

Moving on: Planning for the future

The transition journey

Moving On: Planning for the future is for all parents/carers of a child with a statement of special educational needs.

Its purpose is to help parents/carers understand more about 'transition' – or preparation for becoming an adult - for children with special needs and disabilities. It is particularly for those parents/carers whose child is in year nine or above at school but will also help parents/carers of younger children who want to find out more.

The pages in the attached 'Transition Journey' are designed to help guide you through each school year from year nine through to adulthood. They set out what, as parent/carers, you can expect various professionals to be doing to prepare for your child's move into adulthood.

As a parent/carer you have a vital role to play in helping your child make informed decisions about their future. On each page there is advice on what you will need to be doing and thinking about yourself.



The West Sussex Children's Trust is facilitated by West Sussex County Council

Thinking about the future

Year 9 (13-14 yrs) : making a transition plan

Year 10 (14-15 yrs) : looking at what is possible

Year 11 (15-16 yrs) : firming up the options

Year 12 (16-17 yrs) : getting ready to move on

Year 13 (17-18 yrs) and adulthood :
becoming an adult

Year 9 (13–14 Years) Thinking about the future: making a transition plan

The year 9 meeting to review your child's statement of special educational needs will include a discussion about their future options. This is when the transition plan is produced so it is often called the transition review. This is a time when you and your child will need to start thinking about what will be different as they move into adulthood.

What will happen...

For the annual review of your child's statement:

- 👣 The local authority will ask the school to send you information about the process.
- 👣 The school will invite you and your child to the meeting.
- 👣 Any professional working with your child can be invited but the school and Connexions have to be represented.

Before the transition review your child will meet with the Connexions Personal Adviser to talk about their ideas for the future and any worries. A summary of the meeting will be sent to you.

The **transition review** will cover:

- 👣 Education/learning options when your child leaves their current school. There is more urgency if your child plans to leave their current school at 16 or funding needs to be organised. Otherwise, this will be looked at in more detail at the year 10 review.
- 👣 Any social care needs your child is likely to have as an adult so that Adults' Services can be alerted.
- 👣 Health support needs.

What to do and think about...

- 💭 It is best to contact the school direct if you are unclear when your child's review will happen.
- 💭 Talk to the school about who will be at the review and who you think should be there.
- 💭 Ask if you don't understand who everyone is and their roles.
- 💭 Take a list of your questions with you when you go to the review – you could send them to the school in advance.

You should talk to Connexions about the best way to make sure your child's voice and your views about their future aspirations are heard.

- 💭 If people use terms you don't understand don't be afraid to ask what they mean.
- 💭 Before the meeting ends, make sure you are clear what each professional at the review will be doing in relation to your child's transition plan and when and how the information will be used. If in doubt – ask.
- 💭 Have you got the name and contact details for the Connexions Personal Adviser?

💭 Are you happy that your son/daughter is being supported through a time of increasing sexual awareness? Professionals in social care, health and the school can all help.

Year 10 (14–15 Years) Thinking about the future: looking at what is possible

Year 10 is about looking in more detail at the possible learning choices discussed in the previous year. It is also the time to start thinking about other practical arrangements for your child when they become an adult.

What will happen...

For the annual review of your child's statement:

- 🐾 The local authority will ask the school to send you information about the process.
- 🐾 The school will invite you and your child to the meeting.

The review will:

- 🐾 Check the action agreed in the Transition Plan and agree any changes.
- 🐾 Look in more detail at the education options available and the support your child will need.
- 🐾 Consider whether transport is needed.
- 🐾 Consider health support for the future.

Connexions will start putting together the **Moving On Plan**, which details the exact support your child will need if they are moving to a college or training provider. When completed this is sent to the college/training provider.

If you and your child receive social care support, your son/daughter may be entitled to support as an adult. Your social worker will be able to tell you more about what form that might take and how it differs from support in Children's Services.

- 🐾 If your child is at a special school, specialist centre attached to a mainstream school or being educated out of county please also see additional online information about the way professionals will work together to plan from year 10.

What to do and think about...

- 💭 Are you clear who will be at the review meeting and their roles?
- 💭 If your child is leaving their current school at age 16, have the decisions been made about their next steps? Ask at the review meeting if you do not understand how decisions will be made about post-16 options available.
- 💭 Has anyone mentioned work/employment opportunities, including work experience?

- 💭 Have you had the chance to comment on the Moving on Plan?

- 💭 This is the time to start thinking about your child's future housing needs. The District Council needs to know early to allow for planning time both in relation to available housing and adaptations.
- 💭 Have you thought about whether your child will stay with you when they become an adult or would they like to live more independently? Ask about what options may be available.

