

Preparing for Adulthood

Agreed Pathway for Transfer of Young People from Children's to Adults Social Care

November 2016

1. The Disabled Children's Social Work Team or Unit will complete an Adult Social Care Assessment following the young person's 16th birthday.
2. The assessment will clearly outline the young person's diagnosis and the assessed needs which will require continued support into adulthood. (Where it is believed the primary need is mental health, the children's social worker will ensure the parents are aware of the need to request a psychology assessment through their GP.)
3. The Consultant Social Worker (CSW) or Team Manager (TM) from Children's Social Care will forward the assessment and associated paperwork to the Team Manager of the most appropriate Adults Team (based on the young person's diagnosis and assessed needs), asking for written confirmation that the young person meets their eligibility criteria and a transfer will therefore be accepted on their 18th birthday.
4. The receiving Adult Team Manager will confirm in writing to the Children's CSW/TM within 15 days that their team will be taking over responsibility on the young person's 18th birthday. The Children's CSW/TM will then share this information with the young person and their family or carers.
5. If the receiving Adult Team Manager does not feel the young person meets their team's criteria, they need to state this in their written response and confirm that they are leading on co-ordinating discussions with the other Adult Team Manager's to agree which team will be accepting the transfer on the young person's 18th birthday.

The Transforming Lives principle is that the receiving team lead on this until another team picks it up, and therefore the receiving manager becomes responsible until a different agreement is reached.

Once agreement is reached both the receiving team manager and the newly identified responsible team manager should confirm the outcome in writing to the Children's Social Care CSW/TM, who will then share this information with the young person and their family or carers.

6. If a response from Adult Social Care has not been received within 15 working days, the Children's CSW/TM will contact the receiving Adult TM to chase this up.

If a response has not been received by 20 working days, this will be escalated to the relevant Children's Social Care Group Manager and the Service Manager of the receiving Team Manager in Adult Services.

If a response continues to be outstanding by 30 working days, this will be escalated to the Head of Disabled Children's Social Care and the appropriate Adult Head of Service.

It is accepted that there may be a genuine reason for a delay in this process, such as the receiving Adult TM being on annual leave. In these circumstances the Children's Team should be informed by the receiving Adult's Team as soon as possible, so they do not escalate unnecessarily and a revised timescale can be agreed.

7. It may be necessary for an eligibility assessment to be carried out. In which case, the receiving Adult TM will arrange this and invite the Children's Social Worker to attend.
8. If the Adult TM's remain unable to reach a decision after this, a multi-agency meeting will be convened to discuss the issues and reach an agreement. This meeting must include representatives with the authority to make decisions on behalf of each Adult Service involved.
9. Once an Adult Team Manager has agreed eligibility, it is the responsibility of Adults Social Care to do any work relating to any future change in this position.

For example, if the young person's needs change prior to their 18th birthday and the receiving Adult TM no longer thinks their team is the most appropriate service for the young person, they will discuss and agree eligibility with the other, more appropriate Adults Team, before notifying Children's Social Care and the family in writing of their decision.

10. Following the above process, all young people requiring support from Adults Social Care will know by no later than their 17th birthday which Adult Team they will be transferring to on their 18th birthday.
11. The Children's Social Worker will complete a support plan with the family by the time the young person is 17.5yrs and send this to the receiving Adult Team Manager for written agreement that this support will be provided from the age of 18, subject to any change in needs or circumstances in the intervening period.
12. If the support plan cannot be agreed by the responsible Adult TM then written feedback as to the reasons will be given and the Children's Social Worker will work with the family to amend the support plan in line with this feedback. If following this work agreement can still not be reached on the support plan then the responsible Adult TM will allocate an adult worker to work alongside the Children's Social Worker to complete the plan with the family.
13. If after this there is still no agreement or there is likely to be no agreement about what will meet eligible need then the adult worker will take over the completion of the support plan.

This process will be reviewed in November 2017, or sooner if needed.

If you have any questions or comments please contact:

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