



Centre for Professional Practice

Practice Briefing Note 51

Title:	Pathway Needs Assessments
Effective From:	10th September 2018
Practice Note:	<p>What is a Pathway Needs Assessment?</p> <p>A Pathway Needs Assessment should be completed during a young person's 15th year so that there is a clear pathway plan, focused specifically on the needs the young person as they move towards adulthood.</p> <p>For most young people, planning for adulthood means learning, over time, how to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to live independently. Some young people will need support throughout their adult lives and the assessment should identify what support will be needed to enable them to achieve the maximum degree of independence possible.</p> <p>When should a Pathway Needs Assessment be completed?</p> <p>A Pathway Need Assessment should be completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within 3 months of a young persons' 16th Birthday (15 years and 9 months and no later than 16 years and 3 months).• Within 3 months of becoming looked after – if over 16 at the point of being looked after.• When care leavers re-present over the age of 21. <p>What should the Pathway Needs Assessment include?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health and development needs, including physical, emotional and mental health.• Continuing need for education, training or employment• Support available from family, parents, carers or other the wider network.• The actual and anticipated financial resources and capacity to manage personal finances independently.• The practical skills required for independent living• The need for continuing, care support and accommodation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assessment should include the wishes and feelings of the young person, any parents or carers who have parental responsibility, any educational or training providers, the Independent Reviewing Officer, any health professionals, the personal advisor. <p>When should a Pathway Plan Needs Assessment be updated?</p> <p>A Pathway Needs Assessment should be updated prior to the final Child Looked After Review, before the young person is 18 years old. The Social Worker is responsible for completing this assessment, however it should be completed jointly with the Young Person’s Advisor to support a smooth transition to the Care Leavers Service. The case will not be transferred or accepted by the Care Leavers service without an updated Needs Assessments.</p> <p>If significant events or changes occur between these assessment periods, an updating assessment should be considered.</p>
Reason:	To improve outcomes for children transitioning to adulthood
Adopted at:	Practice
Authorised by:	Darren Shaw (Head of Improvement and PSW)
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