

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee

Review of Day Opportunities for Adults: Evidence from Children's Services (November 2021)

1. Context

1.1. This paper outlines information to support Evidence Session 3 of the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee's review of day opportunities for adults. In particular the paper outlines information relating to the use of day opportunities by younger people.

2. Numbers of people aged 18-24 accessing Adult social Care

2.1. Table 1 shows the number of people aged 18-24 that were accessing Adult Social Care by year

2018-19	2019-20	2020-2021
156	195	163

Table 1: Numbers of people aged 18-24 that were access Adults Social Care by Year

2.2. Table 2 shows the number of people, aged between 18-24, accessing the Council's in-house day opportunities for adults or services commissioned by the Council.

2018-19	2019-20	2020-2021
33	27	15

Table 2: Numbers of people aged 18-24 that were accessing in-house or commissioned day opportunities by year

2.3. In addition, 35 people aged between 18-24 were using a direct payment to access day opportunities as of November 2021.

3. Educational pathways as an alternative to day opportunities for people with an EHC plan

3.1. As of November 2021 there were 133 young people with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan accessing educational provisions Post 19 (year 14 onwards). Of these:

- 3.1.1. 40 young people were in the SEN category of Communication and Interaction (including autism spectrum disorders and speech, language and communication needs)
- 3.1.2. 9 young people were in the SEN category of Sensory /Physical Disability (including visual impairment and hearing impairment)
- 3.1.3. 68 young people were under the SEN category of Cognition and Learning (including moderate and severe learning difficulties)
- 3.1.4. 16 young people were in the SEN category of Social Emotional and Mental Health

- 3.2. In the past the majority of these young people may have been supported by Adult Social Care to access day opportunities from the ages of 18/19 but due to ongoing development work around educational pathways, there are now a wider range of options for younger people to continue in education Post 19. These options include:
- 3.2.1. **Specialist education provision:** Specific provision aimed at young people with lower academic ability to enable them to access entry level qualifications in areas such as independent living skills, employability skills and around preparation for adulthood.
 - 3.2.2. **Supported Internships:** Supported internships are a structured study programme based primarily at an employer. They enable young people aged 16-24 with an Education, Health and Care plan to achieve sustainable paid employment by equipping them with the skills they need for work, through learning in the workplace. Supported internships are unpaid, and generally last for one year. Wherever possible, they support the young person to move into paid employment at the end of the programme. Alongside their time at the employer, young people complete a personalised study programme which includes the chance to study for relevant substantial qualifications, if appropriate, in English and maths. Three providers offer this in the Stockton-on-Tees; Stockton Riverside College, The Shaw Trust and Project Choice through Health Education England.
 - 3.2.2. **Supported apprenticeships:** Working is ongoing to develop supported apprenticeships where lower entry level English and maths are accepted, as compared to the expectation that individuals will possess a Level 2 or above in these subjects.
- 3.3. Although some of the 133 people with an EHC plan Post 19 will have an active social worker or be going through an Adult Social Care Assessment, having other opportunities available has meant a likely reduction in the number of young people with SEN accessing day opportunities provided by Adult Social Care and an increase in individuals remaining in education and/or training to work towards their individual aspirations.

4. Information and support through transition

- 4.1. Younger people who are expected to transition into Adult Social Care and who may access adult day opportunities will be supported by the Disabled Children Team.

The role of the Disabled Children Team

- 4.2. The Disabled Children team is a Social Work team within Children's Services who support disabled children, young people and their families whose main need for services arises from the child's disability or intrinsic condition and where these conditions have a substantial or critical impact on the quality of the child's / young person's life and or the lives of their families on a daily basis. This includes children and young people with:
- 4.2.1.1. A severe learning disability
 - 4.2.1.2. A severe physical disability
 - 4.2.1.3. A life limiting or life threatening condition
 - 4.2.1.4. Multiple disabilities (combinations of the above)

- 4.3. Under the Care Act (2014) local authorities are required to ensure that the transition process from Children Services to Adult Services is a smooth process and that agencies work together to ensure that plans are put in place in a timely manner to meet the needs of individuals.

