



Derbyshire Leaving Care Service

Supporting Young People with different needs - Under 21 years of Age

This is a guide to help you as leaving care workers understand how best to support young people with different needs as they approach adulthood. This is guidance used specifically for young people with significant learning disabilities and where it may be confusing to them to have a leaving care worker visit frequently.

It is for young people who already have a robust package of support through children's and/or adult's social care and where it is established that –

- A)** The young person would not specifically understand the role of a leaving care worker, and indeed it may be detrimental to have too many additional visits from another professional.
- B)** Nor would you likely live anywhere other than a specialist staffed home, so your independence needs are already supported by those who care for you.
- C)** There are no unaddressed independence needs for you that are not already met by your family, carers and/or social workers.

If you believe that your young person meets these criteria and that it would not be in their best interests to have regular visits from you, the following would happen once your manager was also in agreement with this approach –

- 1.** It must be agreed between all professionals and significant family members/carers that the young person does not require regular visits undertaken by their allocated leaving care worker. This will not affect the young person's right to have an allocated leaving care worker, but it will mean the support offered is tailored to their specific needs.
- 2.** Leaving Care management oversight is required to agree what the visiting pattern may be, whilst taking in to account the wishes and need of the young person, their children's/adult social worker and any significant family members or carers. This may be recorded in the supervision record or as a specific case note on your file.



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- 3.** You will contact the lead social worker at a minimum every 12 weeks to gain an update and consider whether any changes to the young person's should mean a change in the approach from leaving care. It would need further agreement between everyone should there need to be a change in how the person is supported. However, if nothing has changed the initial approach will continue.
- 4.** You will contact family/carers once every 6 months to gain an update from their point of view and complete a brief pathway plan.
- 5.** You should give the family a copy of the Local Offer for care leavers for their own reference and encourage them to read this, so they understand the rights of their child as a care leaver. You will need to inform the family that they can make requests on behalf of their child but leaving care management permission is required before any agreement is made.
- 6.** The family will also have the contact details for you and for the service, so that they can make contact should they wish to.
- 7.** You are required to inform the family that they can request further support from leaving care at any point. You will be the allocated leaving care worker until the young person turns 21 years old and one month, if eligible for the full service. If the young person is not eligible for the full service or if they are over the age of 21 years, they will have you as their point of contact in the service.
- 8.** You will not need to complete any forms or workflows other than the pathway plan review every 6 months. All information will be recorded on case notes, should the young person wish to access them later.

'It is anticipated that this approach lends itself to meeting young people's specific needs fully and sensitively and that they will still have access to support or advice from the service until they no longer require our support. We will work with the lead professionals, such as social workers and key carers to make sure all of independence needs are met positively.'



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