



Adult Social Care Transition Policy Statement

June 2023



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1. Introduction

This policy statement sets out how services should work together to identify *as soon as possible*, those children and their families who may need support to prepare for adulthood and to support their long-term aspirations. It focuses on young people who are likely to have eligible social care needs at 18 based on the Care Act 2014 eligibility criteria.

As children and young people approach adulthood, they are thinking about their aspirations for the future. If young people are likely to have eligible care and support needs when they turn 18, early joint planning is needed to maximise the gains that can be achieved before and after transfer from Children's Services to Adult Services.

This policy statement is based on the principals of the [Preparing for Adulthood programme](#) (delivered by the National Development Team for Inclusion). The County Council's Transition Service support the following four approaches to ensure young people with special educational needs and disabilities have improved life chances.

- **Personalised approach** to all aspects of support using person centred practices, personal budgets and building communities.
- **A shared Lancashire vision** of improving life chances with young people, families and all key partners.
- **Improved post-18 and support options** developed that lead to employment, independent living, good health, friends, relationships, and community inclusion; and
- **Raised aspirations** for a fulfilling adult life, by sharing clear information about what has already worked for others.

2. Policy Statement aim

This policy statement aims to:

1. Enable a smooth transition to adulthood for young people and their families, ensuring that there are no gaps in support.
2. Incorporate person-centred planning into transition planning, enabling choice and control in future planning with young people.
3. Clarify the process, roles, and responsibilities to enable a co-ordinated and transparent approach, monitored across partners at both an operational and strategic level.
4. Improve the outcomes achieved by young people in relation to the four Preparing for Adulthood Themes.
 - Employment
 - Independent Living
 - Community Inclusion
 - Health



It also aims to ensure all Lancashire County Council staff involved in the care and support of young people (between the ages of 13 and 25) are aware of the council's responsibility under the Care Act 2014 in carrying out their duties.

3. Principles of good Transition

The overarching principle for young people preparing for adulthood is that support should be:

"Based on what disabled young people say is important to them. Ultimately, young people want to have full lives with choices about their future and control of their support."

Preparing for Adulthood website.

Both the [Children and Families Act 2014](#) and the [Care Act 2014](#) place duties on Local Authorities regarding arrangements for young people with care and support needs in preparing for adulthood. These two pieces of legislation capture the principles of personalisation, inclusion, participation, and co-production.

Through our work with young people and their families, Lancashire County Council will ensure that:

- Young people are supported to make their own choices in planning for their future.
- Young people are placed at the centre of decision making so that any plans reflect their wishes and best interests.
- Young people and their parents or carers are provided with good information throughout, both about what to expect as they approach adulthood and the range of options for the future.
- Young people and their circle of support are fully involved in planning.
- Information is gathered from all the agencies involved in supporting the young person to develop a comprehensive plan.
- Young people are supported to develop skills to be as independent as possible; and
- High quality data is provided in relation to projected needs across Lancashire in order to ensure that commissioners have the information they need to develop services which reflect local needs.

[The Children \(Leaving Care\) Act 2000](#), is intended to improve and strengthen the process for all looked after young people, and to also help meet the needs of young people who are disabled, looked after, and approaching adulthood.

Where a young person is looked after they are likely to have specific needs in relation to accommodation and post 16 support and plans to assess and meet these needs must be made in a separate pathway plan. In Lancashire, 'looked after' children and young people are referred to as 'Children in Our Care'. The role of the Transition Service for children who are in the care of Lancashire County Council will be to ensure that their social care needs are assessed in good time to make robust person-centred plans for their 18th birthday.



4. Transition in Lancashire

Eligibility for Support from the Transition Service.

The Transition Service is a specialist team working with young people between 14 and 19 years old.

The young people who require support with transition planning are those likely to have eligible Care Act needs on turning 18 and are also likely to have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). There may be exceptions in relation to the EHCP element of this criterion which will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Where the Transition Service becomes aware of a young person meeting the eligibility criteria, the Transition Service will begin planning with young people from Year 9 in line with Preparing for Adulthood.

