

FACTSHEET: Transition from Children to Adult Services

Transition from children to adult services can cause considerable stress for families and carers. In order to reduce the stress it is vital that transition planning is started early, at about 14 years, and is a central to any work that is undertaken with the young person and their family. It should centre on the views, wishes and aspirations for the future of the young person and their parents / carers.

Key Issues of Transition

- Change in legal status to becoming an independent adult
- Changes in services being provided to Adult services
- Seamless service provision planning should start early
- Some Health provision may change at 16 years of age
- Education provision may change at 19 years of age
- The young person may experience social isolation, difficulties finding work and tensions with parents /carers

Where there are safeguarding concerns about young adults in transition, the referral should be made to the Adult Safeguarding Services, if there were no previous ongoing safeguarding services in place.

Good practice for transition planning should be based on the principles of self-directed support, and specific service provision which is multi-disciplinary, holistic, planned and provides continuity.

Adult Guardianship

Where a young person subject to a Care order requires Guardianship when they reach adulthood, the Local Authority is responsible for identifying and meeting the needs of the young person.

The Pathway Planning process should address this as early as possible and ensure that it is reviewed regularly. For further details see **chapter 3.1.4** in Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership Procedures.

Disabled young people

Disabled young people have needs relating to their health, social care and education, and these may vary widely depending on the nature of their conditions. The definitions in the 1989 Act and legislation governing provision for disabled adults often differ and have differing thresholds for eligibility for services to Children's Services.

Care leavers with complex needs, including those with disabilities, may transfer direct to adult services and the Pathway Plan must ensure that this transition is seamless and supported. Local authority responsibilities towards disabled care leavers are the same as for all other care leavers.

Services should be responsive to the needs and preferences of a disabled young person in relation to such issues as housing, social networks and isolation, education, employment and leisure.

Joint Protocols

Protocols should be in place and clarify the roles and funding responsibilities of the different agencies. Tracking systems should be in place to ensure that the planning processes are effective from age 14 upwards.

Young people generally transfer from child to adult health services at 16, from child to adult social care services at 18, from school-based education to further education between 16 and 19, and to higher education from 18.