Emergent themes from qualitative interviews with illustrative quotes

Preparation for transition

Service user accounts of planning meetings

‘...I just thought it was another meeting...I just didn’t see the point of that lady from CAMHS being there, she didn’t know me, she didn’t know anything about me, all she knew was what was on my file, she’d never met me and yeah, [AMHS care coordinator] is really nice, the psychiatrist didn’t really say much, I didn’t really see any point in their being there really.’

‘I was told about the transfer and I would be meeting the new care coordinator and the transfer would happen slowly... they explained how different it would be...’

A service user account of a transition with joint working

‘Gradually just slowly, slowly I moved up to the adult services when I was ready...I think it was a good transition, I don’t really know what could be any different. I didn’t notice it too much. I thought it was good.’

AMHS care coordinator perspective on the problems of joint working

‘...I like the idea of joint working for a couple of months because I think it’s definitely in the best interest of the client and it’s helpful for the worker who’s taking on the case but I do think there’s this issue of, you know, if someone’s on your case-load and something goes wrong you’re responsible for it... in discussions that have come up with other CAMHS cases and I’ve said it would be really useful to, to co-work the case for a couple of months people have been really, really unwilling to do that for that reason... (it) isn’t at all in the best interest of the client but I think it does happen, definitely. Yeah, so that’s probably one of the biggest issues I think.’

Service user accounts of transition outcome

‘Being with the adult mental health service is quite pressuring I find to be honest because there’s too much transfers.’

‘...I just think that it was a complete waste of time going there and maybe these services, like GPs, mental health teams, all sort of thing, they should be a bit more in the loop together, you know? Not like so separate they don’t know what’s going on, the service providers, not really, I just think they should be a bit more knowledgeable of each others and what they offer and stuff like that and they should talk more, like what would be more beneficial to the patient because like I wouldn’t like anyone else to like go through that really, you know, like, just go to one and then be passed on to the next one when you’re 18. That’s what it was like, it’s like, oh, you’re 18 now, you gotta go...’ (The transition) ‘...was just all of a sudden...I didn’t really like it.’

AMHS clinician account of poor engagement

‘I haven’t seen [service user] for a while but reading into him not coming to the appointments more recently I think he’s probably found the different approach (between CAMHS and AMHS) difficult... it was very frustrating and difficult because I wanted to engage him and I knew how important it would be to, to try and make the transition to adult services as painless as possible so I, you know, I tried to word letters and speak to him in a way which, you know, would make him feel comfortable and stuff but I just, I couldn’t find a way of really engaging him.’

CAMHS, child and adolescent mental health services; AMHS, adult mental health services.