

## **Preparing for Adulthood Protocol**

### **For Children and Young People up to the age of 25 who will or may need Social Care Support as Adults**

**March 2015**

#### **1. Introduction**

Young people, their families and carers, those supporting them and national policy all say similar things about what we want when thinking about the future and moving into adulthood

- Independence and somewhere to live
- Work and doing things that interest and satisfy you
- Good Health and well-being
- Having friends and being part of your community

This protocol describes how we will all work together to achieve this for each young person in a coordinated, efficient and smooth way.

The picture on the next page shows this in a pictorial way.

#### **2. Principles**

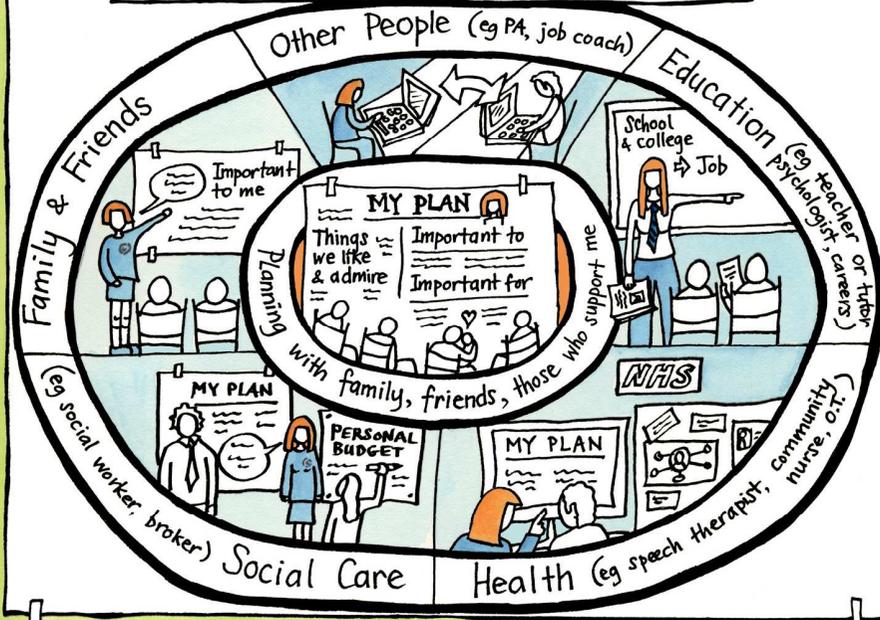
- Preparing for and moving into adulthood is an exciting time and should be a positive process that assists in young people achieving their full potential
- It can also be challenging and a bit scary for all as young people develop independence and try new things but this should not let us limit thinking and opportunities for young people as it is part of growing up
- The views, wishes and aspirations of the young person are central to all our work
- We will work together to support and promote the growing independence and right to make their own decisions of young people
- We will have and promote high expectations
- The wishes and needs of young people in all areas of their lives should be considered in a timely fashion
- The views and wishes of the young person's family or carers will be considered as part of the process
- We should plan together effectively
- We should make the best use of the resources we have
- We will meet statutory requirements
- We will use Plain English and accessible communication



# PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD PATHWAY

## EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLAN

WITH RESOURCES ATTACHED £££



### THE LOCAL OFFER

PRINCIPLES	PURPOSE	PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT
<p>Based on experiences of young people &amp; families</p> <p>Aspirational</p> <p>Regular review &amp; renewal</p> <p>Clear &amp; accessible language &amp; format</p> <p>Informs commissioning</p>	<p>To raise aspirations &amp; expectations for fulfilling lives for young people as they move into adulthood</p> <p>By:</p> <p>Making sure that everybody knows how to support all young people to achieve life outcomes - employment, independent living, good health, friends, relationships and community participation, &amp; works together to deliver these</p>	<p>Support for:</p> <p>education, work experience &amp; paid employment, friends, relationships, community &amp; leisure, independence, choice &amp; control, personal budgets, housing &amp; good health.</p> <p>And the services and organisations that provide that support</p>

### **3. For children and young people who already have a social worker from the Disability or Looked After Children's Service**

- Children's Social Worker will assess, allocate and review support to ensure that current identified eligible social care needs are met.
- The young person, their family and carers, Children's Social Workers, education, Learners with Learning Disabilities and Difficulties Advisors, health professionals and others will work together through the Education Health and Care Planning (EHCP) process to identify what is important to the young person and how best to work together to achieve it.

