

 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee</b> 22 November 2022
	<b>Report from Corporate Director, Adult Social Care &amp; Health</b>
<b>Transitional Safeguarding Update</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Non-Key
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 - Overview of the feedback from the Senior Management Group workshop on transitional safeguarding in July 2022
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
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## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Transitional safeguarding is an evolving area of practice nationally. What is clear is it requires a multi-disciplinary approach working across the Council (primarily Adult Social Care, Children and Young People and Community Safety) and with other statutory and third sector partners.
- 1.2 In 2021, the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee commissioned an evidence based review of the development of transitional safeguarding in Brent. The Task Group and the Committee finalised the report in February 2022,

including 5 recommendations, and Brent Council's Cabinet agreed its response to those recommendations in April 2022.

- 1.3 This report provides an update on the work across the council and with partner agencies on Transitional Safeguarding. It shows there is strong commitment across the council, and a wide range of support in place. However, there is more to do to make this a fully integrated pathway and offer. As it is only six months since the agreed response, this report focuses primarily on the specific actions agreed by Brent Council's Cabinet.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the contents of this report;
- (ii) Comment on progress made and identified next steps.

## **3.0 Background**

- 3.1 Transitional safeguarding is an evolving area of practice nationally. Brent council's response has been evolving since a workshop in 2019. This workshop involved practitioners and managers from across Adult Social Care, Children and Young People and Community Safety alongside multi-agency partners.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 Support to children experiencing transition to adulthood can be fragmented, with differing age thresholds for service access and service eligibility and with differing services available for 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.
- 3.4 There are key interconnections between transitional safeguarding and areas of multi-agency work, including 'contextual safeguarding' led by Children and Young People (CYP) and the Brent Council led response to Modern Day Slavery. For example, a vulnerable adolescent may be at risk of harm away from their family environment (contextual harm) such as being groomed into county lines drugs trafficking (a form of modern day slavery). These risks remain into adulthood.
- 3.5 Multi-agency and partnership working for vulnerable young people as they transition to adulthood is essential. It needs to be supported by Brent's multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements (Adults and Children's) and the Safer Brent Partnership, with active contributions and leadership from the Children

and Young People (CYP), Adult Social Care and Health (ASC&H) and Regeneration and Communities (R&C, particularly Communities and Community Safety).

#### 4.0 Progress against each of the recommendations

4.1 **Recommendation 1:** It is recommended that Brent Council identifies transitional safeguarding as a whole council priority. The Executive agreed:

- *The Executive agreed to convene a Transitional Safeguarding Working Group to oversee the development of a Council wide approach to transitional safeguarding by July 2022. This working group to include Community Safety representation.*
- *The Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing and Strategic Director, Children and Young People to organise a Council wide session on the development of transitional safeguarding to identify contributions and to inform the Brent transitional safeguarding approach by September 2022*
- *An update on the progress made through the Transitional Safeguarding Working Group on the development of Transitional Safeguarding be presented to Scrutiny Committee by March 2023.*

4.2 The working group was set up in May 2022. The working group was initially chaired by the Director of Adult Social Services, and included representation from across the Council. The group made good progress including running the Senior Management Group session on developing a whole council approach to Transitional Safeguarding in July 2022. The event was attended by all Directors and Heads of Service from across the Council and was designed to improve their understanding of transitional safeguarding and ensure they recognised that it is 'everybody's business'. The workshop also looked at how every service across the council currently contributes to this work and what more they could do. All service areas made a commitment to a specific action they could make in relation to transitional safeguarding and would take forward through their core work. A summary of the session is included at Appendix 1.

4.3 In October 2022, after the Council's restructure and in light of the identified need for wider engagement across health partners, the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health became the chair of the working group. Transitional Safeguarding and the work of the group has been highlighted at the Brent Borough Partnership Executive (BBP), previously the Integrated Care Partnership Executive. All health partners are aware and supporting the work. The Deputy Borough Director of Central North West London Foundation Trust (CNWL) has been added to the working group, and a discussion with the BBP's Mental Health and Wellbeing Group is scheduled for November to develop a shared understanding of the required improvements across the system linked to Children and Adults' Mental health Services in Brent.

