



St. Helens
Council

Children and Young People's Services

Adult Social Care and Health

Procedures for the Transition of Young People with a Disability From Children's to Adult Social Care Services

Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
2. What is Transition?	3
3.1 Year 9 Review (Age 14 yrs).....	3
3.2 Assessment.....	4
3.3 Funding	4
3.4 Sharing Information.....	5
3.5 Formal Transition from CYPS to ASCH.....	5
3.6 Statutory Responsibilities.....	6

1. Introduction

The transition from childhood to adulthood is probably the most significant change any of us have to make, because when we reach 18 years of age, we are seen by the law to be independent of parent or carer, though we know the practical reality is different for young adults with disabilities/additional needs.

The aim of the Transition process in St. Helens is to help disabled young people make a positive move into adulthood, and get the support they need to move them towards greater independence.

2. What is Transition?

Transition is a widely used term that can be applied to all young people as they move into adulthood. It covers that stage in their lives when most young people develop to become more independent. This will typically include leaving school, perhaps going on into further education, or going into employment or training, and maybe leaving home.

For some young people with special educational needs, having access to timely and comprehensive information and support prior to 18 may be enough to help them reach their goals. For other young people more support may be needed during and beyond the transition period from a range of services to enable them to reach their potential.

The period of transition in St. Helens applies to young people aged 14 -25 years who have special educational needs (SEN) AND those who are also identified as being disabled or with complex health needs. This will include young people with:

- Severe learning disabilities
- Complex physical, sensory and/or social communication impairments
- Complex health needs
- Severe and enduring mental health problems

The Council has a duty to ensure appropriate educational options are available to all young people. The Education and Skills Act (2008) places a duty on all young people in England, to participate in education or training, until the age of 18. The intention is that young people will be able to participate in a way that suits them, for instance, in full time education at school, or college or through an Apprenticeship.

Transition from Children's Services to Adult Services also takes place during this time and inevitably there are going to be differences between the services offered for children and for adults.

3. Procedures

3.1 Year 9 Review (Age 14 yrs)

The year 9 Review is led by Education, and will be attended by the transitions worker from the Children with Disabilities Team (CWD Team). If it is identified that the young person is likely to need support from Adult Social Care in the future, then the transitions worker will begin to complete a combined assessment in the Integrated Children's System (ICS).

The young person and their family/carer will be advised of the transition process at this point, and the identified Lead Person from the Children with Disability Service.

This assessment will be regularly updated, and ultimately passed to the transitions worker in All Age Disability Team by year 11 (age 16yrs), according to the individual circumstances of the case.

Information shared at the Transitions Operation Group will identify if any young person has a significant disability. When this is noted, the transition worker from CWD will discuss this with the transition worker from All Age Disability Team to facilitate co-working as early as possible. The transitions worker from CWD Team however, will still maintain the lead responsibility for the young person.

The year 9 Review is the trigger for the school nurse to develop Health action plans where the young person has a significant disability. These plans will form part of transitions plans. Once plans are developed young people and their families/carers will be encouraged to contribute to keeping them up to date.

3.2 Assessment

The young person and their families/carers will be fully engaged during the assessment processes and will be supported to consider the longer- term options available to them. The assessment will include a realistic analysis of need, and will identify and support the effective management of any risk. At this point the transition worker will examine any services that have previously been commissioned, to determine if they still meet the young person's needs.

Where there are significant health needs that require support from Health Services, a referral will be made to the Continuing Health Care Team (CHC) to ensure those health needs are met.

All professionals and services that support the young person will be consulted during the assessment process to ensure that assessed need is met appropriately. Throughout the process, the young person and their family/carers will be encouraged to contribute and provide information that will be shared across agencies, to support the assessment and care planning processes.

3.3 Funding

A Quality Assurance Panel is in operation to provide clear governance in relation to the rationale for requests for funding pre and post 18.

Young people and their families may be able to commission services directly with the use of a Direct Payment, where appropriate to do so. Information about Personal Budgets is available within the Personal Budgets Guidance.

