

Minding the Gap Mental Health Transitions Framework

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Background



This framework was developed in partnership with members of the Richmond and Wandsworth Safeguarding Adult Board in response to recommendations from a Safeguarding Adults Review.

Evidence suggests that young people struggle with the transition from Children's services to Adult services and often the gap in provision is too wide for the young person to navigate.

There is clear evidence of multi-agency involvement during transition, but lack of coordination and clarity of the service taking the responsibility to coordinate the young persons care in a cohesive manner.

The framework calls for collaborative working between agencies and co-ordination between professionals to support young people through the transition process.

https://www.sabrighmondandwandsworth.org.uk/media/1449/mental_health_transitions_protocol.pdf

Background - Sophie



Sophie was 19 when she died. As a young teenager she needed intensive support from children's mental health services and her recovery each time was described by her family as “remarkable”.

An extract from her diary read: “I am unbelievably grateful for the support of the places I have been throughout my recovery. Starting with Aquarius ward, the staff all supported me through it all”.

“Even when I was at my worse. They did it because they care”



Sophie – 7 minute learning

The Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) produced a 7 minute learning as a result of Sophie's death:

https://www.sabrighmondandwandsworth.org.uk/media/1411/seven_minutes_learning_sophie.pdf

Aim of Framework



The aim of the transitions framework is to secure best possible outcomes for young people and their parents/carers by providing a clear pathway to support practitioners and young people and their parents/carers, to understand what they can expect and who will deliver each aspect of the services which they receive.

The framework aims to support all professionals involved in supporting young people in the move from Children to Adult services. It clarifies the role of each agency involved in the support of young people with mental health issues, during the process leading up to and during transition from children to adult mental health services

NB: The guidance does not replace single agency transition protocols or any wider agreements between agencies in terms of transition arrangements.

Principals



The framework reflects the principle that there must be a person-centred approach to supporting young people and their parents/carers and that they must be involved in all aspects of the planning for transitions

All agencies should commit to the framework to ensure that there is active engagement in the process of identifying and managing risk. The agency with the key relationship with the young person should take responsibility for co-ordinating activities of all involved professionals. All professionals should mutually agree when this transfers to a different professional.

Key Principles



- **Early Planning** - Effective planning should begin at least 6 months before the young person's 18th birthday.
- **Collaborative Approach** – Effective communication between agencies, professionals, the young person and their family.
- **Multi-agency Engagement** – Clarifying who is involved with the young person and calling a professionals meeting to draw up an action plan to support the young person during this period.
- **Information Sharing** - Sharing of high quality and relevant information between agencies on a need to know basis depending on risk.
- **Engagement** - participation of the young person and their parents/carers. Respecting the young person is an adult.

Making Safeguarding Personal / Professional Curiosity

“No Decision about me without me” Andrew Lansley

“Be curious not judgemental” Walt Whitman

“If you are curious, you create opportunities, and then if you open the doors,
you create possibilities” Mario Testino

The way forward:



Questions?

Thoughts?

Comments?

Your actions?