#### **3.1 Begin preparing for Adulthood – at any age that is right for the child but at least by age 14**

- Children's Social Workers will begin to talk to the young person and their family about the future, what the young person may want to do and in particular about future support needs
- Children's Social Workers will share and signpost to information about preparing for adulthood with the young person and their family and carers. This will include
  - The process for moving into adult support
  - Eligibility criteria
  - Future support options
  - Housing and where to live
  - Others who may offer advice and support
  - Information on education, work and training options
  - Things to do
  - Benefits and other money matters
  - Direct payments as an adult
  - Health
  - Transport
  - Developing independence
  - Rights
  - Decision making
  - Keeping safe
  - What is different about being an adult
- The Children's Social Worker will talk about and share information with parents and carers about what it might mean for them when their son or daughter becomes an adult. This will include:
  - Parental role and carers role
  - Role in decision making
  - Rights
  - Safeguarding
  - Money – benefits, motability scheme, tax credits
  - Support for carers
  - Others who can offer advice, information and support

- The Children's Social Worker will also talk to and offer support for other members of the family.
- This information will be available on the Cambridgeshire County Council website 'Preparing for Adulthood' pages and the Children's Social Worker will ensure that the young person and family know how to access it. They may print it for sharing if needed.
- The Children's Social Worker and Additional Needs Advisor will visit jointly to offer advice and plan jointly around future support, educational and work options.
- The Children's Social Worker will ensure that the social care support offered is in line with the outcomes agreed in the Education, Health and Care Plan. This may include:
  - Learning new skills
  - Trying experiences and new things
  - Developing independence
  - Developing a growing independence and making decisions
  - Use of technology to become and stay more independent
  - Developing habits, skills and routines that will be of use in education, work or training when the young person leaves school
  - Ensuring that support is provided in a progressive manner with the aim to always maximise a child's independence at appropriate developmental stages of a child's/young person's life, in preparation for adulthood.
- The Children's Social Worker will ensure the young person's details are entered on the preparing for adulthood database to enable services to plan to meet future

### **3.2 From Age 16**

- The Children's Social Worker and Additional Needs Advisor will begin to use the adult social care assessment and care planning processes with the young person. This will include
  - Adult social care assessment form
  - Assessment using the adult criteria and completing the adult support calculator. This is how adult services work out how to allocate resources.
- This will form part of the ongoing preparing for adulthood process and will be informed by information and plans from previous assessments and support planning
- The assessment needs to be agreed by the social workers manager
- The young person, their family and carers, Children's Social workers, education, Additional Needs Advisors, health and others to continue to work

together through the EHCP process to identify and work towards current and future outcomes

- As well continuing to offer support and information in the areas mentioned above the Children's Social Worker will cover the following areas as needed
  - Mental capacity assessment
  - Any Deprivation of Liberty issues
  - Refer to Independent Mental Capacity Advisor (IMCA) service if there is no family involved.
  - Best interests meeting where necessary
  - Ensure young people and family have information to seek independent advice on benefit entitlements
  - Request Financial and Benefits Assessment (FABA) by the age of 17.5.
  - Refer any young person in receipt of Children's Continuing Health Care (CHC) funding to the Adult Continuing Health Care team by age 17.
  - The Adult Continuing Health Care team will take the young person through the adult process readiness for their 18 birthday
- The Children's Social Worker will offer information about potential adult services, and give contacts for families to arrange visits where appropriate
- The Children's Social Worker will offer and complete a carer's assessment.
- The Children's Social Worker with the young person, their family and input from relevant others will begin to develop an adult social care support plan for when they are 18. This may include:
  - Using new services as appropriate
  - Continuing to use some of the same services or doing the same activities they are already doing that are appropriate to carry on with (for example after school activity club until young person leaves school, social care accommodation linked to a school placement, residential short breaks)
  - Where some services provided by children's providers are to be continued there will be a longer term plan in place for when this ceases
- The Children's Social Worker and Additional Needs Advisor will continue to work and visit together as needed
- Adult Social Care Teams have Care Managers who may also be qualified Social Workers who continue with the process of assessment, allocating and reviewing support. This is called Care Management.
- Children's Social Workers will identify with input from others the appropriate adult social care team to provide care management support to the young person once they are 18
- The teams that may provide care management support after the age of 18 are:

