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**Practice Guidance**

**Transitions for Disabled Looked After Children**

Version 1, May 2017

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**Process & Legislation Chart**

This chart shows us which teams should take ownership of the looked after process if the child is within the Life Stages Team. It also shows the overlap of legislation.



**What you need to read…**

*These notes should be read in conjunction with the Children’s procedures for leaving care and disabled children:*

[*http://www.proceduresonline.com/darlington/cs/chapters/p\_leaving\_care.html*](http://www.proceduresonline.com/darlington/cs/chapters/p_leaving_care.html)

[*http://www.proceduresonline.com/darlington/cs/chapters/p\_child\_disability.html*](http://www.proceduresonline.com/darlington/cs/chapters/p_child_disability.html)

**How to do it…**

**Starting a pathway plan** between 15 ¾ and 16 ¼ the **allocated social worker** should start a pathway plan on LCS. This consists of Pathway Plan Parts 1 & 2. Part 1 is the assessment, and Part 2 is the plan. Once the pathway plan is produced, this should be presented to the IRO at the next LAC Review. The IRO will record in the Recs & Decs that the pathway plan is being commenced.

**NB- the responsibility for Pathway Plans 1 & 2 lies with the Life Stages Allocated Social Worker up to 18 years old.**

**Starting a Care & Support Needs Assessment** at 17 years old\*, the allocated social worker should create a child in LAS. A casenote must be added in both LAS and LCS ensuring that the case numbers of both systems are identified for audit purposes. The social worker must then complete an Adult Care & Support Needs Assessment within the transitions pathway. This should then be presented for eligibility clarification by 17 ½.

\*Consent must be sought if the child has capacity for an adult assessment, however if there is no capacity, Best Interests or equivalent must sought before commencing the assessment.

If the child is not deemed eligible for adult social care under the Care Act (2014), the responsibility for the child remains wholly with the LATC team post 18. The case can be closed in LAS.

**NB- if the child is not currently open to Life Stages, but the LATC allocated case worker believes the child may be eligible for an adult care and support needs assessment, this case should be brought to the bi-monthly meeting held between LATC and Life Stages for review.**

**Closing the child off as LAC at 18** at a minimum of 15 days before the child’s 18th birthday, a final LAC Review must take place. On their 18th birthday, the allocated social worker must end the child as being looked after as the Children Act (1989) no longer applies, and the child ceases to become looked after. End the allocated social worker’s involvement, and re-assign to the LATC worker as the allocated case worker. Ensure there is a case note added in LAS that clearly states the child has been ended as looked after, and who the new allocated case worker is within the LATC Team.

**On-going joint casework post-18** the case will now be co-worked in both LCs and LAS, therefore on-going dialogue must take place between both parties as allocated case workers. It is advised when plans are revised, that these are PDF’d and sent to the other allocated case worker, to ensure congruence of the plans and the same story not being having to be told twice.

**NB- If any significant information is received on the client by either allocated social worker, it is advised that this is communicated immediately and case notes recorded in both LCS and LAS that both allocated case workers have been made aware, and the detail of the significant information that has been received.**

**Who to contact for advice**

Please contact the Life Stages 0-25 Manager or the LATC Service Manager for further advice