4.4 The focus for the next six months will be consolidation of the progress achieved to date. There is strong engagement across the Council, but both the breadth and depth of the work is evolving and all parts of the council must continue to be engaged in the most productive way. We need to build on the positive

engagement with CNWL to ensure they are a core part of the response, and to ensure better engagement with other health partners. Finally, key partnership forums will be updated regularly – Children’s Statutory Safeguarding Partners Executive group, the Safeguarding Children Forum, Brent Safeguarding Adults Board, Safer Brent Partnership, and the Brent Borough Partnership.

4.5 **Recommendation 2:** It is recommended that Brent Council considers developing a council-wide approach to transitional safeguarding which is evidence-informed, participative and considers equality, culture, diversity and inclusivity. The Executive agreed:

- *The Transitional Safeguarding Working Group to identify the priority cohort of young people and young adults who would benefit from a Transitional Safeguarding approach by September 2022*
- *The Transitional Safeguarding Working Group to explore with safeguarding partners priority actions to establish a partnership Transitional Safeguarding approach by September 2022*
- *Assurance to update on the progress made through the Transitional Safeguarding Working Group on the development of Transitional Safeguarding be presented to Scrutiny Committee by March 2023.*

#### **Defining the priority cohort**

4.6 Transitional safeguarding recognises that experiences as a child or young person, such as trauma, can have a long term impact and risks associated with trauma can continue into adulthood. In addition, all young people during the 18-25 transitional period may experience a range of distinct risks and harms as they become more independent. However, some people need more support and young people entering adulthood can experience a ‘cliff-edge’ in terms of support, exacerbated by the notable differences between thresholds/eligibility criteria of children’s and adults’ safeguarding, social care and health services, and critically the changes in legal status at 18, which changes the nature of interventions that are available.

4.7 Thematic analysis of cases discussed at Exploitation Violence and Vulnerability Panel (EVVP) reinforces this as it has identified to key issues:

- As vulnerable young people approach the age of eighteen they are less likely to be considered as a victim of exploitation and more likely to be seen as responsible for their actions or a perpetrator. In cases of sexual exploitation, by the age of eighteen young people are seen by some professionals to have much more agency over their sexual “choices”, despite evidence of exploitation, or histories of trauma
- It is more challenging to access information about the risks and vulnerabilities of young people when they are over the age of eighteen. For example, police send information reports about any safeguarding incidents for those under the age of 18 through the Brent Family Front Door. The Police also sent a substantial number – approximately 5000 (p.a.) MERLIN ACNSs (Adults Come to Notice) referrals to Brent’s adult safeguarding service, which are triaged and sent to the Brent Family Front Door when children are identified. However, it is challenging to get an overall picture of the risks in a young person’s life, especially someone who is extremely vulnerable but unwilling or unable to share their experiences with

professionals. In January 2021, the Metropolitan Police revised the police referral form (87a) and this now specifically references the risk of exploitation and can be used for young people up to the age of 25.