If the Transition Service is unable to accept a referral, they will explain the reason for this decision in writing and provide signposting to the referrer in relation to universal or preventative services- this may be via the [Council's Local Offer](#).

The Transition Service are able to receive referrals from a number of sources including Children's Social Care, SEND Service and schools. Young people and families may also self-refer for a Transition Assessment. Information on how to do so will be included on the [Local Offer](#).

Support Provided by the Transition Service

Following contact around School Year 9, young people eligible for support from the Transition Service, can expect to receive further contact from the Transition Service around Year 11 (15-16 years old) for Children in Our Care, to support completion of the Pathway Plan.

Further contact from the Transition Service will usually occur during Year 13 (17-18 years old) for completion of the Transition Assessment and Support Planning.

The Transition Service will remain in contact with young people still in education during Year 14, to support planning for any new social care arrangements required for young people leaving school.

The Transition Service will cease its involvement with young people no later than the Summer following their 19th birthday. Responsibility for Social Care will then transfer to the most suitable Adult Social Care Team.

Transition Assessment (Care Act)



The Transition Service will complete a Transition Assessment where there is likely to be significant benefit to the young person and where the young person is likely to have social care needs.

Eligibility for adult social care services is determined by the Care Act 2014 criteria. If the current level of needs indicates that it is not likely that the young person will have needs for care and support, then a referral to adult services will not be made by children's services. There may be other services available to these young people and their carers. More information about other services can be found on the Local Offer website.

The Transition Assessment will be completed at the point in time when there is significant benefit in doing so, based on the specific circumstances of the young person. This will usually be after the young person's 17th birthday but must allow sufficient time for any necessary services to be identified and arranged. In the case of young people likely to need Supported Living or complex packages of support, the Transition Service will seek to identify these needs prior to 17 to support effective commissioning of services.

The Transition Assessment will be used to clearly identify the strengths, needs and aspirations of the young person and to plan resources and commission services.

The Transition Assessment will specifically focus on:

- current needs for care and support and how these impact on wellbeing
- whether the young person or carer is likely to have needs for care and support after the young person in question becomes 18
- If so, what those needs are likely to be, and which are likely to be eligible needs
- the outcomes the young person or carer wishes to achieve, their aspirations for the future and how they might be supported to achieve them
- The Transition Assessment will give an indication of which needs for care and support are likely to meet the Care Act eligibility criteria once the young person turns 18, so that the young person understands the care and support they are likely to receive and the differences in the way support is provided for adults and children.
- Where the assessment identifies that there are no eligible needs, this will be stated clearly in the assessment and the young person will be informed of other potential sources of support available via the Lancashire Local Offer.

Eligibility for Provision of Services following Assessment

The Care Act indicates that an adult meets the eligibility criteria for provision of services if:

- a) Their needs arise from, or are related to, a physical or mental impairment or illness; and
- b) As a result, they are unable to achieve two or more of the outcomes specified below; and
- c) As a consequence, there is, or is likely to be, a significant impact on the adult's wellbeing.



The specified outcomes referred to in bullet point b) are:

Managing and maintaining nutrition	Maintaining a habitable home environment
Maintaining personal hygiene	Developing and maintaining family or other personal relationships
Managing toilet needs	Accessing and engaging in work, training, education or volunteering
Being appropriately clothed	Making use of necessary facilities or services in the local community including public transport, and recreational facilities or services
Being able to make use of the adult's home safely	Carrying out any caring responsibilities the adult has for a child

Wellbeing relates to:

Personal dignity	Participation in work, education, training or recreation
Physical or mental health	Social and economic wellbeing
Emotional wellbeing	Domestic, family, and personal relationships
Protection from abuse and neglect	Suitability of accommodation and the adult's contribution to society
Control/autonomy	

Support Planning

Following the Transition Assessment, a Support Plan will be produced for those young people with eligible Social Care Needs. The Support Plan will specify how the needs identified will be met (once the young person has transferred to adult services). This may include Council funded services and those which do not require specific funding as well as support provided by informal carers (family and friends).

