



Transitions Policy

Children's Services to Adult Services

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Policy aim

This policy aims to:

- ▶ Promote the wellbeing of our population, especially the most vulnerable; and ensure that all children and young people have the chance to achieve their full potential.
- ▶ Build effective joint working between Children's Services and Adult Services, which creates a smooth transition between services supporting young people to prepare for adulthood, by focusing on independence and achieving their potential.
- ▶ Meet Borough of Poole's new statutory responsibilities.

The policy applies to young people who live in Poole and those who are looked after out of Poole and are the responsibility of Borough of Poole.

- ▶ Borough of Poole Adult Services will work closely with Children's Services, including education and other stakeholders throughout the transition stage for those likely to have eligible needs and will carry out an assessment to take place at the most appropriate time for the young person and their family.
- ▶ In order to achieve a smooth transition, all agencies must ensure that they are planning with the young person and their parents and carers in preparation for these changes.

What we mean by 'transition':

There are many transitions in a young person's life, but in this policy we are primarily but not exclusively referring to the move that young people who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) make between Children's Services and Adult Services.

The term Transition to adulthood is not defined in current legislation; however it can be defined as:

- ▶ Moving on from being a child to becoming an adult
- ▶ The transfer to an adult environment where they [young people] may need to consult several different health teams, therapy teams, and Adult Services
- ▶ The planned, purposeful movement of adolescents and young adults from child-centred to adult-orientated health care systems as distinct from a single chronological event
- ▶ The point at which young people move from children's to adult services

Who we mean when we talk about 'young people':

Within the policy we have used the term 'young people' to refer to those between the ages of 13 and 25.

Borough of Poole's guiding principles for effective transitions to adulthood are:

- ▶ Early planning
- ▶ Holistic assessment, planning and review
- ▶ Active involvement of young people and their families
- ▶ Raising aspirations and focusing on key life chances
- ▶ Provision of information and advocacy
- ▶ Flexibility in transfer arrangements i.e. arrangements may need to continue over a period of years
- ▶ Integrated streamlined assessment and planning processes across all agencies

Partnerships

Borough of Poole is committed to strong partnership working throughout the transition process.

Equalities

Borough of Poole is committed to promoting equality and celebrating diversity in our town, our services and our workplace and this is set out in the Council's 'Fairness for All' Policy.

Information Governance

Borough of Poole fully endorses and adheres to the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Legal framework

There are key legislative drivers which affect this policy:

The Children and Families Act 2014 introduces a system of support extending from birth to 25 years of age.

The Care Act 2014 places a duty to conduct transition assessments for children, children's carers and young carers where there is a likely need for care and support after the child in question turns 18 years of age and where a transition assessment would be of 'significant benefit'.

This creates a group of young people who will be entitled to support through both pieces of legislation.

A key theme that cuts across the Care Act 2014 and the Children and Families Act 2014 is the importance of robust preparation for adulthood. Preparation for adulthood needs to start early; with the engagement of adult services beginning well before a child/young person approaches the end of their education. Educational outcomes focusing on independence should be set from a very young age.

The Children and Families Act 2014

The Children and Families Act transforms the system for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or a Disability (SEND).

Key expectations include:

- ▶ The importance of participation and engagement, and the embedding of person centred approaches to ensure that the aspirations of children and young people and their families are at the heart of planning.
- ▶ A strong focus on outcomes, including key outcomes that are important to the child / young person and their family.
- ▶ Creativity in determining how best to meet agreed outcomes.
- ▶ The possibility of continuing to access educational provision up to age 25, where such provision will continue to provide ongoing learning opportunities.
- ▶ The development of a Local Offer of support for children and young people with SEND.
- ▶ An emphasis on joint commissioning of services to ensure that provision in the local area fully meets the needs of those with SEND.
- ▶ An extension of the use of personal budgets including, if applicable, those related to education.

The SEND Code of Practice outlines guidance to enable:

- ▶ Children and young people with the most complex special educational needs to continue to access education provision, if progress in identified outcomes are key, until age 25, (it should be noted that this is not a right) through an Education Health and Care Plan;

- ▶ Those who are eligible, Adult Services (ASC) and Continuing Health Care (CHC) needs are explored and provision is jointly agreed;
- ▶ Improved cooperation and integration between all services responsible for providing education and / or health or social care;
- ▶ Where possible, parents/carers, and children and young people have wider choice and control over their support;
- ▶ The workforce supporting to be appropriately skilled, trained, supervised and supported to effectively fulfil their role.