- 4.8 It is important to note that transitional safeguarding practice is evolving nationally. Practice guidance is starting to be published that can support the development of Brent's approach but there are no nationally defined criteria or standards set out for an approach to Transitional Safeguarding. Transitional Safeguarding is also not integrated into other areas of national practice guidance. For example, the recently published Government guidance on trauma definitions 'Working Definition of Trauma Informed Practice' (2/11/2022) does not reference transitional safeguarding although the links are clear, and can inform our approach in Brent.
- 4.9 The Brent council wide approach is inclusive in the first instance and aims to ensure that all service areas are mindful of the issues that impact upon young people for whom life is a challenge to navigate due to their specific vulnerabilities, associations or life experiences. However, a focus on specific cohorts will bring clarity to our developing approach as the Scrutiny Task Group and the Executive have identified.
- 4.10 The first distinction to make is between two categories:
- Young people for whom Brent council holds a statutory responsibility to support – such as care leavers and Children with Disabilities (CWD). These young people have transitional support in place from the Children and Young People department, and
  - Young people are not entitled to ongoing statutory services. This includes, for example, young people who were subject to a child protection plan before they turned 18 and may require additional support from a range of other sources as they enter adulthood.
- 4.11 As there is significant support and a statutory responsibility for care leavers and children with disabilities, the focus in the first instance is on those who are not entitled to ongoing statutory support from CYP. There is more work to be done to finalise the definition of this cohort (or cohorts), but consideration is being given to those viewed by CYP as vulnerable in the two years before their 18th birthday. For example, CYP has developed an analytical tool to understand multiple vulnerabilities. This includes young people allocated within Brent CYP with other vulnerabilities, including an Education, Health or Care Plan, missing or child exploitation, gang and county lines concerns, Youth Offending Service involvement or vulnerabilities to their education (exclusions, home education or if the child is missing from education). This links to contextual safeguarding and recognises that those who are vulnerable to extra-familial harm will remain vulnerable into early adulthood.
- 4.12 The case study below highlights both the complexity of need, the challenge of engagement and the range of services that are already bringing together to support young people within this cohort.

### **Case Study**

Brent CYP have been working with Kiyana and her family for a few years, but the situation became more serious when Kiyana turned 17. At this point, her parents struggled to maintain boundaries and Kiyana was not regularly attending school. It appears she was targeted for Criminal Exploitation, and reported that she was kidnapped. However, Kiyana was not confident that she would remain safe if she supported a police investigation, making it difficult to understand what had happened to her and assess ongoing risk. A Child Protection Plan was put in place and gradually the risks appeared to reduce and her relationship with her parents improved.

However, as she approached 18, the relationship with her parents became more difficult. CYP continued to provide support through the Accelerated Support Team (AST) in order to keep Kiyana safe, rebuild the relationship with her parents and prevent her from entering care. When Kiyana approached adulthood, her parents said when she turned 18, Kiyana needed to leave the family home as she was not following the rules. Kiyana has complex support needs including risk of homelessness, mental health concerns, trauma from past exploitation and poverty. In combination, these complexities put her at increased risk of criminal exploitation, making her very vulnerable. Based on her experiences, Kiyana developed a distrust of professionals, making engaging with her a challenge.

As part of planning for Kiyana's 18th birthday, the Accelerated Support Team completed a transitional safeguarding plan and referred Kiyana to the SMART team for ongoing support. Through the Exploitation, Violence and Vulnerability Panel, Kiyana also had a mentor in place. Multi-agency partners will continue to support Kiyana's transition to adulthood by advocating for her to get the mental health support she needs and does not become homeless.

### **Partnership Transitional Safeguarding approach**

- 4.13 As set out above, the Council's approach to Transitional Safeguarding is an inclusive one, and the Senior Management Group (SMG) summary provides the widest overview of how the council engages with this agenda at Appendix 1. For all potential cohorts the early identification of issues and intervention is key if the young person is known to CYP, and the principle of well-planned transitions and of working with parents to ensure that children's needs are met appropriately is embedded right from the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- 4.14 For *young people for whom Brent council hold a statutory responsibility*, primarily care leavers and children with disabilities there are a range of services and support in place. This starts with the CYP service described below, but should and is being supported across the Council as the SMG discussion showed:
- The Brent School Place Planning Strategy 2019-23 November 2020 refresh identifies the need for the borough to develop **post-19 SEND provision** to meet demand for places for young people with SEND, in particular young people aged 19-24 with complex learning difficulties. Work is underway to develop provision to meet this need.

