

London Borough of Barking & Dagenham Transition Pathway

Moving from Children's Social Care Services to Adult Social Care Services



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1. Introduction

Barking & Dagenham Council is committed to providing high quality care and support to all young people with learning difficulties, disabilities and additional needs. We want to ensure the transition into adulthood is smooth and straightforward for all young people who are eligible for ongoing support. The purpose of this document is to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of all the agencies involved in the transition as well as identify the actions that must occur at each stage in the transition from Children's to Adult Services from age 14 onwards.

The purpose of developing a consistent local protocol for transitions is to ensure the responsibilities of each organisation are clear and unambiguous, to facilitate cooperation between organisations and to ensure young people and their families are kept well informed of what to expect during the transition process. This will help ensure that the transition into adulthood is smooth and straightforward for the young person and their family as well as the organisations involved.

Barking & Dagenham Council and our partner agencies are committed to safeguarding children, adults, and vulnerable young people through transition.



2. Core Principles

The transition from Children's to Adults Services can be a daunting prospect. This is why our approach to transition is centred around five core principles. The aim of these principles is to ensure that young people have "a good transition". Our vision is that all young people in Barking & Dagenham should feel supported, informed and empowered with their transition.

Personalisation

- Young people should have a transition plan that is personal to them and reflects their individual needs, challenges, aspirations and ambitions

Preparation

- Early planning with young people and their families can help them prepare for the future and adapt to changing circumstances. Young people and their families need to be aware of the support that can be delivered so that expectations are managed.

Transparency

- We aim to ensure that young people and their families have easy access to information about their transition, with clear information on options and eligibility for services.
- Young people should be able to have their views heard.

Independence

- We want to support young people to develop their own identities and abilities and to live independently where possible.
- We will have a person-centred strengths based approach to support young people to realise their ambitions

Partnership

- We aim to work with our partners from health, education and the voluntary sector to ensure young people receive the support they need to thrive and succeed, with or without the support of Adult Social Care.



3. Relevant Legislation

Autism Act, 2009 The Autism Act makes provision about the needs of adults who have autistic spectrum disorders including autism and Asperger syndrome.

Care Act, 2014 The Care Act 2014 provides the legal framework for Adult Social Care and a duty on councils to support and promote the wellbeing and independence of working age disabled adults and older people, and their family carers. The Act aims to put people and their carers more in control of their care and support.

Children and Families Act, 2014 The Act reforms the services local authorities must deliver to vulnerable children in England. This has impacts across adoption, family justice, parents working rights, as well as reforms for young people with SEN needs. Young person's guide to the Children and Families Act 2014 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Children's Act, 1989 The Children's Act ensures care leavers have access to the same level of support and the same opportunities as their peers. The provision of overnight respite and short breaks is included in the act. All disabled children are identified as 'children in need' in the legislation. - Children Act 1989: transition to adulthood for care leavers - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Children and Social Work Act, 2017 The Children and Social Work Act outlines the support available to looked after children and care leavers. The Act also expands the range of considerations the courts have when making decisions about long term placements and establishes a new regulatory regime for social workers. Children and Social Work Act 2017 (legislation.gov.uk)

3. Relevant Legislation

Mental Capacity Act 2005 The MCA promotes safeguarding decision-making within a legal framework. The Act empowers people to make decision for themselves and also allows people to plan ahead for when they lack capacity. The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) amendment ensures people who cannot consent to their own care have protections if their care arrangements deprive them of liberty.

Mental Health Act 1983 The Mental Health Act, updated 2007, is designed to give health professionals the powers, in certain circumstances, to detain, assess and treat people with mental health disorders in the interests of their health and safety and for public safety.

National Framework for CHC 2018 The framework outlines the process and principles that must be followed when establishing adult CHC eligibility and develops transparency and consistency within the assessment process.

Special Education Needs and Disability Code of Practice 0-25 2014 The SEND Code of Practice explains in detail the practices that must be followed by Local Authorities , health services and education providers.

Human Rights Act 1998 The HRA enshrines the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. The act allows people whose human rights have been violated to seek justice in the British Court system without having to take their case to the European Court.

4. Preparation for Adulthood

As part of the transition process there are several reviews, assessments, meetings and interviews that must take place. Some of these are legal requirements, and also help us to ensure that the care being delivered is right for the young person's individual needs and takes their views into account.

a) EHCP Annual Reviews

EHC Plans should be used to actively monitor the educational progress of children and young people and must be reviewed every 12 months.

The year 9 EHC Annual Review and every subsequent review must focus on preparing for adulthood.

