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(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of meeting:	Community Wellbeing, Health and Care Portfolio meeting
Subject:	Working with Autism and Neurodivergence, including Transition
Date of meeting:	26 th September 2023
Report by:	Liza Grainger, Transition Lead
Wards affected:	All

1. Requested by

Councillor Matthew Winnington, Cabinet Member, Community Wellbeing, Health and Care

2. Purpose

To update the Portfolio holder and spokespeople of the developments in approaches and support being progressed in Portsmouth Adult Social Care for autistic and neurodivergent individuals.

3. Information Requested

To provide an update to the paper presented to the Health, Wellbeing and Social Care Portfolio meeting on 5th December 2022. The paper presented in 2022 outlined the appointment of staff to work with autistic and neuro-divergent adults in the city, the creation of Room One and the ambition to better plan to work with young people who had care and support needs as adults.

4. Information, Advice and Support

4.1 Room One

Room One is currently located at the Charles Dickens centre. It is a 'one stop shop' for autistic and neurodivergent adults. Portsmouth Autism Community Forum have been involved in the setup of Room One, including consulting with members to ensure the environment is suitable with their recommendations on paint colour, lighting etc being implemented.

Room One offers a timetable of activities on a monthly basis. There are regular peer support sessions, both in person and online. KoCreate creative sessions are hosted at



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Room One. There are also regular drop-in sessions, specific topics for these sessions have included Transition to adulthood, Into Work, Money advice. In collaboration with the Independence and Wellbeing Team there is a weekly session at the Milton Community Allotments.

One to one sessions are available, these are provided by the Room One facilitator. Due to demand and the requirements for Room One a new location is being sought for Room One.

4.2 Employment Support

The You Trust have been providing Employment support to Autistic and Neurodivergent Adults. Referrals are made both from professionals and through self-referrals. The support service has supported people to remain in existing employment and enabled individuals to find voluntary and paid positions. This service was initially commissioned for one year, continued funding is currently being requested.

Information about the Employment Support service can be found on the You Trust website: <https://theyoutrust.org.uk/autistic-and-neurodivergent/>

5. Transition to Adulthood

5.1 Neurodivergent Transition Team

The team consists of a Social Worker, Occupational Therapist and Independence Support Assistant. They work with Neurodivergent young people who do not have a learning disability. Those with a learning disability will be supported by the Integrated Learning Disability Service. The workers started in October 2022, having a period of induction before starting work with individuals. The team are currently working with over 40 young people.

The team will complete assessment in line with The Care Act, taking into account the unique needs and circumstances of the individual and their carers/families. They work with the individuals to develop plans, including working with families, community resources and funded support.

They have attended Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) reviews with colleges, ensuring that the young person is able to access education opportunities. Some of the young people have been in the care of Children's services, the teamwork with the Personal Assistant from the Supporting Our Futures team.

The team have supported young people to visit Room One and made use of the employment support service offered by the You Trust.



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5.2 Wider Transition to Adulthood - Transition Protocol

The 'Transition Protocol' was last reviewed in July 2020. This document sets out the Principles and Process for the preparation for adulthood for children and young people who are likely to have care and support needs into Adulthood. This Protocol is currently being reviewed jointly across the Children and Families Directorate. One of the significant changes is a revision to the Pathway/Procedure to expand from the Education, Health and Care Plan reviews and the interaction of Children's workforce with the Adult workforce to a focus throughout the years and planning with the young person and their family.

The revised protocol is currently being presented to senior management in both directorates for approval, once this has been completed the protocol will be shared with the workforce through a planned launch.

5.3 Wider Transition to Adulthood - Managing Risk and Safeguarding people moving into Adulthood

The 'Multi-Agency Framework for Managing Risk and Safeguarding People Moving into Adulthood' was published in July 2022. This was produced in collaboration with the 4 Local Area Safeguarding Boards covering Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. It is fully supported and endorsed by the Local Safeguarding Children's Partnerships in this area.

To support the implementation of this in Portsmouth representatives from Children's social care and Adult Social Care have been working together to develop a pilot 'Young Adult Safeguarding Panel.' The purpose of the panel is to have a forum attended by a range of partners across the statutory and voluntary services to offer information, advice and guidance in relation to transition planning for complex cases relating to vulnerability, risk and safeguarding.

6. Workforce Development

The e-learning element of the Oliver McGowan training is available on the Health Education England website. There is currently a Government Consultation open which considers the draft code of practice ([Oliver McGowan draft code of practice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/oliver-mcgowan-draft-code-of-practice)) HIOW ICB have a steering group to progress the roll out of the training and are currently in the process of procuring a provider to deliver the webinar element of this training.

The training videos being co-produced with the Portsmouth Autism Community Forum are in the final stages of editing and approval.



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7. Next steps

Following a successful bid to the Public Health Transformation Fund, funding has been obtained for a Team Manager-Transformation Lead to progress the development of sustainable support for Autistic and Neurodivergent adults in the city, embedding best practice. This is a 3-year post; recruitment is currently in progress.

8. Outcomes

The above information demonstrates the resources, protocols and other arrangements that aim to ensure that our autistic and neuro-divergent residents can access advice and support to live their lives. In order to demonstrate the outcomes of some of this work, two, (anonymised) case studies are shared below.

A is 23 and has a diagnosis of Autism and a history of poor mental health, including depression, psychosis, self-harm and suicide attempts. A was referred to the Autism and Neurodivergence, Transitions Team over concerns that they were socially isolated, lacking in motivation and struggling to self-care. A also lived with an older relative, there were relationship issues and the home environment was a risk to them both. A had difficulty managing to attend college and pass required exams.

Through taking a person-centred approach, recognising how A's life is impacted by their autism, support to manage some immediate practical concerns such as transport, budgeting and healthy eating, A and the team have drafted a support plan. The plan will support A to maintain budgeting and healthy eating, work productively at college and support him to build on independent living skills. The plan has helped A secure appropriate accommodation and he has begun to make links with other people through a gardening project and is making use of supported employment opportunities. A is focused on working towards his goals and this is noticeably improving his motivation and self-belief.

B is 30 and is diagnosed with Autism, an eating disorder, anxiety and a speech disorder. B was referred to the Autism and Neurodiversity Transition Team as her challenges with social situations meant she was increasingly isolated in her accommodation. B struggled with tasks of daily living and confidence in her abilities. The team have supported B to develop a plan to address making connections with others, using Room One, accessing technology to support activities of daily living, meaningful occupation and accessing community groups to develop interests and further connections.

Both A and B have fed back that the team have helped them to improve their lives, their confidence and continue to develop skills of independent living. The approach taken in support planning is not to care for, but to work with, with the aim of helping our residents become more independent and be able to gain support from and contribute to their community, building confidence and resilience.



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Signed by (Director)

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location