- **The Integrated Disabled Children and Young People Service 0-25** brought together the 0-13 Children with Disabilities and 14-25 Transitions Teams with the Ade Adepitan Short Break Centre, with the objective of developing more seamless support for children, young people and their families. Staff from this service are linked into the Transitional Safeguarding Sub-group and provide expert support in relation to Mental Capacity Assessment and Care Act Assessments where this is required.
- **The Care Leavers Team** support pathway planning and progress for young people aged 18-25. They work closely with training providers and careers advice and guidance workers to increase care leaver progression into further education, apprenticeships and other vocational opportunities. The Local Offer provides support for Care Leavers with the aim of ensuring that more of them transition into employment.
- **Care leavers** who are not ready to move to independence are encouraged to stay with their foster carers or in semi-independent accommodation until they are ready, with the expectation that foster carers and providers identify how they will support transition to adulthood. Brent's Housing Department helps to provide effective support to care leavers around accommodation and tenancy management, helping those who are at risk of developing rent arrears to maintain their tenancies.
- **Mental health support is available for care leavers** through remote access emotional wellbeing support, beyond the age at which they are able to access CAMHS (after their 18th birthday). This is through Safe Base Brent operated through the CYP Inclusion Service and online mental health support through 'Kooth' offered by Brent ICP.
- **The Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019**, will replace the current Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards with a new authorisation framework, the Liberty Protection Safeguards. The new safeguards expand the number of children being considered and brings schools, residential and educational placements and secure placements under welfare grounds into consideration. These new arrangements, expected to come into force in 2023, require a shared children and adults approach across CYP and CWB. A CWB and CYP Liberty Protection Safeguards programme group has been established in October 2021. Led by the Brent Council Transformation Program Manager Liberty Protection Safeguards Lead, this group is overseeing implementation of appropriate arrangements ahead of April 2022
- **Vulnerable Adolescent Risk Assessments are being completed for care leavers** with consultation support from the Contextual Safeguarding Lead in the CYP Safeguarding and QA Service. This is in recognition that vulnerability and harm continues post 18. This approach is ensuring that where high risks are identified for young people turning 18 that transitional safeguarding is at the forefront of practitioners' thinking to ensure risk continues to be understood and managed post-18.

4.15 For those young people who are not eligible for statutory support, it is important to note that lack of a fully defined cohort has not prevented services from working with young people who require additional support. There are a wide range of services available through Community Safety, Adult Social Care, health and the third sector.

- 4.16 Community Safety commission providers that work directly with individuals over 18 who would be part of the Transitional Safeguarding cohort. These organisations are familiar with supporting younger people to navigate their journey into adulthood and the concept of Transitional Safeguarding. Currently commissioned providers that focus on reducing re-offending and serious violence, and can support people, include:
- St Giles' – Gang Intervention Programme, work with individuals involved in, or just on the periphery of gang activity.
  - Westminster Drugs Project, supports those with diagnosed and non – diagnosed mental health conditions, or substance misuse issues, in an attempt to reduce offending.
  - Young Brent Foundation's (YBF) – Global Thinking Project, offers a bespoke service for young women affected by gangs, criminal exploitation and county lines.
  - Air Network - offer diversion through mentoring and sports in an attempt to reduce offending or exploitation.
- 4.17 Central North West London Foundation Trust (CNWL) – provide mental health services at all ages. There are some issues with wait times, and like other services, the transition between children's and adults mental health services can be difficult. However, CNWL have recognised this and appointed a new transitions lead as part of developing a transitions service. Mental illness is often part of a number of issues facing people in the greatest need in the Transitional Safeguarding cohort.
- 4.18 SMART – a multi-disciplinary team, based in ASC, but is focused on tackling multiple exclusion homelessness. It brings together substance misuse, adult social care, mental health and housing expertise to work with people who are not able to access core services and helping them to get the services they need to become independent. There is an overlap with the Transitional Safeguarding cohort. The framework for the SMART Service is to provide a Trauma Informed approach for those residents who are vulnerable to exploitation, fall through the standard service provisions and have multiple complex needs, including a risk of homelessness, mental health conditions, substance use, contact with the criminal justice system and other health and social care providers. The criteria is inclusive from 18 years upwards and provides a supportive outreach approach from a range of professionals whose input is arranged according to the needs of the resident. The team includes social workers, Occupational Therapists, a housing officer, substance misuse worker, support outreach workers and a peer support worker.
- 4.19 The Safeguarding Adults (SGA) Team – is set up to support adults who are unable to protect themselves from harm. Most people in the Transitional Safeguarding cohort will not be eligible for this service, but there is still an overlap with the Transitional Safeguarding cohort. The SGA team thoroughly reviews every referral where there is risk and always seeks alternative support such as Mental Health and Community Safety services.

