PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD

CROYDON’S LOCAL OFFER OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 0-25 WITH SEND SPRING 2017
Preparing for adulthood can be an exciting time for young people, full of new opportunities. However, it can also be a worrying time as young people move on from familiar people and places and face new challenges.

The transition from childhood to adulthood can be a stressful time of change for all young people and their families. It can lead to anxiety and questioning about who they will become as adults and how they will make their way in life and achieve their aspirations. For young people with disabilities and special needs this period can be even more daunting. They need to prepare for:

- Higher education and/or employment
- Independent living
- Participating in society, including having friends and supportive relationships, and participating in, and contributing to, the local community
- Being as healthy as possible in adult life.

It can be particularly difficult for a young person with complex needs because the young person is moving from a set of Children and Family Services and support to a set of services and support aimed at adults, in addition to changing legal status from child to adult. Any transition needs careful planning.

It is important that young people with complex needs and their parents/carers work with these services to prepare for adulthood. The aim is to begin early and achieve the transition to a new set of circumstances as smoothly as possible, and in the process to develop the young person’s skills and abilities.

While education, health and care plans now reflect the view of the child from an early age, the focus from age 16 must be on the young person and their wishes and aspirations.
WHEN DOES PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD START?

When a child is very young, or SEN is first identified, it is important that families know that the great majority of children and young people with SEN or disabilities, with the right support, can find work, be supported to live independently, and participate in their community. High aspirations are crucial to success, and so discussion about longer term goals should start early and ideally well before Year 9 (age 13-14) at school. Health workers, social workers, early years’ providers and schools should encourage these ambitions right from the start. They should seek to understand the interests, strengths and motivations of children and young people and use this as a basis for planning support around them.

WHAT HAPPENS AT YEARS 9 -10?

The annual reviews in Years 9 and 10, and thereafter, must include a focus on planning for adulthood. This is an opportunity to look beyond educational needs and to include wider aspects of life such as health needs, personal and social development, training and employment, transport and independent travel, housing and leisure. At the Year 10 review, careers advisors need to be involved to ensure applications for post-16 education are made and timed to meet deadlines.

For children with complex needs requiring input from several services, it is useful to have a multi-agency person-centred review in Year 9, inviting all of the agencies involved (school, education, social care, health) together with the child and their parents/carers.

For other children whose educational needs are met through the graduated response, the review can be aligned with any education review.

The Year 9 review must result in a review document which records the actions needed to help the young person achieve their short and longer term goals. The plan should state who is responsible for carrying out agreed actions. The plan should be reviewed annually and, if relevant, should be linked to the annual review for an Education Health and Care Plan or other review processes such as those for Looked after Children. The EHCP review document should be updated annually with key action points and those responsible for carrying them out. The school will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of the plan.

ADDITIONAL ACTIONS AT THE YEAR 11 REVIEW

The review document needs to include:

- Issues around transport – as the post-16 transport policy will differ from the home-to-school transport policy. The Croydon SEND transport policy can be found at: [www.croydon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/articles/SEN_travel_0.pdf](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/articles/SEN_travel_0.pdf)
- Moving from school to college – agreeing with the young person that their information may be shared with a post-16 education provider and course tutors
- Ensuring the young person has access to careers and learning advisor support
- Funding applications and longer term plans
- Health services, including the young person’s GP, are made aware of the young persons’ needs
- Agreement on who co-ordinates the next review.
YOUNG PEOPLE APPLYING FOR POST 16 EDUCATION

Preparing for Adulthood SEN Co-Ordinators will liaise with local colleges to support a young person’s application to move into local Further Education provision to see if needs can be met locally.

- Funding will be available for specialist colleges only if needs cannot be met locally – such as support for working opportunities.
- Joint funding may be requested from social care and health but will only be agreed if the funding falls within Fair Access to Care eligibility criteria and is affordable under personalisation.

Where a local college has decided it cannot meet a young person’s needs, this will be fed into the transition planning process. Needs that cannot be met locally will be included within future commissioning arrangements for young people with disabilities and complex needs so that local service provision can improve.