The Personal Budget available to meet the young person's support needs will be detailed within the Support Plan.

Complex Health Needs

Responsibility for the transition process and outcome lies with [Continuing Health Care \(CHC\)](#)- Children's Services for young people with complex health needs. The NHS CHC also has a responsibility to notify the Transition Service and the relevant Integrated Care Board (ICB) when such a young person turns 14.

The Transition Service will complete a CHC checklist at the age of 16 with young people who it appears are likely to be eligible for NHS Continuing Health Care. As soon as practicable after the young person's 17th birthday, eligibility for adult NHS Continuing Healthcare should be determined in principle by the relevant ICB, so that, wherever applicable, effective packages of care can be commissioned in time for the individual's 18th birthday.

Following the Transition Assessment, the Transition Service will complete a Support Plan illustrating the identified needs of the young person and how those needs will be met including any commissioned services as well as universal services.



Working with other services

The Transition Service will gather and share information with council colleagues to support planning and commissioning of support services and the development of specialist housing.

The Transition Service will work with paediatric and adult health services to ensure a joined-up approach to meeting needs. This will always be done with consent or in accordance with Best Interest principles where young people lack capacity to consent.

5. Carers and Young Carers' Assessments

Lancashire County Council acknowledges the importance of the carer's role. All carers are entitled to an assessment which will identify the carers' needs regarding their:

- Ability to care effectively and safely.
- To make use of IT and assistive technology.
- To make choices about their own lives, for example managing care and paid employment.
- Ability to find support and services available in their area; and
- To access the advice, information and support they need including information and advice on welfare benefits and other financial information and about entitlement to carers' assessments.

Adult Services has a published [eligibility criteria for carers](#), as defined in the Care Act 2014 for access to services, and use a person-centred approach throughout, involving the carer and supporting them to have choice and control.

[Lancashire Young Carers](#) (Barnardo's) assess all Young Carers who are under the age of 18 who provide regular and ongoing care and emotional support to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances and are significantly affected by their caring role.

6. Advocacy

The Care Act 2014 gives eligible people the right to advocacy support under certain circumstances if they have "substantial difficulty" being involved in arrangements for their care and support and have no-one else to support them. **This includes people in transition.**

[The Lancashire Advocacy Hub](#) (for adult non-carers), [Carers Count](#) (for adult carers) the [National Youth Advocacy Service](#) (for young people) provide support to people and their families when the county council or its commissioned providers are:

- Preparing care and support plans.
- Reviewing care and support plans.
- Carrying out a carer's assessment.
- Preparing support plans (carers).
- Reviewing support plans (carers).



- Carrying out a Child and Family Assessment or Early Help Assessment
- Carrying out child's carer's assessment.
- Carrying out young carer's assessment; and
- Where a safeguarding alert has been raised.

These services can also support people to make a complaint about health and social care services and – if people struggle to understand information, advice and guidance about interacting with these services more generally – these services can provide help and support.

7. Consent, Mental Capacity & Best Interest Decisions

The Transition Service will seek to establish the consent of the young person and their carer(s) in relation to the transition process and any adult social care support that is arranged. Once a young person reaches the age of 16, they have the right to make their own choices; this includes decisions about where they would like to live; how and by whom their care and support will be provided; and who will manage their finances.

The [Mental Capacity Act 2005](#) (which applies to people aged 16 or over) is clear that services must assume everyone has capacity until assessed otherwise on a balance of probability. If a professional or carer has concerns that a young person does not have the capacity to make a decision because they cannot understand, retain, weigh up and communicate information to enable them to make an informed choice, then [a Capacity Assessment must be completed](#).

Where there is reason to doubt the capacity of any person in contact with the Transition Service an assessment of Mental Capacity will be completed for those 16 years of age and older. For young people below the age of 16 the relevant test will be that of [Gillick competence](#).