- 4.20 As the case study suggests the multi-agency work is built a range of core partnership forums, including:
- Exploitation, Violence and Vulnerability Panel (EVVP) promotes seamless support for children and adults. For adults the panel provides a multi-agency coordinated, visible and accountable partnership response for managing those experiencing Violence and Vulnerability Programme and likelihood of offending. There is an overlap with the Transitional Safeguarding cohort
  - The Community MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) provides the opportunity for agencies to come together to support vulnerable individuals living in Brent and help to enhance the services currently available. The focus tends to be those with vulnerabilities and significant ASB related issues, but there is a clear overlap with the Transitional Safeguarding cohort
- 4.21 In addition to these early intervention services, there are also a range of other groups where there are interdependencies, if risks increase or if there is cross over with other thematic groups:
- The DV MARAC (Domestic Violence – Multi-Agency Risk Assessment conference) shared information on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, health, child protection, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors. Young people are considered who are under the age of 18, as well as adult victims.
  - The Violence against Women and Girls Group (VAWG) Delivery Group ensures a coordinated, multi-agency and intelligence led approach. It provides a strategic oversight of VAWG across Brent for both young people and adults.
- 4.22 The focus until now has been working through these services and forums. This has worked to a large extent, and the next step is to test this more rigorously against the Contextual Safeguarding cohort outlined in 4.11 above to understand:
- Whether to continue working through these panels, or set up a separate Transitional Safeguarding Panel
  - If there are any service gaps, and
  - Once the cohort and pathway is clearer, work will be completed to ensure this is communicated to young people and professionals to provide greater clarity on the support they can access.
- 4.23 Therefore, in the next six months the focus will be on:
- Working more closely with health colleagues in CNWL. They have appointed a transition lead for Brent, who will start in January 2023. This will help to develop connections across the system, improve understanding of the Mental Health need and further develop services and connections
  - Reviewing the appropriateness of the forums above in light of the new focused cohort, and make recommendations about required changes

- Clearly communicate the pathway and offer across these forums and services across the Transitional Safeguarding system to ensure there is greater clarity and visibility
- Continue to build the evidence base for the full Transitional Safeguarding cohort (their needs and the equalities implications) working from the CYP vulnerabilities tracker
- Carry out audits using the definition for the initial cohort (e.g. audit of children on a Child Protection plan who turned 18 in the last 6 months, and those who are known about at age 25) to get qualitative understanding of need and barriers to engagement.

4.24 **Recommendation 3:** It is recommended that Brent Council ensures that young people are active partners in the development of its transitional safeguarding approach. The Executive agreed:

- *The Transitional Safeguarding Working Group to develop a plan to engage young people through relevant Council services, including Housing, the SMART Team and Leaving Care Team, by June 2022*
- *The Transitional Safeguarding Working Group Work to work with the Young Brent Foundation to identify voluntary sector agencies with relationships in place with identified young people and young adults by June 2022*

4.25 One of the 6 key principles of Transitional safeguarding is that there is a participative, user-led approach. This means adopting a strengths-based approach; respecting young people's expertise and enabling them to coproduce solutions and support rather than being treated as a passive recipient. This is as important at a strategic level as it is in practice, and is a key means of promoting a person's sense of self-efficacy, by affording them autonomy and agency.

