

# Preparing for Adulthood

Information for parents/carers of young people with special educational needs and disabilities who have an Education, Health and Care Plan.



South Tyneside Council



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# Preparing for adulthood

As the parent/carer of a young person with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), thinking about your child leaving school to go to college or work can be an exciting, yet worrying time.

This booklet describes how your child will be supported from Year 9 onwards to help prepare them for adulthood if they have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan). This process is known as Transition.

If you need to speak to someone about any of the issues raised, contact information is given at the end of this booklet.

## What the SEND Code of Practice says

The SEND Code of Practice (0-25 years) states that 'with high aspirations, and the right support, the vast majority of children and young people can go on to achieve successful long-term outcomes in adult life'.

From Year 9 onwards, local authorities and education providers must work with young people to prepare them for adult life. There are four areas that need to be considered:

- **higher education and/or employment** - including exploring different employment options, such as support for becoming self-employed and help from supported employment agencies
- **independent living** - enabling people to have choice and control over their lives and the support they receive, their accommodation and living arrangements, including supported 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

## What should my child's school be doing to support their transition to adulthood?

From Year 9, schools have to start planning for your child's move to further education, employment or training. This means they will invite you and your child (and Social Worker, if your child has one) to a Year 9 EHC Plan review meeting where:

- You and your child can give your views about the four key Preparing for Adulthood areas set out above so that this can be written into your child's EHC Plan. This will help you and your child decide on what they want to do when they leave school and to help plan for their future.
- The LA will also start to think about whether your child is likely to need their EHC Plan once they leave school or if it will cease at that point.

# Moving to Post-16 placement (young people with an EHC Plan)

## Autumn term Year 9 (Sept – Dec)

Year 9 EHC Plan review meeting held, chaired by school

- Parents and the young person must be invited to attend the meeting - other people such as a social worker, health worker or a SEND Officer may also attend
- EHC Plan is updated at the meeting to include Preparing for Adulthood information and outcomes
- Any specific transition arrangements needed are raised e.g. specific health needs, social care needs

## Summer term Year 10 (May – Aug)

Firming up ideas for next steps in advance of starting Year 11

- From the Summer of Year 10 your child will be invited to take part in a careers appointment by a Connexions Advisor
- From this appointment an action plan will be developed to plan your child's next steps

## Autumn term Year 11 (Sept – Dec)

Connexions action plan shared and Multi agency EHC Plan Year 11 Review meeting held at school

- Throughout Year 11 your child's Connexions Advisor will be available to support steps towards making a successful transition e.g. visits to post 16 providers, assistance with applications for travel support etc
- Parents and the young person must be invited to attend the EHCP Year 11 Review meeting - other people such as a Connexions Advisor, social worker, health worker or a SEND Officer may also attend
- Connexions Action Plan discussed and information about open days etc shared at the meeting
- EHC Plan is updated at the meeting
- Any specific transition arrangements are discussed e.g. health needs, social care needs etc
- Post 16 Panel considers potential options around proposed Post 16 placement including preferred options suggested by the young person where known. Panel decision made about placement and communicated to young person, parents and current school/provider.

## Spring term Year 11 (Jan – April)

Preparations made in advance of transition to relevant post-16 services and opportunities

- For education provision (if panel agree), formal consultation regarding the placement takes place between LA/provider.
- Information is shared between school/care and health services and is passed to the new placement
- School/care and health services/providers liaise to ensure necessary arrangements are put in place to aid successful transition.
- Relevant transition visits are made to the new placement by the young person and family to ensure the young person becomes familiar with buildings, people and travel arrangements.

## Summer term Year 11 (May – Aug)

Final plans made prior to transition to identified/agreed placement

- After leaving school the young person commences new placement and annual reviews of EHCP are conducted thereafter
- Placement provider monitors provision to ensure it is appropriate and meeting the needs of the student.
- Placement provider arranges annual reviews of EHCP's until next Transition point and thereafter until the EHCP ceases.
- Post 16 panel considers proposed placements on an annual basis thereafter to ensure progression.

## Who makes decisions about my child's future plans?

Once your child reaches school leaving age at the end of Year 11, they can make their own decisions about their future unless they do not have the mental capacity to do this. They will probably still want to involve you or another adult when they make their decision but their views take precedence when it comes to their future plans.

## Will my child's Education, Health and Care Plan automatically continue until they are 25 years old?

It is very unlikely your child will have their EHC plan until they are 25. Your child has to continue in education or training until the age of 18 but some young people need extra time to complete their learning because of their special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). However, the SEND Code of Practice (paragraph 9.151) states that this 'does not mean that there is an automatic entitlement to continued support at age 19 or an expectation that those with an EHC plan should all remain in education until age 25. The LA may cease a plan for a 19 to 25-year-old if it decides that it is no longer necessary for the EHC plan to be maintained'. This could be for example; that the course they are studying does not require any additional 'high needs' funding from the LA, meaning that the college are able to meet your child's needs without the need for them to have additional provision made for them through their EHC Plan.

## We don't expect that many young people will continue to have an EHCP until the age of 25.

Every request the LA receives for an extra year at college is considered by a panel of education, health and social care professionals. The panel looks at the progress the young person has made so far and the proposed course for the next year. Support will only be agreed providing there is evidence that your child can make meaningful progress towards appropriate and realistic outcomes.

