

**Transitional Arrangements Progress Report**

**In The First YearYear (Septemebr 2014-September 2015)**

* **In response to the New Legislation Wirral began transferring children to the new SEN system during the** spring term 2015.

Wirral had approximately **1600** children and young people who had statements of Educational Needs these all have to be transferred to EHCP’s by April 2018.Following National Guidance and Local consultation Wirral used Transitional times in the children’s lives to transfer their Statements to Education Health and Care Plans.

* **What we have done so far**

The Statutory Assessment Team appointed 4.5 additional members of staff in November 2014 this gave the existing team the capacity to undertake the transfers of existing Statements to Education Health and Care Plans. These co-ordinators also co-ordinate Initial assessments and write initial EHC Plans. Training for the team was provided throughout the Autumn term 2014, ensuring that transfer reviews are conducted according to good practice guidance and in a person centred way. Training on the new process was also given to all partners including schools during the Autumn Term. New paper work for “Transfer Review/Annual Reviews” was circulated.

* **How the Local Authority informed parents of the arrangements for their young persons transfer to the new system?**

Parents of children/young people, who were identified as being prioritised for a transfer review, were informed by their child’s school via. a standard letter explaining the process in full. This letter included contact details and information about Wirral SEND Partnership (Wirral’s Parent Partnership), and the Independent Supporters.

* **What Actually Happens during The Transfer Review Process**

The LA used the existing Annual Review process to transfer children to the new system. Schools and specialist teams were briefed by LA officers regarding these changes.

Other professionals and partners, in health and social care, were briefed about the changed expectations on their services, in particular the requirement on them to either, attend the transfer review or provide a current report commenting on the appropriateness and relevance of the advice they have given about the child or young person. The Designated Clinical Officer has played a key role in helping Health partners priorities attendance at meetings and production of additional information if needed.

Transfer review meetings took place for all those whose statement was being transferred to an EHCP.

Annual reviews meetings continued for children and young people whose statements are not being transferred.

Schools set the dates for both transfer review and annual reviews scheduled for 2014/2015 In the autumn term, both local FE Colleges received training for their relevant staff, on person centred review facilitation, so they were in a position to facilitate transfer reviews. A briefing for Early Years settings was held in February 2015.

All transfer reviews were attended by either the schools Educational Psychologist and/or their EHCP Co-ordinator.

**Priority Groups for Transfer to the new system 2014-2015**

In accordance to the guidance published by the DfE in August 2014 Wirral LA prioritized the transfer of the following groups of children/young people to the new system during the past year.

* **Early Years settings to school**
* **Primary to secondary school**
* **Secondary school to a post 16 institution**
* **Mainstream to Special/Special to mainstream**
* **Children at Lyndale Special School**
* **Children moving between Local Authorities**

A total of 372 Statements have been transferred to EHCP’s as indicated in the table below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Number of transfer reviews**  **(including children aged 16+)** |
| September 14 – September 15 | 372 |
| September 15 – September 16 | 425 |
| September 16 – September 17 | 425 |
| September 17 – April 2018 | 420 |

Wirral LA retained the services of Greater Merseyside Connexions Service to lead the process of transferring young peoples existing LDA’s to an EHC. In doing this, the LA have maintained the high quality of service which has been provided over a considerable period of time.

Parent feedback has indicated that they found the input from the EHCP co-ordinators invaluable because although the process often seemed quite long and complex, with the help of the co-ordinators, they feel they have a plan which will really benefit their child.

**In the second year( September 2015-Septemebr 2016)**

During Year Two of the Transitional Arrangements the following groups of children will be prioritised to transfer to the new system. Following feedback from families, health and schools/settings that have been through the transfer process we have agreed to transfer the following groups: Total Transfers-**420**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Which children?** | **When?** |
| Foundation 1  (23) | October to December 2015 |
| Year 6  Mainstream (16)  Special (86)  Resourced bases (16) | September 2015 to January 2016 |
| Year 9  Mainstream, and resourced bases (63)  Special (63) | January – April 2016 |
| Year 11  Mainstream, and resourced bases (81)  Special (72) | September - April 2016 |

In addition to the above year groups any children who move from mainstream to special or vice versa will be transferred as will children transferring from an Infant to a junior school. Young People leaving custody will also be transferred to the new system. As with year one the LA will also consider individual requests to transfer statement on their personal merits and will do so if it is possible within the resources available and in the best interests of the child/family.

This plan will be regularly reviewed, starting in January 2016, as the planned numbers are dependent on the capacity of the EHCP Co-ordinators and the professionals providing advices.

For those children/young people attending Out of Borough Provision a different approach other than by year group is being considered, this may mean in provision where Wirral have placed more than one child or young person, transfers for all the children at the establishment may be done together.

This has been drafted in consultation with schools, providers and the SEND Partnership who provide independent advice and support.

If you require any further information about the proposed arrangements the SEN team can be contacted on telephone number 0151 666 4224