4.26 A transitional safeguarding approach strongly encourages local authorities and partners to ensure that young people's views and expertise are informing the development of Transitional Safeguarding approaches and the ongoing improvement activity required to embed it. This includes paying particular attention to ensuring that consultation and co-production activities are meaningful, inclusive and accessible to those whose voices are seldom heard.

4.27 There is the intention to co-produce this work with young people; however, careful consideration needs to go into how and when, with recognition that services can struggle to engage young people with transitional safeguarding concerns to keep themselves safe. Brent officers met with two other local authorities, facilitated by Research in Practice, to discuss how a co-constructed approach can be developed as there is an aspiration for this work but it needs to be carefully considered. Part of the conversation was to be aspirational in our approach and engage a wider cohort of young people regarding what safe transition to adulthood looks like. Next steps in this work will be to work with established groups of young people to develop the Brent approach to Transitional Safeguarding. This will include working with Young Brent Foundation, the Youth Justice Board funded BAME Pathfinder Project and Brent Youth Parliament to understand from young people what a really supportive and safe transition to adulthood would look like.

- 4.28 There will be continued work with national experts, the Young Brent Foundation, health partners and other local authorities to support us in developing our approach, and the focus in the next 6 months will be:
- Responding to experience elsewhere, there will be 3 workshops in December 2022, co-designed and facilitated with the Young Brent Foundation. The aim is to meet with and gather the views and experiences of a range of different young people, representative of the borough and young people's different needs, to start the conversation about what safe transition to adulthood looks like
  - Young Brent Foundation will take stock after those workshops to plan longer term engagement, with attempts to be made to identify a small group of young people (approx. 5-6 young people) to be supported by YBF and work with Brent Council and partners in the work set out in this report
  - The Director of Research in Practice has agreed to provide ongoing advice and continue to work with other local authorities to develop this work and building on an developing body of best practice. For example, Brent CYP is part of a national learning programme to understand and evaluate systems and practices on effective use of data and voice information in children's services. Continuing to develop Brent's transitional safeguarding approach using young people's voice will feed into national research, with the opportunity for consultation from a series of academic partners, including the London School of Economics and the Rees Centre (University of Oxford).
- 4.29 **Recommendation 4:** It is recommended that Brent Council considers how it can enhance its support to young people within the transitional safeguarding cohort with needs in education, training and employment (ETE), financial literacy and housing. The Executive agreed:
- *The Transitional Safeguarding Working Group to oversee an extension of the pilot with young people leaving care, broadening the cohort of young people being supported to test and develop support for young adults and to explore pathways of support by September 2022*
  - *The Transitional Safeguarding Working Group to review the SMART teams work to explore how this service model could be mobilised to support vulnerable adolescents in the identified Transitional Safeguarding cohort by September 2022*
- 4.30 The SMG clearly identified the support available from employment services, and made them aware of the wider support that is available. However, the key service response the Council has for those in the highest need is the SMART Service. This team works across Brent Council to encourage referrals when adults have additional needs, but are screened out of Adult Social Care statutory service provision because they don't have eligible care and support needs.
- 4.31 This means close work with the team responsible for applying Adult Social Care eligibility criteria (e.g. Brent Customer Services and Information and Access

Team), but it also means working closely with teams across the council (e.g. Single Homeless and Rough Sleepers Team, Leaving Care team). They also work closely with the voluntary sector organisations within the homeless network and Mental Health forums and through Brent hubs and Brent Health Matters teams to identify those residents who are vulnerable to exploitation and would benefit from the SMART approach.

4.32 SMART was also involved in the pilot with the Leaving Care Teams in 2021, to assess whether the approach from SMART offered benefit and increased the positive outcomes for Care Leavers. The evidence was that residents engaged well with this approach. SMART has continued to build on this pilot programme by creating increased liaison and partnership working with the Leaving Care Teams.

