

Transition Process from Children's to Adult services (autism and learning disability pathway) Information for Practitioners

Age 14

Age 14

The young person's school should arrange an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) review for the young person when they are in Year 9. This review should begin considering transitions to Adult Social Care and future plans for the young person which should continue to be reviewed at each subsequent EHCP review.

See transitions process documentation (SEND)

Age 14-15

Children's Social Care will highlight to Adult Social Care any 14 year olds who may need accommodation at age 18, to forecast future planning or funding issues and address any outstanding or ongoing legal issues relating to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). A separate legal panel will inform any orders sought.

Age 16

Age 16 – Refer to panel and allocations meetings

To be eligible for referral to the panel, confirmation must be provided of the young person's diagnosis (e.g. confirmation letter from the diagnosing clinician of either Learning Disability and/or Autism).



The Children's Social Work Team Manager will be responsible for identifying those young people who need to transition to Adult Social Care, and will ensure that the young person is referred to the Transitions Panel. Typically this will be at age 16.

The Children's Social Worker/Family Help Keyworker will complete the referral form for Transitions Panel via Eclipse (Worklist – **Transitions Referral**). The panel members will plan the agendas for each panel and confirm dates for when paperwork is required.

Referrals need to contain sufficient information about both current and future needs, including support being accessed / provided and that considered necessary to support the young person's future needs. This will include issues relating to accommodation, education plans, and whether the young person is deprived of their liberty currently and any advice been sought in respect of this.

The Referral Worklist should be reassigned to your Team Manager, who will QA the Referral Form and in turn reassign the Referral Worklist to the Transitions Panel Chair.

Once the Transitions Panel Chair authorises the Referral, the Transitions Panel Worklist needs to be reassigned to the appropriate Eclipse clipboard (**Transitions Panel – ORG7515**). The panel administrator will then share the referrals with panel members.

Panel members will screen referrals to confirm they are appropriate for Transitions Panel. Young people without a confirmed diagnosis of autism or a learning disability will not be discussed. Advice will be provided about young people who have presenting issues around physical disabilities or mental health needs as to which pathway is appropriate. Work is ongoing to establish transitions panels and pathways for young people with Adult Social Care support needs other than autism or learning disability.

Age 16 – Discussion at Allocations Meeting

All new referrals are initially discussed at an Allocations Meeting. This meeting will take place every three months to consider new referrals and confirm the agenda for the next Transitions Panel. The Allocations Meeting will consist of panel members but will not require the young person's allocated worker to attend.

Each young person will be allocated an adult social worker at the Allocations Meeting, but dependent on complexity of their needs and future support planning requirements, a judgement will be made on the point at which they are discussed in the full Transitions Panel. Should the referral form be insufficiently detailed, further questions may be sent back to the Children's Social Care worker seeking clarity, which could delay the young person being discussed at Transitions Panel.

The allocated worker from Children's Social Care will be updated on the outcome of the Allocations meeting (i.e. the name of the Adult Social Care worker allocated to the young person, and a timescale for the young person being discussed at the full Transitions Panel).

It is expected that the children's and adult workers will liaise to arrange an introductory visit as soon as possible after allocation. However, the adult social worker will have a 'light touch' approach between the ages of 16-17, they will be available to field queries regarding the transition.

For young people with less complex needs, whilst they will be allocated an adult social worker, their referral will be archived for discussion at Transitions Panel between age 17 years 3 months and 17 years 6 months.

Should the young person's circumstances change, or there be another need that they are reviewed at Transitions Panel sooner, either allocated worker should discuss with their team manager who can liaise with the relevant panel member from Children's Social Care or Adult Social Care.

The Allocations meeting will be recorded and minutes taken by Business Support. The actions and recommendations from the Allocations Meeting will be sent to the allocated Children's Social Care and Adults Social Care workers and their respective team managers.

Age 16-17 – joint working.

Arrangements between Children's Social Care and Adult Social Care begins when the young person reaches 16 years. Children's Social Care retain case responsibility, but a named worker from Adult Social Care will work alongside offering advice and support where relevant.

The Adult social worker will aim to meet with the young person and family to understand their needs and explain the process of transitioning into Adult Social Care.

Whilst Adult Social Care does not take case responsibility post 16 years following those initial introductions, Adult Social Care will work alongside children's social worker, which allows a period to get to know them and develop a clear process for the adult assessment and when the change of direct payment will take place.

The Adult social worker will carry out Care Act Assessments and become more directly involved from age 17 years 6 months. The Care Act assessment will determine eligible needs and form a person-centred care and support plan with the young person and their family/carers. The timescales for assessments will be determined by the Adult Social Care team manager and reviewed in panel.

Child in Need Review / Child in Care Review meetings will continue to be arranged and will be chaired by the Children's Social Care Team Manager, or Independent Reviewing Officer respectively. The Adult Social Worker will be invited to any relevant meetings.

It is expected that there will be ongoing communication between the Children's worker and the Adult's worker and that any issues surrounding transition will be brought to the attention of panel members.

