

Update May 2021

A lot of positive activity has been taking place on the All Age Disability Service (AADS) since the last update a few weeks ago.

A series of workshops have taken place with our SEND and Children with Disability (CWD) teams. The purpose of the workshops is for the teams to understand each other's services as part of the preparations to becoming an All Age Disability Service and to ensure they all understand the aims of the programme to ensure we have a joined up approach at all times. This in turn helps us to make changes to better achieve 'Tell it once' and reduce the number the meetings and processes for families. Further workshops for staff are planned to take place.

A Task and Finish group has also been set up to develop guidance and a toolkit for completing Year 9 onwards, EHCP annual reviews. This will be a multi-disciplinary approach and the group is being led by Stephen Mason, Interim Head of Service. Other members include representatives from mainstream schools, Families in Partnership (FIP), SEND group managers, SENDIASS, YAT staff, CWD staff, health colleagues and the DWP. Together they are working on how to ensure we start preparation for adulthood as early as possible, giving options and effective plans to deliver to the young person's aspirations and their positive outcomes.

There is also a joint project, being led by colleagues in Adult Services at WCC, looking at how we improve our holistic assessment and joint provision across education, social care and health for some of our children, young people and adults with the most complex disability and health needs.

Finally, we recently ran a Short Breaks Survey for Children and Young People as we look to recommission the Children's Services Community Short Breaks Offer. We wanted to get a better understanding of how our young people spend their social time, the services they are using and how they find them. We also would like to know what activities and places they would like to be going to, both now and as an adult. The findings from the survey will help us to shape and explore our next steps. The information has been used in the Adults' Service review to inform next steps but we have decided to keep the survey open a bit longer to hopefully get more responses that will inform the children's services community short breaks commissioning and will continue to inform changes in adulthood services. We are, as part of the All Age Disability Service development, exploring the opportunities for joint commissioning of some services to help in making it a smoother transition from children's and adults services. [The survey will remain available online](#) until the 31st July. We will communicate the full results once they have all been collated.

Don't forget, we value your contribution and experiences. You can help to shape the future look of the AAD service, so we'd like to hear from you. We have set up a new email inbox for the All Age Disability Service so please do get in touch if you have any queries or questions, suggestions, or current challenges you think we should be considering. The email address is AADSquestions@worcestershire.gov.uk