This should include a discussion of the following areas:

- To find suitable post-16 pathways that lead to options for employment or higher education or training
- To undertake work experience in a meaningful setting
- To prepare for independent living, including accommodation and benefits
- Eligibility for ongoing social care support
- Travel support to independence
- Participation in local community activities

b) Health Services

There needs to be a plan to transition health services from children to adult services and to help young people understand which health professionals may work with them as adults.

This should include:

- The production of a Health Action Plan
- Annual health checks for young people with learning difficulties

Continuing Healthcare (CHC) is a fully funded package of care for those with significant health needs. In order to identify young people who may be eligible for a full CHC assessment, a CHC checklist must first be completed by a Health Practitioner or a Social Worker.



c) Children Looked After

Pathway Plan

This is an agreement between a young person and Children's Social Care outlining what support will be provided to enable the young person to live as independently as possible. The Pathway Plan gives young people an opportunity to voice their aspirations and worries and participate in their plan. It is put in place at age 16 and reviewed every 6 months until they are at least 21 years-old.

CLA Review

This is a meeting of all those involved in a young person's care plan to look at whether it is meeting their needs or whether any changes are required.

Permanency Planning Meeting

This meeting reviews the routes to securing permanency for a young person and makes parallel plans for this to happen, either through foster care, birth family, or other networks of support.

Staying Put Arrangements

This allows a young person to stay with their foster parents after they turn 18 if this is in their best interests.

d) Care Act Assessment

Under the Care Act 2014 Local Authorities must carry out an assessment of anyone who appears to require care or support. This is regardless of whether they are eligible for council funded care. The assessment must:

- Focus on the assessed person's needs and the impact that these have on their wellbeing
- Involve the assessed person and, where appropriate, their carer
- Provide access to an independent advocate to support the person involved in the assessment

The Care Act 2014 required Local Authorities to consider a person's strengths and capabilities and what support might be available from their wider support network or the local community to help meet their needs.

Taking a strengths-based approach can support people to improve their overall wellbeing and independent living skills.

Barking & Dagenham are committed to supporting people of all abilities to use local community resources before considering council service.



5. Transition Pathway

Young Person is 14 (year 9)

Education

PFA outcomes agreed during the transition review.

Schools will arrange for specialist careers information advice and guidance to be provided for EHCP advice, with opportunities such as taster sessions, work experience, and mentoring discussed.

EHCP amended to incorporate PFA outcomes and necessary education, health and social care provision.

For young people with SEND Support there will be a review meeting with the young person to offer guidance about post 16 options.

Social Care

Young people likely to need support as adults should be flagged on to the tracking list for Transition Panel so that ASC have early awareness of the young person.

Young Person is 14 (year 9) *continued*

Children Looked After

Social worker and IRO to identify young people with EHCP's and ensure they are placed on the transitions tracker

Health

Young people with complex health needs are flagged on the transitions tracker as likely to need adult CHC

Transport

Young people in receipt of SEN Travel Assistance will be considered for independent travel training.

Young person is 15 (year 10)

Education

EHCP review will consider progress against outcomes identified in Year 9; Post 16 education options to be explored;

EHCP amendments considered in line with significant changes in need or provision required.

Social Care

Tracking to continue via Specialist Transition Panel between the relevant teams on a monthly basis.

For young people with an allocated social worker, discussions to start about transition.

Children Looked After

Regular CLA reviews to inform planning.

Health

Young people with complex health needs are reviewed at Tracking meetings .

Transport

Independent travel training to continue to be considered for young people

Young person is 16 (year 11)

Education

Progress against PFA outcome reviewed (autumn term).

Young person confirms preference for post 16 option , based on previous information given and the input of schools, parents and carers. EHC Team to undertake formal consultation (spring term) with identified education placements, as required.

Schools have a vital role to play in supporting young people to make decisions and take control of their future.

Young people's voices are at the centre of planning.

For young people not known to children's social care services or short breaks, education providers to consider whether support might be required from Adult Social Care and provide parents with information to self-refer.

Young people in school provision ending in this academic year will be supported with options for further education.

Social Care

Referrals made to Adult Social Care for young people identified on the tracker and known to CSC, CYPD Hub or Short Breaks. Young people's voices are at the centre of planning. Families are kept informed.

Young people continue to be reviewed at Specialist Transitions Panel.

Young Person is 16 (year 11) *continued*

Children Looked After

The pathway planning needs assessment and plan is completed before the young person turns 16 and three months old.

Young people likely to require Adult Social Care support will be referred for a Care Act Assessment.