4.33 The SMART Service receives funding from Adult Social Care and is supplemented by grants and funding arrangements with Public health, NHS England, Brent Housing and via Covid / Omicron funding. An additional recent grant from NHS England means the work of the SMART service will also include an increased number of rough sleepers. This is as part of developing a 360 degree pathway for rough sleepers that includes increased access to primary care, secondary care mental health services including psychology, housing and outreach support.

4.34 Therefore, in the next six months the focus will be on:

- A review of the SMART service – taking stock of how the service has evolved since inception to include the Care Leavers pilot and now the increased focus on rough sleepers to ensure the service is able to manage all demands and has sustainable funding. Part of this review we will be capturing improved outcome data that is fully reflective of the complex work undertaken, reviewing caseload weighting and the length of time that we will work with a resident (currently up to 6 months). A stakeholder steering group will be convened quarterly to monitor and provide a steer on the objectives for the SMART team
- Playing an active part in the Skills and Employment Outcome Based Review that the council is setting up, will ensure that the needs of the different Transitional Safeguarding cohorts are fully understood and that wherever possible services are made more accessible to their needs.

4.35 **Recommendation 5:** It is recommended that Brent Council promotes transitional safeguarding across safeguarding agencies and services working directly with young people.

- *The concept of Transitional Safeguarding will be included in the induction for elected members following the elections in May 2022.*
- *The Transitional Safeguarding Working Group to review training on transition related issues and develop joint Community Wellbeing and Children and Young People-led training for Council officers and appropriate member development for councillors by September 2022*
- *The Transitional Safeguarding Working Group to explore opportunities for multi-agency training regarding transitional safeguarding with the*

*Safeguarding Adults Board, Safeguarding Children's Forum and the Safer Brent Partnership.*

- 4.36 Transitional Safeguarding was not included in the May 2022 Members Induction, but it is now a part of both Adult's and Children's Safeguarding Induction content. The first time the new content will be used is for Community Wellbeing Scrutiny briefings on 16 November 2022 for Safeguarding Adults and 15 November for Safeguarding Children. In addition, a Members Development session has been set up for 6 December 2022. This will be a joint presentation between the Director of Research in Practice and the Working Group, who will provide information on our local approach and case studies for discussion. After this event, the working group will review progress and with feedback from Scrutiny and others put in place additional development sessions as necessary.
- 4.37 There has been a programme of ongoing engagement and development and a focus on developing practice since the launch workshop in November 2019. Brent SAB offered Transitional Safeguarding webinars in January and March 2021, and additional training sessions were developed in partnership with Research in Practice. Four sessions of multi-agency training were conducted. The objectives of the training were to raise awareness of transitional safeguarding; understand the tensions, blocks and barriers to developing a transitional safeguarding approach. Attendees included practitioners from Community Wellbeing and Children and Young People alongside health partners, commissioned services, schools and local charities. There was overall positive feedback from the sessions.
- 4.38 Since the Scrutiny Task Group, there have been a range of other interventions, that will be built into an integrated programme, for example:
- Adult Social Care practice week May 2022 – the Director of Research in Practice talked to adult practitioners (36) about her research and create a space to think about ways of working with vulnerable young people at risk
  - The Adult Social Care Practice Forum has also addressed Transitional Safeguarding. The practice forum is a regular event facilitated by the Principal Social Worker and raises national research and case practice locally, in an effort to start shift their thinking and practice.
  - All ASC staff have been encouraged to attend an externally delivered webinar in September 2022 on Transitional Safeguarding
  - CYP have incorporated transitional safeguarding into training and workshops on contextual safeguarding, and
  - CYP have developed and shared good practice examples of “transitional safeguarding plans”.
- 4.39 In the Strategy and Partnerships team there is a Learning and Development lead, which had been vacant, but has now been appointed to, and they are working on a fully integrated programme of Learning and Development across Adults and Children's Safeguarding and the Safer Brent Partnership.
- 4.40 Transitional Safeguarding remains high on Adult Social Care, Children and Young People and Community Safety agendas, but there is more work to be

done to join this up and develop a fully integrated approach. Therefore the focus in the next six months will be:

