

# Transitional Safeguarding Panel

## Terms of Reference

### Introduction

This document sets out an outline proposal for the introduction of a multi-agency Transitional Safeguarding Panel in Redbridge. The scope of the Panel is to ensure robust multi-agency planning for young people in care, care experienced and those on the edge of care. The aim of the Panel is to ensure effective and robust multi-agency safeguarding service provision in all aspects of young people's lives and to prevent a cliff edge approach.

### Background and Context

When considering young people in the Redbridge area who are in or on the edge of care but are reaching their 18th birthday, there is a potential gap of support in due to the young adults not being eligible for support under the Care Act 2014. Abuse and exploitation do not end at 18 years of age, yet many of the services for adults are designed to support only those people with specific care and support needs. This doesn't reflect the evidence regarding people's needs during this developmental life stage and is why many local areas are seeking to adopt a more transitional approach to safeguarding. Many young people in, or on the edge of the care system, continues to face significant challenges beyond the age of 18 and can be at risk of extra familial harm such as Child Criminal Exploitation, Child Sexual Exploitation and Gangs. Exposure to such harm is often referred to as contextual safeguarding. In addition, young people often experience increased challenges around mental health and isolation. The common risk/concern for these young people embarking on adulthood range from mental health, adverse childhood trauma, complex relationships, exploitation, gangs, harmful sexual behaviour, intimate partner violence, education/work, housing issues, etc. We noted that there are other Transition Panels put in place for our vulnerable children who have disabilities or in care however there is no pathway for vulnerable young adults who are at risk of contextual safeguarding or likely to need support from social care and/or other key agencies once they turned 18 years of age.

### Proposal

Taking into consideration the concerns/risks that young people/adults face, we are proposing a Transition Safeguarding Panel for young people who are 17 years of age or have turned 18, to look at support they can access from key agencies and within the community.



The Transitions Safeguarding Panel is a strategic, multi-agency case decision making forum for young people with complex needs that sit outside the Children with Disabilities pathway. These young people have complex/ high needs and are approaching transition age. The purpose of the panel is to ensure that multi-agency communication and information sharing takes place on a regular basis and to support professionals and their managers in managing the most challenging and concerning needs of young people.

The forum is solution-focused, highlighting the needs of each young person and identifying any issues. Discussions at this meeting will provide budget holders and commissioning with the information to plan for the future.

The Forum is responsible in:

- Agreeing provision for young people with high-cost, complex (including mental health) needs who are transitioning into adulthood.
- To discuss referrals and agree risk mitigation plans for young people.
- For each organisation to provide advice where appropriate and to take responsibility on decision making tasks associated with their role.
- Agreeing appropriate pathways and budgeting and auditing any issues regarding resource and budget management across services.
- Clarifying any issues regarding statutory processes.
- Ensuring that all young people have been considered in universal services and locally commissioned services.

This is a decision-making meeting and will be used to discuss and plan for individual cases.

## Membership

The membership of the Panel are operational practitioners/Managers from the London Borough of Redbridge and NELFT Additional participants may be invited as necessary.

Membership comprises of

- HOS Health and Adult Social Service/ Assistant Director Redbridge Area Mental Health and Learning Disabilities – **Kevin Hellan-Sole & Shangle Khanom**
- Interim HOS Children in Care and Care Leavers - **Mariette Bezuidenhout**
- HOS Access and Inclusion- **Joel Kerr**
- Interim HOS Fostering, Adoption and Children with Disabilities - **Gloria Samuel**
- SEND PFA Team Manager- **Mandeep Viridi**
- Service Manager CSW & FIT- **Sabina Samad**



- Team Manager FIT – **Siobhan McGeary**
- Team Manager Leaving Care – **Veronica Cools**
- Service Manager Quality Assurance - **Mariana Graham**
- EWMHS Clinical Lead-**Kevin Amazona/ Patience Chabvuta**
- Adults Social Care Lead/AMHP Manager- **Victoria Porter**
- Placement and Brokerage Officer -**Angie Fallows**
- Brokerage Officer- **Kajal Tavares Da Silva**
- Representative from Work Redbridge or Connexions – **Elizabeth Hannam**
- Representative from Housing – **Janet Weekes**
- Representative from Drugs and Alcohol – **Andrew Hardwick**
- Representative from Virtual School – **TBC**
- Representative from Childrens Services Mental Health/NELFT – **Mini Luckhea**
- Youth Justice Service Manager – **Helen Anthony**

Subject matter experts which can be drawn in at key points:

- Service Manager for Fostering and Children with Disabilities
- Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Disability Manager
- Specialist Senior Educational Psychologist
- Principal Educational Psychologist
- Relevant Childrens services Team Manager/ Practice Manager
- Post 16 EHC Plan Coordinator
- Clinical Commissioning Group Interim Designated Clinical Officer- Children's and Maternity services 0-25
- Representative for Redbridge CVS
- SEN Commissioning Manager
- Brokerage Placements Officer
- Head of Virtual Schools
- Representative of SEND tribunal process

## Frequency

The Panel will meet every 3 months

## Panel Process

Referral process and paperwork/ Information required:

- Any partner can make a referral to the panel of situations which have already been considered within partner agencies risk assessment processes and there remains a significant risk.



