

Accelerated Progress Plan for Transitions – outcome of final DfE and NHSE review

Sheffield (led by the City Council and South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, ICB) delivered a Transitions improvement plan between May 2022 and May 2023. The plan was called an 'Accelerated Progress Plan' (APP). It was required by the Department for Education and NHS England after a local inspection found:

- Weaknesses in securing effective multi-agency transition arrangements for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

The plan ran across the SEND partnership and covered education, health, and care. Progress was monitored by the DfE and NHS England and, in our final 12 month review, they found:

- “You have demonstrated clear and sustained progress. This means that we no longer need to continue with formal monitoring.”

Accelerated Progress

The Accelerated Progress Plan aimed to achieve meaningful improvements felt by children and young people with SEND and their families, when entering into, and moving through, education, health and care transitions.

By transition, we mean any time in a child or young person's life where there is a planned change that needs to be effectively prepared for, so they can be happy and fulfilled. This includes transitions across Education, Health and Care. (Definition from Sheffield's Transition Principles).

Partnership activities were focussed around:

- Preparing for adulthood
- Post 16 opportunities
- Transition processes
- Information, communication, and coproduction.

The plan was multi-agency and involved the council, ICB, Sheffield Parent Carer Forum, health services, schools and colleges. Progress included:

- Increased awareness of how to support children and young people with preparation for adulthood through new training and tools for professionals.
- More young people supported with social care transitions and at an earlier stage.

- Increased uptake of annual health checks for people with learning disabilities aged 14+.
- Increased engagement with young people, including through the set up of a new young people's advisory group [SENDing Voices](#).
- Improved information including an updated [Preparing for Adulthood transition guide](#) and the [Local Offer website](#).
- Post 16 education/employment opportunities – new supported internships and new employer partnerships to increase work experience/skills opportunities.
- Development of new training, including [SEND the Basics – online training](#) for professionals, parents, and anyone with an interest in special educational needs.

What happens next?

We are on a journey to improve outcomes for our children and young people with special educational needs and/ disabilities.

We have made progress against the actions in the Plan, but we know the impacts are yet to be felt consistently across all children, young people and families. We are committed to continue to monitor the impact as we work on our next set of priorities together.

Through the Plan, we have moved from the place where we needed central government oversight to make sure we were improving, to a place where we will continue without this oversight. But it remains a long journey that needs us to continue to work together, as a SEND partnership – to be focused and prioritise what will bring the biggest benefits for our children, young people and families quickly.

We will continue to work closely with children, young people and families, including through Sheffield Parent Carer Forum (SPCF). The DfE and NHS England recognised the engagement carried out so far and how SPCF have helped us maintain a strong focus. Children, young people and families' experiences, including those reported in SPCF's forthcoming State of Sheffield survey report, will be used to help shape what our next priorities are for transformation.

Our multi-agency working across Education, Health, Care and Communities, was recognised by the DfE and NHS England and is essential to making the biggest improvements for our children, young people and families.

Find out more:

Read the Transitions Accelerated Progress Plan and Department for Education's official outcome letter: www.sheffield.gov.uk/sendinspection

Find out more about the support and activities for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in Sheffield:
www.sheffielddirectory.org.uk/localoffer