

Children's Transition to Adult Social Care

Council services for adults are different from those for children. Moving from childhood into adulthood is a very important stage in a young person's life because they need to make plans for their future care arrangements which will help them live as independently as possible.

This factsheet gives you information about moving ('transition') from the Children's Disability Service to Adult Social Care.

'Care and support' is the help some people need to live as well as possible with any illness, disability or impairment they may have. It can include help with things like washing and dressing yourself, preparing and eating meals, getting out and about, and keeping in touch with friends and family.

This is one of a range of factsheets about adult care and support (details on page 4). This factsheet should be read alongside the factsheets that cover:

- Getting care and support (explains how we help people over the age of 18 to get care and support to remain independent, safe and well, including details of how we decide if you are eligible to receive care and support from us)
- Planning and organising your care and support (this factsheet tells you how we help people over the age of 18 with eligible care and support needs to plan and organise the care and support they need to remain independent, safe and well)

When will I have my transition assessment?

You will have a transition assessment if you are likely to have care and support needs after you are 18. If you are supported by the Children's Disability Service, the assessment will usually happen when you are 17 although planning for the future will start as part of reviewing your Education, Health and Care Plan (previously called an Educational Statement) at age 14.

You, or someone acting on your behalf (for example a parent or carer), can ask the Council for a transition assessment, whether or not you currently receive services from the Children's Disability Service.

Most (but not all) young people who will need care and support after they are 18 will already receive services from the Council. Examples of when you may not yet receive support now but will do after you are 18 include if:

- You have a degenerative condition
- Your needs have largely been met by your school (for example, if you are autistic) but you may need alternative support when you leave school.

Although most assessments happen at age 17, there is no set age that you have to be to be able to ask for an assessment – this means that we can take each individual's circumstances into account when deciding when an assessment should be carried out. This flexibility recognises that the best time to plan the move into adult care and support services will be different for each person.

The timing of the assessment and move into adult care and support services will depend on when it is of significant benefit to the young person. This would usually be when their needs for care and support as an adult can be predicted reasonably confidently, but will also depend on a range of other factors, such as the time it may take to plan ahead and put in place support, relevant family circumstances, planned medical treatments, or whether a young person wants to stay in education or move into employment.

If you ask for an assessment and we decide not to carry one out, we will explain in writing the reason why not. We would also provide information and advice about what can be done to help you remain independent, safe and well.

We will help you to plan ahead so that there are no gaps in social care services when you become 18. If you are receiving support from Children's Services, it will continue after your 18th birthday until either adult care and support is put in place, or you have been assessed as having no eligible needs as an adult.

Who will carry the assessment out?

A social worker from the Council's Children's Disability Service will carry out the assessment. You will be involved in the assessment to make sure that it reflects your views and wishes. We will also work closely with families and relevant professionals to make sure we get the transition to adult care right.

The transition assessment will use the same eligibility criteria followed for assessing adults' social care and support needs. Care and support to meet these needs makes sure you are safe, and that you are able to maintain your independence.

Adult Social Care uses national rules (called the Eligibility Regulations) to decide if you have any eligible care and support needs. If you have eligible needs, we will also carry out a financial assessment to work out how much you can afford to contribute towards the cost of your care and support. The general rule is that you either pay the total cost of your care and support, or you contribute what your financial assessment shows you can afford and we pay the rest.

You can find more about how we help people over the age of 18 to get care and support to remain independent, safe and well in our range of factsheets about care and support in Sheffield (details on page 4).

How will the assessment help me plan for the future?

The assessment will help provide the information and advice that families need to make plans for the future. This should include:

- Whether you are likely to receive any services from adult social care
- If you are likely to receive services, some information about the kind of support you can expect
- If the assessment does not result in services, we will provide advice and information about what can be done to remain independent, safe and well (for example, information about support that may be provided by other organisations such as the voluntary sector)

This information should help remove some of the uncertainty caused by having to wait and see what happens when a young person turns 18.

Carers

We can offer a transition assessment of your needs as a carer to make sure we can support them too, if you are

- a child's carer (that is, an adult caring for a young person who is likely to have care and support needs after they are 18), or
- a young carer who is approaching 18.

Tell us what you think

If you have a suggestion, comment or complaint about any Council service you can tell us what you think:

- Telephone: (0114) 273 4567
- Website: www.sheffield.gov.uk/tellus
- Write to: Customer Services, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall,
Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH.

Where can I get more information?

If you have a question about this factsheet, want a printed copy to be sent to you, or want to speak to someone you can contact us.

You can find out more about support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities aged 0 to 25 on the Sheffield Directory website: www.sheffielddirectory.org.uk/

Information about social care support for disabled children, young people and families can be found on our website: www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/disability-mental-health/support-children-disabilities.

Factsheets about adult care and support in Sheffield can also be downloaded from our website: www.sheffield.gov.uk/factsheets

Information can also be provided in alternative formats and other languages.

- Prevention and reablement
- Getting care and support
- Help for carers
- Independent Advocacy
- Planning and organising your care and support
- Help with travel
- Paying for your care and support at home
- Paying for your care and support in a residential or nursing home
- Managing your finances
- Managing your Direct Payment
- Disability Related Expenditure
- Deferred Payments
- Personal Assistant Handbook
- Reviewing your care and support

Contact us

- Email: adultaccess@sheffield.gov.uk
- Telephone: 0114 2734908
- Write to: First Contact, Howden House, Union Street, Sheffield, S1 2SH

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