- After the December 2022 event, review and finalise the content and offer for Member Development
- Work with the new lead in the Strategy and Partnerships team to design and deliver core training across the 3 key partnerships, do this in consultation with the 5-6 young people identified to co-design our transitional safeguarding approach
- Clearly our transitional safeguarding cohort and support offer so that it is clear for practitioners and residents
- Further align Contextual Safeguarding, Transitional Safeguarding and Modern Day Slavery approaches through a Senior Management Group (SMG) session in Spring 2022

## **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 Section 42(2) of the Care Act 2014 requires a local authority to make statutory enquiries, or cause others to do so, where it has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult with care and support needs is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect and as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect him or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it (cf. section 42(1) of the Care Act 2014).
- 5.2 Brent Council has established a Safeguarding Adults Board which includes officers from the Council, the NHS and the Police, pursuant to section 43 of the Care Act 2014. The objective of a Safeguarding Adults Board is to help and protect adults in its area in cases of the kind described in section 42(1) of the Care Act 2014, as set out in the previous paragraph of this report. A Safeguarding Adults Board may do anything which appears to it to be necessary or desirable for the purpose of achieving its objective. A Safeguarding Adults Board must carry out Safeguarding Adults Reviews when someone with care and support needs dies as a result of neglect or abuse and there is a concern that the local authority or its partners could have done more to protect them and also when someone with care and support needs is alive and the Safeguarding Adults Board knows or suspects that the adult involved has experienced serious abuse or neglect (cf. section 44 of the Care Act 2014).
- 5.3 Pursuant to section 67 of the Care Act 2014, a local authority must arrange for an independent advocate to represent and support a person who is the subject of a safeguarding enquiry or review, if required.
- 5.4 Section 22(3) of the Children Act 1989 sets out the general duty of the local authority looking after a child to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child and to make such use of services available for children cared for by their own parents as appears to the authority reasonable in his case.
- 5.5 Pursuant to section 11(2) of the Children Act 2014, every local authority (and other relevant public bodies including the NHS and the Police) must make

arrangements for ensuring that: (a) their functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; and (b) any services provided by another person pursuant to arrangements made by the local authority (or relevant public body) in the discharge of their functions are provided having regard to that need. Local authorities (and other relevant public bodies) must in discharging their duty under this section have regard to any guidance given to them for that purpose by the Secretary of State.

- 5.6 Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 requires each local authority to make arrangements to promote cooperation between the authority, each of the authority's relevant partners and such other persons or bodies working with children in the local authority's area as the authority considers appropriate. Such arrangements are to be made with a view to improving the well-being of children in the authority's area so far as relating to: (a) their physical and mental health and emotional well-being; (b) protection from harm and neglect; (c) their education, training and recreation; (d) the contribution made by them to society and (e) their social and economic well-being.

## **6.0 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 This report provides an update on the work undertaken across the Council on Transitional Safeguarding. There are no direct financial implications from the update.
- 6.2 Progress against the recommendations is undertaken from existing resources and budgets within the services involved.

## **7.0 Equality Implications**

- 7.1 There are no direct equality implications at this point in time. The approach outlined in this paper has the stated aim of being inclusive, but also seeks to focus in on those in the most need. More work is required to better understand the widest cohort of young people, and we will ensure that equalities data is collated as part of the focus on a specific cohort of young people to understand any equalities implications in both cases. In addition, the co-design work with young people, working with the Yong Brent Foundation, will explicitly seek to include a wide range of young people to understand their current experiences, and their views on improvements.

### **Related documents:**

Transitional Safeguarding Scrutiny Task Group final report – February 2022

Executive response to the Scrutiny Task Group final report – April 2022

### **Report sign off:**

Phil Porter – Corporate Director, Adult Social Care and Health