The Care Act 2014

Part 1 of the Care Act provides a single, modern framework for care and support. It reforms how the law works, prioritising individual wellbeing for adults with care and support needs over the age of 18, with a particular focus on person centred practice and outcomes, putting people in control of their care and support.

The Care Act contains provision to help preparation into adulthood for three particular groups of people; children (young person under 18), young carers and child's carers. A transition assessment is to provide young people and their families with information so that they know what to expect in the future and can prepare for adulthood.

There is no set age when young people reach the point where a transition assessment should be completed; every young person and their family are different, and as such transition assessments should take place when it is most appropriate for them.

There should be a focus on the following outcomes

Duty to promote wellbeing, including:

- ▶ Control by the individual over day-to-day life (including care and support, or support, provided to the individual and the way in which it is provided);
- ▶ Participation in work, education, training or recreation;
- ▶ Social and economic wellbeing;
- ▶ Domestic, family and personal relationships;
- ▶ Suitability of living accommodation;
- ▶ The individual's contribution to society.

Assessment Duties

The Care Act 2014 requires Borough of Poole to:

- ▶ Carry out a transition assessment for young people with special educational needs, who have an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan from year 9.
- ▶ Carry out an Assessment for young people over 18;
- ▶ Produce a Care and Support plan for anyone over 18 where eligible needs are identified;
- ▶ Carry out a Child's Needs Assessment (CNA) if there is likely to be care and support needs post-18;
- ▶ Carry out a CNA at a time when it is of significant benefit to the young person's preparation for adulthood (CNA can be requested by young people or parents/carers at any age);
- ▶ Ensure that Adult Needs Assessments carried out for individuals over the age of 18 include a personal budget;
- ▶ Carry out Child's Carer's Needs Assessment and Young Carer's Needs Assessment where there is "likely need" for support post-18 and when it is of "significant benefit";
- ▶ Where there are safeguarding matters or concerns apparent these will be addressed through safeguarding protocols that are already in place;
- ▶ Ensure that case management responsibilities remain with the allocated professional within children's services until the individual reaches their 18th birthday.

A Carer's Assessment must include an assessment of:

- ▶ Whether the carer is able, and is likely to continue to be able, to provide care and whether the carer is willing to do so;
- ▶ The outcomes that the carer wishes to achieve in day-to-day life;
- ▶ Whether, and if so to what extent, the provision of support could contribute to the achievement of those outcomes.

Scope of policy

This is a joint policy that applies to all staff within Children's Services and Adult Services and for the young people who are residents of the Borough of Poole and their families.

Definitions

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

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

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

Young person or carer: Used as a general term when something applies to all three groups

Transition assessment: Each group has their own specific transition assessment respectively; a needs assessment, a young carer's assessment, and a child's carer's assessment. The term used for all three is 'transition assessment'.

Education Health and Care Plan (EHC): Education, Health and Care plans are replacing Statements of Special Educational Needs and Learning Difficulty Assessments (S139a) and local authorities are required to consider any new requests for an assessment of special educational needs and co-ordinate services around your child under new legislation. EHC plans aim to put a child or young person aged between 0-25 and their parents at the centre of decision making.

Child's Needs Assessment (CNA): The Care Act provides that a 'child's needs assessment' must be carried out where it appears likely that a child will have needs for care and support after reaching age of 18. The assessment must be carried out "where it would be of significant benefit to the child".

Likely need: The duty to conduct a transition assessment applies when someone is likely to have needs for care and support (or support as a carer) under the Care Act when they or the person they care for transitions to the adult system.

Significant benefit: A transition assessment must be conducted for all those who have likely needs (see above); however 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.

Outcome based planning: provides a way of helping a person plan all aspects of their life, thus ensuring that the individual remains central to the creation of any plan which will affect them.

Education to age 25: the extension of education to the age of 25 is not a right and is not intended as a potential alternative to care or as a means to fill gaps in other services. Education should only continue where there is clear evidence that it will make a positive difference to outcomes for the young person.

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".

References and related information

(this is not an exhaustive list)

Care Act 2014, Department of Health

Children Act 1989 (as amended), section 17, Department for Education

Children and Families Act 2014, Department of Education

Statutory Guidance: Special Educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years, Department for Education

Leaving Care Act 2000

Mental Capacity Act 2005

Equality Act 2010

Skills for Care

College of Social Workers

Borough of Poole Adult Services Policy

Self Directed Support (SDS) Policy and Guidance

Wellbeing Standard

Prevention Standard

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