As Mental Capacity is decision specific, more than one assessment may be required as some young people will be making several decisions at this point in their lives.

The Transition Service will ensure that young people are supported to make decisions about their future as far as they are able to do so. Where a young person is assessed as lacking capacity in relation to a specific decision, any decisions made will be in the young person's best interests, following the principles of the [Mental Capacity Act](#). The Transition Service will ensure that the voice of the young person is heard, making use of advocacy when required, and that the young person's needs and wishes are central to any decisions made.

The person completing a capacity assessment should be the person best placed to do so. Where this relates to proposed social care support arrangements from 18 this will usually be the Transition Service.

Capacity assessments and best interest decisions for arrangements prior to 18 will remain the responsibility of the relevant Children and Young People's service(s).



Young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities, will be supported to make their own decisions about their education where possible in line with sections 8.13 to 8.19 of the [SEND Code of Practice](#).

8. Court of Protection

The Court of Protection is a specialist court which makes financial and health and welfare decisions on behalf of people who lack capacity to make those decisions for themselves.

The Court can also give these powers to someone else such as relative or close friend who can manage their loved one's affairs. This usually happens if there is a need to make decisions on a long-term basis. If the Court gives these powers to someone else, they are called a deputy.

The council will ensure that the adult care arrangements it makes for young people in transition are made in accordance with the council's Policy on [Court of Protection applications](#) and Liberty Protection Safeguards when introduced. Where there is a need for authorisation by the Court of Protection for a proposed support plan being developed by the Transition Service, they will make this application with support from LCC Legal Services

9. Diversity

All support services provided by the council under the terms of this policy will take into account all factors of ethnicity, religion or belief, language, gender/sex identity, sexuality, culture and disability.

This Policy is subject to the council's procedure for Equality Impact Assessment has been reviewed in accordance. (See point 16).

10. Preparing for Adulthood

Preparing for Adulthood is a term used to describe the process of moving from childhood into adulthood. Young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) should have equal life chances as they move into adulthood.

Consideration should be given to Preparation for Adulthood throughout a child or young person's life but particular focus is given to this from Year 9 (13 or 14 years old). It may continue beyond the age of 19, for some young people, if it is considered that they require a longer period in education or training to achieve their outcomes and make an effective transition. Transition support from other agencies, such as supported employment, may continue until the young person is 25.

Where the Transition Service are involved with a young person who is supported by Children's Social Care or the Child and Family Wellbeing Service, the allocated workers from both services will collaborate and share information to support the young person and their family



through the assessment and transition period. The allocated Transition Worker will be invited to relevant reviews or planning meetings and the young person's allocated worker from Children's Social Care or the Child and Family Wellbeing Service will ensure they maintain appropriate communication with the Transition Worker, keeping them up to date with any relevant changes to the circumstances of the young person and their family and their plan of support, so that this can be taken into consideration in the young person's Transition assessment and support planning.

For children and young people with EHCP, all reviews of the plan from Year 9 onwards must include a focus on preparing for adulthood, including employment, independent living and participation in society. This transition planning is built into the EHCP review processes and, where relevant, will also include effective planning for young people moving from Children's Services to Adult Social Care and Health services. The views, wishes and feelings of the young person will be a key part of the process and will inform planning and decision making in relation to this young person's future needs

In most cases, annual review meetings will be held at the educational institution attended by the young person, the school or college are best placed to host a review meeting as they know the young person well and will have the clearest information about possible next steps and will therefore ensure that the appropriate people involved with planning for the young person are invited to make sure there is a wide discussion covering all the areas important to them. Other arrangements will be put in place where a child or young person is not attending an educational institution where appropriate.