- All referrals should be made on the referral form –see appendix 1 and emailed to business support.
- Where possible, referrals will need to be received at least ten working days before panel sits. Deadline for referrals is 5 working days prior to the day of the panel meeting chair to screen the referral and accept or decline the referral.
- The chair will review all referrals to ensure it meets the criteria for the panel and that there is sufficient information on the referral form to enable partners to prepare for the meeting.

## Criteria

### Threshold Criteria

Any young person over the age of 16 who has been opened to Children Services or in care and where there is an outlined need for support to manage the transition to adulthood safely or issues of safeguarding. If the young person has turned 18 years old there will need to be a new consent form signed for the referral to be made to Panel. The aim is to progress to referrals from the age of 14 years of age once the panel is established.

### Purpose of the Relevant Services (Panel Members)

All Panel members are responsible for:

- Attending each meeting or ensuring that a well-briefed deputy is in attendance.
- Committing their agency to actions and arranging for these to be carried through post-panel.
- Referring cases to the panel and making colleagues in their organisation aware of the panel referral process.
- Bringing to the panel any information, involvement, actions, or case work carried out with an adult; including relevant information from an allocated professional working directly with the person referred (if applicable).
- Oversee completion of agreed actions prior to the next meeting.

Adult Services will be providing oversight around if the young person would meet their criteria for support from adult service or if there are any tier 2 support/community services which would be appropriate. If a case meets threshold, transfer, care plan and timescales will be agreed.



Children Services role will be to present the young person to the panel. They would co-chair the panel with Adult Services representative, and they would be responsible for sharing outcomes from the panel, ensuring it is on the Children Services system prior to closure.

Community and Voluntary Service representative to share knowledge and provide services in the community which the young adult could access. They could then follow up with the service if they have been able to access this or if there are any barriers to accessing outlined community service.

Adult Mental Health Services role will be sharing what needs to take place for young people where there are concerns of ill mental health as they progress into adulthood. If a young person does not meet the threshold for continued service what Tier 2 Mental Health Services could they access to ensure Streamlined support.

Child Mental Health Services role will be to also present any young people in their services who are in need for support as part of their transition to Adulthood. They will also be able to provide oversight around the young people who have accessed their services that are being presented by Children Services.

Children with Disabilities role – to refer any children who do not meet threshold for SEN transition procedures, this also includes young people that have been provided a service who are part of the family unit but are the non-disabled child.

Work Redbridge or Connexions role for young people who have been ‘Not in Education, Employment or Training’ as part of their transition to adulthood reviewing all the referrals and advising on what support can be offered.

Housing representative to cover any issues with a young person’s housing, we have a high level of homeless people in Redbridge, and this will be a need that would need to be explored for some of the young people who are referred to panel.

## **Recording**

When considering the referral process for Children’s to adult, with that Adult Services Systems are moving to Protocol and this will make the process easier when we consider the referral process. However, until this is in place, agreement will be made at the panel on who will complete the referral on the adult’s system from Childrens Services.

## **Review**

The Panel’s implementation to be reviewed after six months and again at one year to identify outcomes. The terms of reference will be reviewed on an annual basis. The next review is due June 2023.



## Quorum

A quorum will be half the regular membership plus one.

## Success Criteria

The work of the Transitional Safeguarding Panel process is intended to lead to the following outcomes:

- Consensus about levels of risk and management accountability at senior management level.
- A single risk management plan adopted by all agencies involved with young person.
- Actions agreed by individual agencies to 'unblock' progress, to reduce risk and improve outcomes within specific timescales.
- In-principal agreements about contributions of resources/shared funding (some of which may be subject to additional confirmation by agencies).
- Improved Care Planning arrangements based on a review of all available options.
- Improved senior management oversight of complex transition cases.
- The monitoring and reviewing of high cost/complex care arrangements informs future demand planning, commissioning process and the organisations' investment strategies and financial planning.
- Promotion of individual choice as far as reasonably possible.
- Ensure that there is consistency in the decision-making process over the services that individuals are offered during the transition process.
- Ensure all partners achieves value for money in its provision of services for individuals going through the complex transitions panel.

Facilitation of effective partnership working between all partners engaged in complex transitional planning arrangements.

