</b>	<b>Themes/Area for Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Brent context – the young adult population and the risks they face</li> <li>• How has transitional safeguarding practice developed in Brent?</li> <li>• What are the possible financial implications?</li> <li>• What are the experiences of those young people and their families who may require transitional support?</li> <li>• How do we work in partnership to deliver transitional safeguarding?</li> <li>• What have we learned?</li> <li>• What are the challenges?</li> </ul>	<b>Attendees/Organisations</b> <i>As appropriate</i>
<b>Evidence Session 3</b>  <b>January 2022</b>	<b>Themes/Area for Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can we build on Brent's accomplishments so far to secure further improvements to outcomes?</li> </ul>	<b>Attendees/Organisations</b> <i>As appropriate</i>