Where the young person receives Continuing Health Care (CHC) funding, CHC must be informed of the need for future funding at age 14, and a formal referral for screening will be made at age 16.

At age 17, eligibility for adult NHS Continuing Healthcare should be determined in principle, by the relevant CCG, so that effective packages of care can be commissioned in time, for the individual's 18th birthday (As outlined in the National Framework for Continuing Healthcare and NHS funded Nursing Care 2012).

3.4 Sharing Information

Information leaflets will be made available to young people and their carers at the year 9 Review, to guide them through the transitions process. These will include key telephone numbers and Frequently Asked Questions. St Helens local offer includes access to information about the transition process.

The young person and their family/carers will be consulted about, and informed of information being shared with partner agencies throughout this process.

Information about young people within the transition process, will be shared with adult transitions workers, at the Transition Operations Group, which will be held quarterly, and be chaired by the Team Manager for CWD. This will enable practitioners to identify people with a significant disability, to ensure timely co-working. Information will also be made available to Young People about educational options.

3.5 Formal Transition from CWD to the All-Age Disability Team

The Worker from the CWD team will attend all school reviews from year 9 – 11, (ages 14 – 16years). Those young people identified for ongoing Adult Social Care, must have a current combined assessment that will be shared with the transitions worker in the All Age Disability Team, at least one month before the young person's 16th birthday. Both transitions workers will have knowledge of the young person, and the adult transition worker may have already become involved.

At this point, the young person and their family/carers will be advised that the All Age Team now have lead case management responsibility. All statutory responsibility for the young person will remain with Children's Social Care until that young person reaches 18 years.

A referral will be made to the Contact Centre, so that details can be added to the Integrated Adults System (IAS). The assessment and care planning process will formally transfer to the IAS. Where there are remaining statutory responsibilities for Children's Services information will continue to be recorded in ICS but cross referenced in IAS also.

Workers will continue to regularly update their assessment and case summary. This information will be key in the transition process. A fully updated assessment and case summary must be in place for transfer to Adult Services.

When it is identified that the young person will require funding post 18, there must be immediate referral to the appropriate funding panel, to ensure an 'in principle' agreement is given, no less than 3 months prior to their 18th birthday.

3.6 Statutory Responsibilities

Where there are inherent statutory responsibilities, they will be fulfilled by the CWD Team and recorded in ICS, with continued case management support from the All Age Disability Team. This will include;

- Section 47, Child Protection Investigations (the responsibility of CYPS).
- Child Protection statutory visits and reviews; (these will be conducted by a social worker from the CWD team)
- Looked After Children reviews; (these will be chaired by the Independent Reviewing Officers, but attended by the transitions worker from the All Age Disability Team).
- Children on residential breaks; (their statutory visits will be conducted by a social worker from the CWD Team).
- Children Leaving Care; (their contact and reviews will be conducted by a social worker from the CWD Team).

For young people under the age of 18, the St Helens Local Safeguarding Children's Board Multi Agency Policy and Procedures will apply. For young people over the age of 18, the St Helens Multi Agency Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures will apply.

Details of any young person in transition over the age of 16 years, who the council has statutory responsibility for, will be stored within a Transitions section on ICS, to ensure all statutory functions are fulfilled.

The Council has a duty to ensure appropriate educational options are available to all young people. The Education and Skills Act (2008) places a duty on all young people in England, to participate in education or training, until the age of 18. The intention is that young people will be able to participate in a way that suits them, for instance, in full time education at school, or college, through an Apprenticeship, or in part time learning, if they are also working or volunteering full time.

Once the young person reaches 18 years, Adult Social Care and Health has duties outlined in the NHS and Community Care Act 1990, to complete an assessment of needs and provide a service to meet those needs identified as eligible.

Consideration should also be given with regards to the Mental Capacity Act, the principles of which apply to young people from the age of 16 and the Deprivation of Liberty Standards which apply to young people from the age of 18 years, and should be considered as part of the transition process.

There will be quarterly meetings of both the Operational and Strategic Transition Groups, to ensure the Transitions process continues to meet the needs of St Helens disabled young people.