Age 17

Age 17 – Discussion at Transitions Panel

For young people approaching 17 years of age, the allocations meetings will plan and arrange for formal discussion at transitions panel. This will be considered in terms of the complexities of need but also around the degree of planning required to ensure a positive transition. Those young people who are Children in Care will be discussed at panel from 17 years of age regardless.

Young people who have been assessed as having less complex needs or planning requirements will first be considered within the Transitions Panel between age 17 years 3 months and 17 years 6 months.

Panel membership is comprised of representatives from Children's Social Care (Children with Disabilities) and Adult Social Care. The panel will also include representatives from housing (where this is an identified need), SEND, and representatives from the Integrated Care Board (where NHS Continuing Healthcare may be identified as an avenue of support).

The allocated workers and/or Team Managers of the young person referred to panel will be invited to attend the panel for that agenda item. Panel dates and times are sent in advance. If the allocated worker is unable to attend, arrangements should be made for their team manager to attend or another suitable representative who has sufficient understanding of the young person's needs.

In exceptional circumstances where this is not possible, the allocated worker or Team Manager should contact the panel administrator in advance (via CwD admin mailbox) so agreement can be reached on next steps and/or the young person's discussion at Transitions Panel be rearranged.

The panel discussion will focus on the needs and future support planning requirements as set out within the panel referral, including additional clarifying questions and discussion.

The children's Social Worker/Family Help Keyworker will remain responsible for Social Work support and planning until the young person is 18.

Young people receiving services and requiring them to continue after they are 18 (eligibility has been determined or an assessment of eligibility is required or underway) will transfer to Adult Social Care on their

18th birthday. This includes financial responsibility for the young person's support package and any accommodation needs.

During the transfer period the Adult Social Care social worker will participate in discussions with Children's Social Care colleagues in respect of the potential impact of changes to services and participate in relevant meetings to support future planning for the young person.

Outcomes:

- Next panel review date is agreed.
- Arrangements made for next joint visit between Children's / Adults workers or any upcoming meetings
 - Actions identified i.e. CHC checklist to be completed, MCA assessments, Care Act assessments, updated referral information.
 - Legal advice may be required.
 - Joint working commences.

Age 17 – next steps

Where required, at age 17 the Children's Social Worker will complete the NHS Continuing Healthcare checklist. Good practice would indicate that this is jointly completed with the adult social worker. A Decision Support Tool (DST) meeting will be organised, and updates will be sought by the ICB panel representative.

No adult health funding

The adult social worker will continue to complete the support planning for the young person into adulthood.

Partial adult health funding

The adult social worker will continue to complete the support planning for the young person. The adult social worker will present the proposed package of support at 17 years 6 months for agreement in principle.

100% health funded

These cases are highlighted at the transitions panel. The ICB will take responsibility for the package of support from the young person's 18th birthday. This should involve joined up work between the CHC caseworker and both allocated social workers.

Adult Social Care will attend DST meetings and if the young person is identified as having a Primary Health Need (100% funding) then Adult Social Care will not have any further involvement with the young person.

It is likely at this stage that the young person would no longer be discussed at transitions panel and CWDT and the ICB can coordinate transitions plans outside of panel. Handover visits will be required, and issues of drift will be addressed between the Team Manager in Children's Social Care and CHC Team Manager.

Children's Social Care and CHC caseworker will need to carefully coordinate any outstanding issues around packages of support and Court applications.

It is expected that there will be ongoing communication between the Children's worker and the Adult's worker and that any issues surrounding transition will be brought to the attention of panel members.

Legal considerations

Where any issues or queries arise relating to potential or actual deprivation of liberty of the young person, there will be a discussion amongst panel members about who is best placed to undertake this piece of work for the young person. However, there is a general expectation that all legal work would be completed by the Children's Social Worker prior to the young person turning 18 and in readiness for transition to Adult Social Care. Both the Children's Social Worker and the Adult Social Worker may need to seek legal advice.

Age 17½

Age 17.5 – Panel meetings and reviews

From 17 years 6 months, the focus will be on ensuring that all necessary supports and plans are in place for the young person turning 18 and any issues are identified and resolved as soon as possible.

For those young people who were not discussed at 17 years of age, it is expected that they will be discussed at panel between 17 years 3 months and 17 years 6 months. Timescales will be set at the allocations meetings.

It is likely that a young person may be discussed more frequently when approaching their 18th birthday. It is expected that there will be ongoing communication between the Children's worker and the Adult's worker and that any issues surrounding transition will be brought to the attention of panel members.

Age 17 ³/₄

From 17 years, 9 months; young people may be reviewed again at panel. If all outstanding actions have been completed, the young person may be archived from panel if no further actions are required. This may be the case for those young people with a primary health need, or where the Care Act assessment has been completed and the package of support is set up. It is likely that the young people will be reviewed when 18.

Age 18

18 years old - YP case transfers to Adult Services or ICB on 18th Birthday

Young people may be discussed for a final time at panel to ensure all outstanding actions are completed.