Support through transitions

- 4.4. The Disabled Children's team have two Transition Workers who will start working with young people around the time they turn 16 years old.
- 4.5. The Transition Workers will complete a transition assessment and make a referral into Adult Services. Complex cases are referred as early as possible to commence planning. Those cases where the transition pathway is easily recognisable and straight forward may be referred around the age of 17.
- 4.6. Once a referral has been made a Social Worker from Adult Social Care will be allocated to support the transition process. This includes completing a Care Act Assessment and providing information about the different support options that are available. This could include information about the range of day opportunities available and options around the use of direct payments to help individuals and their carers make informed choices that are right for them.
- 4.7. Alongside this information the team can also facilitate visits and trial days at a day service to help inform a person's decision making.
- 4.8. Throughout the transition process multi-agency transition meetings are held on a regular basis to help identify and plan the support required once the young person becomes 18.

How parents and carers want to receive information

- 4.9. Between the 4th and the 11th of November 2021 The Disabled Childrens Team, Children's Services conducted a random sample survey consisting of 40 parents and carers of children and young people who are currently 16 or 17 years of age. Of 38 parents and Carers contacted 39% (15) Participated in the survey.
- 4.10. Responses to the question "*How would you prefer to be consulted and/or informed about day opportunities that may be available in adult services?*" highlighted the importance of written information with suggestions including welcome packs, letters, emails, newsletters or online information. One respondent stated "*information written down so we can go back to it and use it to refer to when we are ready to look what is available*".
- 4.11. Some respondents also highlighted the benefit of being of being able to talk through information.
- 4.12. Running alongside this has been a on line survey on Stockton-on-Tees Brough Council webpage. At the time of this report, there have been 7 responses from parents and carers. The survey will be available on 21st Nov 21 and can be extended. The final results will be made available to the Select Committee in the final evidence a long with a 'you said, we listened, we did' response to the survey.

5. Needs of young people transitioning into Adult Social Care

- 5.1. As of November 2021, 34 younger people were being supported through the transition process. This includes twenty 17-year-olds and fourteen 16-year-olds.
- 5.2. Chart 1 shows the services currently accessed by younger people being supported through transition. Twelve individuals are accessing a combination of

services, therefore the total number of provisions on the chart add up to more than the total number of young people being supported by the Team.

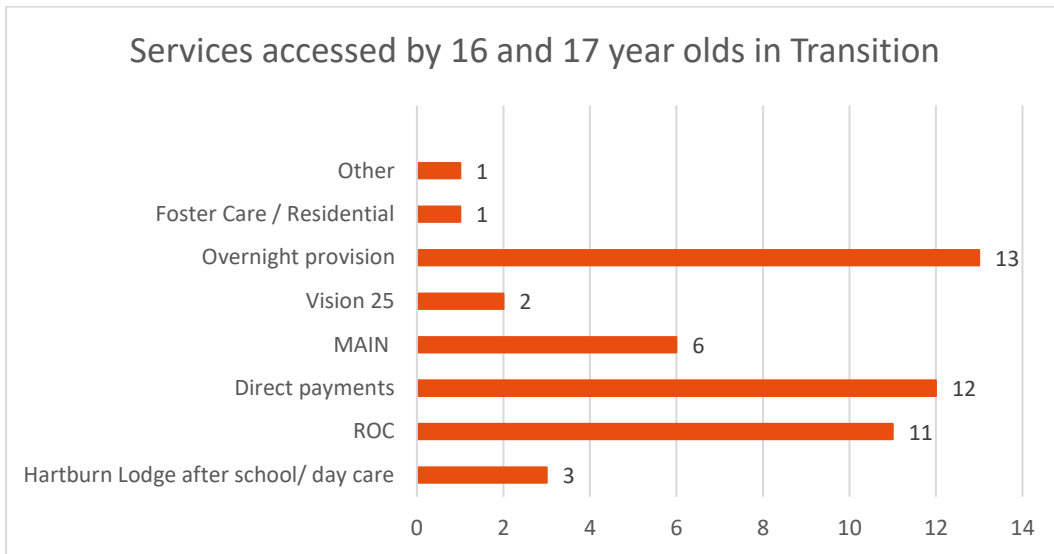


Chart 1: Numbers of people aged 18-24 that were accessing day opportunities

5.3 Work is ongoing to gather the views of young people about what they want to be available and how they want to be kept up to date and surveys are being conducted at Hartburn Lodge Short Breaks Centre.