- Learning Disability Partnership Young Adults Team
  - Autism & Adult Support Team (formally Vulnerable Adult Team)
  - Mental Health Team
  - Physical Disability or Sensory Team.
- Workers from the above adult teams will be available to advise children's social workers and others on adult services as needed
  - If the young person is not eligible for adult services then the Children's Social Worker must ensure that information and advice has been provided on universal services and how to seek support in the future if needed
  - By the age of 17.5 years at the very latest the Children's Social Worker, working in partnership with the young person and their family/carer will finalise the adult support plan that meets their current and longer term adult eligible support needs as identified in the assessment
  - Workers from adult teams/services may attend EHCP or other planning meetings or do joint visits with children's workers as part of getting to know the young person
  - The Children's Social Worker will get agreement of the adult social care support plan from adult service panels
  - The Children's Social Worker will ensure that any new adult provision is commissioned with a start date of the young person's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday at the latest and complete the necessary paperwork
  - The adult team will check everything is in place, arrange a hand over and make arrangements for allocation of a named worker
  - Adult Social Care will take over the care management and funding responsibility at the young person's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **3.3 From Age 18**

- The adult care manager will continue to work with the young adult, their family and carers and others to enable the ongoing journey into adulthood.
- The care manager will ensure that the social care support offered is in line with the outcomes agreed in the EHCP and may include
  - Continuing to learn new skills
  - Trying experiences and new things
  - Continuing to develop independence
  - Developing a growing independence and making decisions
  - Use of technology to become and stay more independent
  - Continuing to develop habits, skills and routines that will be of use in education, work or training

- Ensuring that support is provided in a progressive manner
- Thinking about and planning for future housing, support and work options as the young adult grow into adulthood
- Adult Care Managers will attend Education, Health and Care Planning meetings.
- Young person, their family and carers, Care Managers, education, Additional Needs Advisors, health and others to continue to work together through the EHCP process to identify and work towards current and future outcomes.
- Young Adults who are supported by the Learning Disability Young Adults team will move to the appropriate locality Learning Disability Partnership Team for where they live at a time that is suitable to them. This may be when they finish education or when they feel settled in adult life but will be before the age of 25.

#### **4. For Children and Young People who Are Not Already Receiving Support from a social worker from the Disability or Looked After Children's Service but will or may need social care support as an Adult**

There will be children and young people who are not receiving social care support as children but who may have special education needs and disabilities and will or may need social care support as adults.

These young people may:

- Have an Education Health and Care Plan but not social care support
- Have some other targeted educational planning
- Be receiving a short break from the short breaks team
- Have health needs but no social care needs as a child
- Have needs that are met at school and home as a child but social care needs emerge as they become older

These young people and their families and carers will want and benefit from support to prepare for adulthood and will have contact with education, health or short breaks professionals.

We need to assess their need and eligibility for adult support and ensure that any support needed is in place in a timely fashion if applicable.

##### **4.1 Begin Preparing for Adulthood – at any age that is right for the child but at least by age 14**

- Education, Health, START, Additional Needs Advisors or Short Breaks Team or others involved to raise with young person and their family the need to begin thinking about preparing for adulthood. If the young person has an EHCP this will be via this process.

- Share with and signpost to information about preparing for adulthood with the young person and their family and carers. This will include
  - Future support options
  - Housing and where to live
  - Others who may offer advice and support
  - Information on education, work and training options
  - Things to do
  - Benefits and other money matters
  - Direct payments as an adult
  - Health
  - Adult social care support
  - Social Care Eligibility criteria
  - Transport
  - Developing independence
  - Rights
  - Decision making
  - Keeping safe
  - What is different about being an adult
  
- Education, Health, START, Additional Needs Advisors or Short Breaks Team or others involved to discuss with young person and family whether there may be a need for social care support as an adult. This may be via the Education Health and Care Plan process, other planning meeting or individually.
  
- They will ensure that for those who may need social care support as an adult the details are entered on the preparing for adulthood database to enable services to plan to meet future needs
  
- The Learning Disability Partnership Young Adults Team will chair 1 joint county wide planning meeting per term which will be attended by
  - Children's Team
  - Additional needs Advisors
  - Statutory Assessment and Resources Team
  - Learning Disability Partnership Young Adults Team
  - Autism & Adult Support Team (formally Vulnerable Adult Team)
  - Adult Mental Health Team
  - Adult Physical Disability
  - Adult Sensory Team.
  - Health Colleagues from children and adult services
  
- The meeting will
  - allocate young people to the appropriate adult team before the age of 16 if possible or as soon as the need is identified if the young person is over 16
  - The meeting is an allocation meeting not an individual planning meeting
  - monitor and ensure that planning is happening as described below for each young person
  - Consider future needs planning.