Preparing for adulthood planning review of the EHCP should include support:

- to prepare for higher education and / or employment. This should include identifying appropriate post-16 pathways that will lead to these outcomes. Training options such as supported internships apprenticeships and traineeships should be discussed. The review should also cover support in finding a job, and learning how to do a job (for example, through work experience opportunities or the use of job coaches) and help in understanding any welfare benefits that might be available when in work
- to prepare for independent living, including exploring what decisions young people want to take for themselves and planning their role in decision making as they become older. Local housing options, support in finding accommodation, housing benefits and social care support should be explained to inform discussions about where the child or young person wants to live in the future, who they want to live with and what support they will need.
- in maintaining good health in adult life, including effective planning with health services of the transition from specialist paediatric services to adult health care. Helping children and young people understand which health professionals will work with them as adults, ensuring those professionals understand the young person's learning difficulties or disabilities and planning well-supported transitions is vital to ensure young people are as healthy as possible in adult life
- in participating in society, including understanding mobility and transport support, and how to find out about social and community activities, and opportunities for engagement in local decision-making. This also includes



support in developing and maintaining friendships and relationship SEND CofP 0-25 Statutory Guidance 2015

When a young person is nearing the end of their time in formal education, annual reviews will consider good exit planning. EHCP processes will support the young person to make a smooth transition to whatever they will be doing next and which could include moving on to higher education, employment, independent living or adult care. Some young people with EHCP may need longer in education or training to achieve their outcomes and make effective transition into adulthood. However, this does not mean there is an automatic entitlement that those with an EHCP should remain in education until age 25.

11. Safeguarding

Although everyone has the right to refuse an assessment, Lancashire County Council must undertake an assessment if it suspects that a young person is at risk of abuse or neglect.

The Named Transition Worker and/or allocated social worker, carrying out tasks in line with this policy, must remain mindful of their responsibilities to adhere to the policies and procedures of the council in respect of [Safeguarding Adults](#) and [Safeguarding Children](#).

12. Transfer from the Youth Offending Service

Where the Transition Service is involved with young people who are in custody or on a community order and are required to work with the [Youth Offending Service](#), from the age of 17 the Named Transition Worker will seek to involve Adult Probation Services in planning for the young person's transfer to adult services. Depending on the young person's needs, this will usually happen at 18 but could be later.

13. Transition to Adult Healthcare

For young people with long-term health conditions, active transition planning should start at age 14. The exact timing of transition from children to adolescent or adult health services varies from person to person and service to service, but most young people's care is transferred to adult health services between 16 and 19.



14. Definitions

Assessment: This refers to a needs assessment and can apply to a young carer’s assessment, and a young person’s carer’s assessment. The term used for all three is an adult assessment, which may also be referred to as a transition assessment or Care Act assessment.

Carer: An adult carer of a young person preparing for adulthood, this is the equivalent to the term ‘child’s carer’.

Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP): An EHCP is a plan for children and young people aged up to 25 who need more support than is available through [special educational needs \(SEN\) support](#). It is a legal document that describes their special educational, health and social care needs and explains the extra support that will be provided to help meet those needs and how this will help them to make progress and achieve their goals. More information can be found on Lancashire’s Local Offer at [EHCP - Lancashire County Council](#).

Mental Capacity – is the ability to understand information and make decisions about your life. It can also mean the ability to communicate decisions about your life. Capacity to make a decision can vary depending on the time that the decision needs to be made and the type of decision you need to make.

NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC): NHS continuing healthcare is the name given to a package of care that is arranged and funded solely by the NHS for individuals who are not in hospital and have been assessed as having a "primary health need". To be eligible for NHS continuing healthcare you must be over 18 and have substantial and ongoing care needs. You must have been assessed as having a "primary health need".

Person Centred Planning: When professionals support a person to live independently, to express their views, and to make choices and decisions, with assistance as needed.

Strengths based approach to care: When the person requesting support and professional work together to determine an outcome that draws on the persons strengths and assets to enable them to be in charge of their own lives.

Significant benefit: An assessment must be conducted for all those who have likely needs (see above); the timing of this assessment will depend on when it is of significant benefit to the young person or carer. This will generally be at the point when their needs for care and support as an adult can be predicted reasonably confidently.

Transition: Moving on from being a child to becoming an adult and this includes the transfer from children’s services to adult services where care and support may be through different health, therapy and adult teams.