WHAT HAPPENS BETWEEN 18 UP TO 25 YEARS?

From Year 11, the Preparing for Adulthood Co-Ordinator will review their EHCP which will include personalised independence/support plan every year to make sure that it is still meeting the young person’s needs. For example, making sure that their needs are met once they leave school and that the plan accounts for any changes in their lives such as new personal interests, or a desire to find a job.

The Transition social worker will continue to work with the young person up until they leave full-time education. The age that young people will leave full-time education will vary, however the team do not work with anyone beyond the age of 25.

TRANSITION TO ADULT SOCIAL CARE

TRANSITION ASSESSMENT

Local authorities must carry out a transition assessment under Section 58 of the Care Act at the right time when there is significant benefit to the young person in doing so, and if they are likely to have needs for care and support after turning 18. This is important to support young people receiving Children and Family Services and their parents/carers to plan for the future by providing them with information about what to expect when the young person becomes an adult. Key changes following the child’s 18th birthday are that the young person’s legal status moves from child to adult, that they are now under the Care Act and that services become chargeable.

When the young person reaches 18, decide whether to treat the transition assessment as an adult needs assessment (or carers’ assessment) under the Care Act, depending on timing and whether circumstances have changed. If eligible needs have been identified, check, and if necessary amend, the care and support plan.

Where a transition assessment was not conducted before the young person’s 18th birthday and should have been (or where the young person’s circumstances have changed), an adult needs or carer’s assessment must be carried out.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Be aware that the eligibility criteria for Children’s and Adults’ services are different. This may result in some of the young person’s needs for care and support not being eligible for local authority services when they become adults. Alternative ways of meeting those ineligible needs can be sought through the young person’s support network and voluntary and community organisations.

For more information on the eligibility criteria for adult social care, please go to:

For further information on making a referral to adult social care, please go to:
www.croydon.gov.uk/education/special-educational-needs/sen-adults/sen-adult-care
WILL THE YOUNG PERSON BE CHARGED FOR THE SERVICES THEY RECEIVE?
The young person may have to pay for some of the services they receive as an adult. This will depend on their income and how much help they need. They will be asked to complete a financial assessment and their Transition Worker can give them advice and support with this.

For further information go to:
www.croydon.gov.uk/healthsocial/adult-care/asc-assessing/ascreferral

WHERE IS NHS CONTINUING HEALTHCARE PROVIDED?
If you are eligible, you can receive NHS continuing healthcare in any setting, for example:

- in your own home – the NHS will pay for healthcare, such as services from a community nurse or specialist therapist, and personal care, such as help with bathing, dressing and laundry
- in a care home – as well as healthcare and personal care, the NHS will pay for your care home fees, including board and accommodation

NHS continuing healthcare is free, unlike social and community care services provided by local authorities for which a charge may be made, depending on your income and savings.

For more information please go to:
www.croydonccg.nhs.uk/your-health/Pages/NHS-continuing-healthcare.aspx

TRANSITION TO ADULT HEALTH CARE

What happens when a young person reaches 18? If a young person has ongoing health needs their health team will support them to plan their future. This could include their GP, Paediatrician, Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Therapist, Physiotherapist and Nurses.

CONTINUING HEALTH CARE

Some people may be referred for an NHS Continuing Health Care assessment for adults.

WHAT IS CONTINUING HEALTH CARE?
NHS continuing healthcare is free care outside of hospital that is arranged and funded by the NHS. It is only available for people who need ongoing healthcare and meet eligibility criteria.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR NHS CONTINUING HEALTHCARE?
To be eligible for NHS continuing healthcare you must be over 18 and have a complex medical condition and substantial and ongoing care needs. You must have a ‘primary health need’, which means that your main or primary need for care must relate to your health.

Eligibility for NHS continuing healthcare does not depend on:
- a specific health condition, illness or diagnosis
- who provides the care, or
- where the care is provided

If you have a disability, or if you’ve been diagnosed with a long-term illness or condition, this doesn’t necessarily mean that you’ll be eligible for NHS continuing healthcare.

To find out whether you are eligible your care needs will need to be assessed by a health professional.