## 4.2 From Age 16

- The identified Adult Team will work with the young person from age 16 to start discussions with the young person and their family about preparing for adulthood.
- The Adult team will
  - Support the young person and their family to think about and plan for adulthood and ensure they have the information described above
  - Complete an assessment against adult eligibility criteria
  - Attend the EHCP or other joint planning meeting
  - For those young people who may require social care support ensure that the assessment and support plan is incorporated in the EHCP.
  - Carry out all the actions identified above
  - Develop adult support plan by age 17.5 or as needed
  - Ensure support is in place by 18th birthday or as needed
- The Care Manager and Additional Needs Advisor will visit jointly to offer advice and plan jointly around future support, educational and work options.
- If a current social care need is identified before the young person's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday the Adult Team will make a referral to Children's Social Care in the usual way via the Contact Center.
- If it is felt that a young person has been allocated to a team that is not the appropriate one to meet their needs the team identified as the first point of contact should continue to provide support until transfer to a more appropriate team has been agreed. The "Young Persons Team Transfer Process" must be followed to ensure there is no gap in support or delay in plans.
- If the young person is not eligible for adult services then the assessing Social Worker must ensure that information and advice about universal services has been provided as well as information about how to request support in the future.

## 4.3 From Age 18

- The adult care manager will continue to work with the young adult, their family and carers and others to enable the ongoing journey into adulthood.
- The care manager will ensure that the social care support offered is in line with the outcomes agreed in the EHCP and may include
  - Continuing to learn new skills
  - Trying experiences and new things
  - Developing a growing independence and making decisions
  - Use of technology to become and stay more independent
  - Use of assistive technology

- Continuing to develop habits, skills and routines that will be of use in education, work or training
  - Ensuring that support is provided in a progressive manner
  - Thinking about and planning for future housing, support and work options as the young adult grows into adulthood
- Adult Care Managers will attend Education, Health and Care Planning meetings.
  - Young person, their family and carers, Care Managers, education, Additional Needs Advisors, health and others to continue to work together through the EHCP process to identify and work towards current and future outcomes.
  - Young Adults who are supported by the Learning Disability Young Adults team will move to the appropriate locality Learning Disability Partnership Team for where they live at a time that is suitable to them. This may be when they finish education or when they feel settled in adult life but will be before the age of 25.

## **5. For Young Adults over 18 who may have a need for Adult Social Care Support as they move into Adulthood**

- Our intention is that most young people who need it will have received support in preparing for adulthood before they are 18 and into adulthood.
- However, there may be occasions where this has not happened for young people. They may be new to the area or their need for adult social care support emerges after they have turned 18.
- When this is the case the young person or someone on their behalf can request an assessment via the Contact Centre.
- If eligible they will be allocated to the most appropriate team to meet their needs and receive the support identified above.
- If the young person is not eligible for adult services then the assessing Social Worker must ensure that information and advice about universal services has been provided as well as information about how to request support in the future.

## **6. Preparing for Adulthood Monitoring, Reporting and Development Process**

- There will be a Preparing for Adulthood Development Group
  - 3 times a year
  - Young people, families and carers, service representatives from children's and adult social care, health and education

- To ensure we are all working to our agreed outcomes and keeping to the principles
  - To monitor standards
  - To receive and consider quality assurance feedback reports
  - To identify development areas
  - To review protocol
  - To work together to increase opportunities for young people moving into adulthood"
- The Preparing for Adulthood Protocol gives more details

## **7. Review**

This protocol will be updated and reviewed on an ongoing basis as needed but at least annually.

Please refer to the Preparing for Adulthood section of the Cambridge County Councils Local Offer for the most recent version of this protocol and other documents and information about preparing for adulthood.

[http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20136/special\\_educational\\_needs\\_and\\_disabilities/533/age\\_16\\_-\\_25/2](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20136/special_educational_needs_and_disabilities/533/age_16_-_25/2)

If you have any questions or comments please contact:

Siobhan MacBean  
Service Development for Disabled Children's Social Care Service  
[Siobhan.macbean@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Siobhan.macbean@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)  
01223 699041

Jon Soros  
Countywide Manager Learning Disability Partnership Younger Adults Team  
[Jon.soros@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jon.soros@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)  
01480 372373

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