Young people in residential care will continue to be reviewed at the Residential Oversight Panel.

Health

Relevant young people will be screened/referred using the CHC checklist.

CAMHS will contribute to this process for relevant young people

Transport

It is expected that young people will have engaged with independent travel training.

Young people with significant SEN needs may be considered for ongoing transport support

Young Person is 17 (year 12)

Education

All students aged 16-19 should follow a study programme that stretches them and prepares them for adulthood, further study or work.

Young people in school provision ending in this academic year will be supported with options for further education.

The Annual Review will be used to facilitate joint planning with the family around preparation for adulthood.

Social Care

Young people referred to Adult Social Care will be allocated a social worker for completion of the Care Act Assessment.

A Support Plan taking account of the young person's strengths and a funding request will be submitted to Adult Resource Panel no later than three months prior to the 18th birthday.

A mental capacity assessment will be completed if there are concerns that the young person lacks capacity to make decisions about their care and support.

Young Person is 17 (year 12) *continued*

Health

Young people with a positive CHC Checklist will have a full assessment to determine eligibility in principle. For those eligible needs will be assessed and commissioned in time for their 18th birthday.

For young people open to CAMHS transition planning should begin at 17 and 6 months with referral to the appropriate learning disability service and/or adult mental health as well as community resources.

Young people who are inpatients may need to transition from a children's ward to an adult ward.

Children Looked After

Young people will have been reviewed at Transitions Panel at least twice by this stage.

All children looked after will be discussed at the Care Leavers Panel and a Leaving Care advisor will be allocated to co-work with their social worker until they leave care.

Pathway plans will be reviewed every 6 months.

Post 18 accommodation plans will be developed, including Staying Put options. By aged 17 and 6 months accommodation plans will have been approved.

Young person is 18 (year 13)

Education

For those still in education the annual review will be used to continue joint planning.

For those moving between provisions discussions will be held about amending /ceasing the plan as appropriate.

Issues of mental capacity to be considered

Social Care

Responsibility will transfer to ASC at age 18.

The Adult support package starts at the young person's 18th birthday and the CSC package will cease.

Any delay in transfer should be highlighted immediately to ensure continuity.

Children Looked After

Young people will be handed over to a Leaving Care Advisor at an agreed date.

Leaving care support will be provided regardless of ASC eligibility

Health

Adults CHC package will start for eligible young people.

CAMHS may co-work with a relevant adult service for a limited period.

Young people to transfer from Children's DSR to Adults DSR

Transport

The Travel Team will give notice to families that travel assistance will end when they leave school.

ASC may provide support as part of a care package.

Young person is 19 and beyond (year 14)

Education

For those still in education the annual review will be used to continue joint planning.

For those moving between provisions discussions will be held about amending /ceasing the plan as appropriate.

Mental Capacity Act assessments by Adult Social Care may be required to ensure that a young person has support to make informed decisions.

Social Care

Age 21-25 – young people transition from Leaving Care Services to the relevant ASC team, decisions made on an individual basis according to their wishes, feelings and needs.

Transport

Travel support from the Travel Assistance Team will cease at the end of Year 14

ASC may provide support as part of a care package.

6. Useful Contacts

- [Barking and Dagenham Carer's Hub](#) provides support and guidance for parent carers and young people with Special Educational Needs. They can provide free advocacy, support and information. Please contact by telephone 020 8593 4422 or by email carers@carerscentre.org.uk
- **Just Say Parents Carer Forum (JSPCF)** is the Department for Education recognised Parent Carer Forum. Anyone living in Barking and Dagenham who has a child or young person aged 0-25 years with a special educational need (SEND) and/or disability can join for free. Please visit <https://www.justsayforum.online/>
- The **Speak Up Forum** is for young people with a special educational need or disability from Barking & Dagenham. Speak Up meet twice a month on Friday evenings 6.30pm to 8.30pm at the Vibe 195-211 Becontree Avenue, Dagenham, RM8 2UT. Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/bdprogressproject> or contact Participation Officer : forum@bdpp.org.uk / 07881 247654
- **Children and Young People Disability Hub (CYPD Hub)** The CYPD Hub is for families who live in Barking and Dagenham, who has a SEND child under the age of 18 years old. The CYPD Hub runs a range of different activities during term time and school holidays. Please call 0208 227 5500 or visit [Children & Young People Disability Hub | London Borough of Barking and Dagenham \(lbbd.gov.uk\)](#) for further details
- **Barking & Dagenham Local Offer** <https://localoffer.lbbd.gov.uk/>