Young Carer: A young carer under 18 themselves preparing for adulthood.

Young Person: Person under 18 with care and support needs who is approaching transition, rather than the legal term “child”.



15. Legal context

<p>POLICY PROCEDURE AND GUIDANCE (PPG) DOCUMENTS</p>	<p><u>Resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>A quality- and rights-based framework for professionals involved in education, health and care plans (EHCPs) for disabled children and young people (RIP STARS 2018)</u> • <u>Building independence through planning for transition (NICE and SCIE 2017)</u> • <u>Extending personal adviser support to all care leavers to age 25: statutory guidance for local authorities (Department for Education 2018)</u> • <u>Knowledge and skills statement for social workers in adult services (Department of Health 2015)</u> • <u>Mental health service transitions for young people (SCIE, 2011)</u> • <u>The young person's guide to the Children and Families Act 2014 (Department for Education 2014)</u> • <u>Transition from children's to adults' services: QS140 (NICE 2016)</u> <p><u>Tools</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Transitions in mental health care: a guide for health and social care professionals on the legal framework for the care, treatment and support of young people with emotional and psychological problems during their transition years (Young Minds 2011)</u> • Working Families Downloadable Guides for Parents and Carers of Dependants with a Disability - Working Families • Transition Guides (councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk) • <u>Queen's Nursing Institute transitions from children to adult community services e-learning (Queen's Nursing Institute)</u> • <u>Strengths-based approach: practice framework and practice handbook (Department of Health and Social Care 2019)</u> • <u>My own place! Transition planning for housing (National Development Team for Inclusion 2012)</u> • <u>Person centred approaches in transition (Sanderson 2012)</u> • <u>Putting people at the heart of social work: lessons from the named social worker Programme (Innovation Unit & SCIE 2018)</u> • <u>The preparing for adulthood review: a good practice toolkit (Preparing for Adulthood 2015)</u>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Transition from child and adolescent to adult mental services: a young person's perspective</u> (SCIE 2017)
<p>LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Care Act 2014</u> (HM Government, 2014) • <u>Care and support statutory guidance</u> (Department of Health and Social Care, 2018) • <u>Care and support statutory guidance: Chapter 16. Transition to adult care and support</u> (Department of Health & Social Care 2018) • <u>Children Act 2004</u> (HM Government, 2004) • <u>Children and Families Act 2014</u> (HM Government, 2014) • <u>Guide to the Care Act 2014 and the implications for providers</u> (Local Government Association, 2015) • <u>Human Rights Act 1998</u> (HM Government, 1998) • <u>Mental Capacity Act 2005</u> (Department of Health, 1998) • <u>Mental Health Act 1983: code of practice</u> (Department of Health, 2015) • <u>Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years: statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities</u> (Department for Education and Department of Health 2015) • <u>Working together to safeguard children: a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children</u> (HM Government 2018)



16. Equalities

The Equality Act, 2010 requires Lancashire County Council to have "due regard" to the needs of groups with protected characteristics when carrying out all its functions, as a service provider and an employer. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender identity/gender reassignment, sex/gender, race/ethnicity/nationality, religion or belief, pregnancy or maternity, sexual orientation and marriage or civil partnership status.

The main aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty are:

- To eliminate discrimination, harassment, or victimisation of a person because of protected characteristics.
- To advance equality of opportunity between groups who share protected characteristics and those who do not share them. This includes encouraging participation in public life of those with protected characteristics and taking steps to ensure that disabled people can participate in activities/processes.
- Fostering good relations between groups who share protected characteristics and those who do not share them/community cohesion.

It is anticipated that the Transition Policy Statement will support the County Council in meeting the above aims when applied in a person-centred, objective and fair way which includes, where appropriate, ensuring that relevant factors relating to a person's protected characteristics are included as part of the process.

More information can be found on the Equality and Cohesion intranet site on <http://lccintranet2/corporate/web/?siteid=5580&pageid=30516>



POLICY VERSION CONTROL

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