5.4 1 young person was not keen on engaging in the conversation. 1 young person said “*new places, meeting new people and making new friends*” were important as was “*shopping*” and “*wrestling*”. This young person wanted to be kept informed with face to face meetings.

6. What do young people and their families / carers value about day opportunities services

Views of families and carers about what they value in day opportunities

6.1. In the survey conducted between the 4th and the 11th of November 2021 (explained in section 4.9 of this paper) parents and carers were also asked “*what opportunities would your child, or the young person you care for, value if they were to access day opportunities when they have transitioned into adult service?*”

6.2. Responses to this question included:

- 6.2.1. 53% (8) would like opportunities made available for their child to continue learning and developing
- 6.2.2. 53% (8) would like opportunities ‘*to be able to access the community*’
- 6.2.3. 47% (7) mentioned opportunities to develop social skills and socialize with others
- 6.2.4. 47% (7) explained the importance of providing structure and routine and keeping busy through art and crafts, using technology-based activities, gardening, dance, music, singing and performing arts

6.2.5. 40% (6) parents would like their child to have access to suitable volunteering opportunities

6.2.6. 40% (6) highlighted the importance of developing independent living skills such as cooking, bus travel, self-care skills, how to go shopping

What day opportunities are people aged between 18-24 accessing

6.3. Table 3 shows the number of people aged between 18-24 who were using Council run or commissioned day opportunities by year.

Service	Description	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Allensway (Including enhanced support)	Centre run by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council supporting people with more complex health and care needs	5	5	5
Community Day Options	Run by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, the service provides activities for people with learning disabilities from 4 community bases across the Borough	5	6	1
Emsworth Unit (North East Autism Society)	Located in Sunderland and providing activities to enhance social, vocational and independent living skills for people with autism	1	1	1
Lockwood View	Located near Guisborough the service provides outdoor orientated activities including horticulture, gardening, fell walking and day trips	1	1	0
Redcar Satellite Activity and Well Being Service	Redcar based service for people with a learning disability	1	0	0
Shaw Trust	Work and skills based activities in a garden centre, plant nursery and café for adults with learning disabilities, autism or complex needs	11	6	2
Tees Alive	Based in Billingham Forum with access to some community activities for people with learning disabilities	5	3	0
Teesside Ability Support Centre (TASC)	Located in Middlesbrough and supporting people with disabilities	1	1	1
Thornbeck College (North East Autism Society)	Specialist college located in Newton Aycliffe providing personalised education programmes for people with autism	2	1	0
Ware Street (Education and Services for People with Autism)	Providing support for people with autism including building and community based activities.	6	5	5
Total number of provisions		38	29	15

Table 3: Numbers of people aged 18-24 that were accessing Council run day opportunities for adults or opportunities commissioned by the Council

6.4. As of November 2021 35 people aged between 18-24 were using a direct payment to access day opportunities. Table 4 outlines which services these individuals were accessing using their direct payment.

Service	Location	Description	Numbers of people attending aged between 18-24
Vision 25	Mandale and Victoria Ward, Stockton-on-Tees	Provides a programme of social and learning based activities for young people with a disability aged 17+.	16
Northern Stars	Mandale and Victoria Ward, Stockton-on-Tees	Performing arts company working with adults with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.	6
Autism Matters	Mandale and Victoria Ward, Stockton-on-Tees	Providing social groups and individual support in the community for people with autism.	5
MAIN	Middlesbrough	Providing social groups for people with autism in specialist settings and the community.	5
Catcote Futures	Hartlepool	Centre for Post 19 learning and development offering study programmes and vocational options	2
Daisy Chain	Norton West, Stockton-on-Tees	Provides group activities for young adults aged 18-30 with autism. Includes group outings.	2
Unicorn Centre	Middlesbrough	Provides riding therapy and training opportunities for people with disabilities	1
JPC Farm	Stokesley	Provides day services and training for independence centre for people with disabilities and / or learning disabilities	1
Total number of provisions			42

Table 4: Day opportunities purchased by people aged 18-24 as of November 2021