Year 11 (15–16 Years) Thinking about the future: firming up the options

Year 11 is about confirming arrangements age 16+ including any support needed for example where your child is moving on to a college or training provider.

What will happen...

At the **year 11 review of your child's statement:**

- 👣 The transition plan will be reviewed.
- 👣 The school will invite further education or work placement representatives.
- 👣 The Moving On Plan started in year 10 will be changed or updated if needed.

Where your child will continue to need **social care support as an adult:**

- 👣 A referral is made to Adults' Services during the 16th year.
- 👣 Adults' Services will usually get involved with your son/daughter from age 17.
- 👣 An Adult's Services worker will be nominated and invited to the next children's social care review. Their role for the next year will be to provide advice about preparation for moving into adult life and information on the way support will be assessed and funded.

Your child's health:

- 👣 If your child's health needs cannot be met by community services or the hospital this is the time to clarify whether they will be eligible for support from the Continuing Health Care Team. A referral can be made by any professional or the family.
- 👣 Paediatricians see young people up to 16 years, when the GP takes responsibility for healthcare. However, children in special schools will usually be seen by paediatricians while they are still at school.

What to do and think about...

Make sure you ask any questions you have about the Transition Plan and the Moving on Plan.

🤔 You will want to consider the legal changes that apply to all young people at age 16.

Are you clear about whether your child is being assessed for adult social care support, when that will be confirmed and who to contact if you have any questions?

🤔 Are you clear whether there will be a Continuing Health Care assessment and if so, who will do it?

🤔 If your child has a paediatrician ask them when they will handover responsibility and to whom. Also discuss with them the best way to prepare your child for the change.

If physiotherapy, speech and language therapy or occupational therapy are organised by the school ask what will happen at age 16.

Year 12 (16–17 Years) Thinking about the future: getting ready to move on

Year 12 is about finalising plans for learning and making sure arrangements are in place for social care and health support

What will happen...

Whether **the statement** will continue to be maintained is dependent on individual factors assessed during year 11. If it is still in place the school will arrange the year 12 review.

If your child has been assessed as **eligible for adult social care support**:

- The Adult Services worker will continue to provide advice.
- Your child will be helped to complete a 'self or supported assessment' during their 17th year.
- Before your child is 18, a decision will be made about what services will be arranged by Adults' Services.
- The management of your child's care will transfer at age 18, to a named worker in Adults' Services who will have been involved in the final children's social care review.

If your child has a learning disability a **Health Action Plan** will be put in place at age 18 to identify how their health needs will be met. Work on this will start in year 12, led by one of a range of professionals including the school nurse or community nurse.

Where a **specialist college placement** is considered necessary the local authority's Special Educational Needs Team and Connexions will put together the funding application.

What to do and think about...

Take some time to consider how the planning for your child has gone over the past year. They are getting closer to adulthood and now is the time to raise any outstanding questions you may have.

Make sure as well that you are clear whether or not their statement will continue to be maintained.

Are you clear about what is involved in the transfer to Adults' Services and what that will mean for your son/daughter and for you? It is important to talk to both Adults' and Children's Services.

If your child has a learning disability, make sure you know who is completing the Health Action Plan.

If a specialist college placement is being suggested are you clear why?

Year 13 (17–18 Years) and adulthood Thinking about the future: becoming an adult

This is when your child becomes an adult and services start to work with them in a different way.

What will happen...

If your son/daughter is in school, sixth form or local authority funded post-16 placement and **still has a statement**, the school/college will initiate the annual review.

Your **Connexions Personal Adviser** will stay in touch with your son/daughter until they are settled in their first placement after leaving school. If they need further support they can contact Connexions up to their 25th birthday.

At the 18th birthday **Adults' Services formally take over care management responsibility** and will continue to liaise with other services e.g. Connexions and any learning provider such as a college.

Where a young person is being supported by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) or a mental health concern is identified, they may be seen by the **Working Age Mental Health Service (WAMHS)** at 18 years of age.

Any young adult eligible for **Continuing Health Care** will have their health needs reassessed in adulthood by the Continuing Healthcare Team.

What to do and think about...

-  Your son/daughter may be wanting to assert their independence. There are advocacy groups that assist people in getting their voice heard.
-  If going onto employment, your son/daughter will need to make contact with the disability officer at the Jobcentre.

Talk to Adults' Services staff if you have any concerns about differences in the way Children's and Adults' Services work with your son/daughter.

-  You will want to consider the legal differences when your child becomes 18.

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