Unless there are exceptional circumstances, additional years at college will NOT be agreed if:

- Your child wants to take a course at the same or lower level as a course they have already completed, or;
- Your child has made no progress in the current course, or;
- There is no realistic chance of further training or employment at the end of the course.

## Will my child's Education, Health and Care Plan be ceased before my child starts college or training?

Not necessarily. Colleges and training providers receive funding direct from central government for students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) but sometimes they ask for extra funding from the LA for a small number of students who need a very high level of support. If a college or training provider can meet your child's needs from their own funding, we will consider ceasing your child's EHC Plan because an EHCP isn't required for them to get the support that they need. Anyone who gets extra funding from the LA to meet their special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) will need to have an EHCP. EHCPs are only needed if a child/young person has educational needs and will not continue if a young person only has health and/or social care needs. Their needs would then be met via social care and/or health services.

## Are there any supported employment courses available?

A Connexions Adviser can provide details of supported employment courses. Contact Connexions on 0191 424 6690 or 0191 424 6657. Please note that referrals for a supported employment programme can only be made via a Connexions Adviser. If your child has been assessed as eligible for Adult Social Care, your Social Worker can give you details about courses available.

Supported internships are available for young people. Further details are available from Connexions South Tyneside or on South Tyneside Council's Local offer: [www.southtyneside.gov.uk/SENDlocaloffer](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/SENDlocaloffer)

We would always expect a young person taking part in a supported employment course, traineeship or apprenticeship to travel independently to and from college/their work placement.

## Does the LA provide travel support for young people in post-16 education or training?

Independent travel promotes independence, confidence and increases a student's opportunities and life chances for the future and should be introduced and encouraged from as early as possible. We encourage pupils to independently travel using public transport from Year 9 onwards and can facilitate independent travel training in some cases to assist them to do this.

Travel support in the form of taxis/minibuses will only be provided in exceptional circumstances and there eligibility criteria which can be found in the Transport Information section of South Tyneside Council's Local Offer: [www.southtyneside.gov.uk/SENDlocaloffer](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/SENDlocaloffer)

In general, help with travel support to Post 16 education or training placements will only be provided if your child has:

- severe learning difficulty
- severe medical conditions, for example, severe unstable epilepsy, oxygen dependence,
- autism with associated severe learning difficulties, severe mental health issues (in cases where the applicant is receiving mental health support from professional staff)
- severe psychological conditions which includes extreme phobia (medical confirmation must be provided)

We would always expect a young person taking part in a supported employment course, traineeship or apprenticeship to travel independently to and from college/their work placement or for them to claim Access to Work through their college/training provider.

## Will an EHCP continue at university?

No. The EHC Plan will automatically stop as universities provide their own support to students. It might be useful to provide a copy of the EHCP to the university, so they know what your child's needs are.

## What happens about health and social care support when my child turns 18?

If your child already has a Social Worker, they will be assessed by their social worker before they reach their 18th birthday to see if they are eligible for adult social care. If they are eligible, they will move to the Adult Social Care team once they turn 18.

Social workers will work together to ensure that there is a smooth transfer between the teams.

If your child has significant health needs, relevant health workers will be invited to your child's Year 9 and Year 11 EHCP annual review meetings to ensure there is a well-planned transition from children's to adult's health services when they turn 18.

From Year 9 onwards, schools are helping the LA identify children who do not qualify for children's social care but who might be eligible for Adult Social Care when they turn 18. Schools will discuss this with you first and if they think your child may be eligible for support, they will contact the Let's Talk Team (Adult Social Care Front Door) and a social worker may be invited to your child's Year 9 annual review meeting.

## What happens if a college or training provider isn't meeting my child's needs – how do they request an EHCP?

Colleges may request an EHC Plan needs assessment if they feel that a young person needs more support than they can provide, but young people and their parents/carers can also request an assessment by contacting the SEND Services. It is helpful if you can provide evidence such as reports from college, any previous assessment reports, a doctor's letter confirming a diagnosis, etc.

Once a request is made, the LA will let you know within six weeks of the request whether we will go ahead with the needs assessment and ask for reports to be written if the assessment goes ahead. The LA will then decide whether it will issue an EHC Plan based on the reports compiled. Please note that carrying out a needs assessment does not guarantee that your child will receive an EHC Plan.

## What happens if the request for an EHCP is refused?

You can ask to meet with a member of the SEND Services to discuss the reason for the refusal.

You can appeal against the LA's decision to the SEND Tribunal if you are still not happy. The Tribunal is completely independent of the LA and both parents and the LA must then agree to whatever decision the Tribunal makes.

Before you can go ahead with a Tribunal, you must speak to a mediator to see whether you want to try mediation.

## Where can I get more information and advice?

- **For further information about this booklet please contact SEND Services:**

Phone: 0191 424 7410

Email: [sen@southtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:sen@southtyneside.gov.uk)

- **School Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDSCO)**

If your child is still at school, you can speak to the school SENDSCO who will be able to discuss the support your child will receive with their transition toward adulthood and how they can help them achieve their aspirations and outcomes.

- **Connexions South Tyneside**

Connexions South Tyneside offers impartial careers information, advice and guidance to young people up to 25 if they have a special educational need or disability..

Phone: 0191 424 6690 or 0191 424 6657

Email: [connexions@southtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:connexions@southtyneside.gov.uk)

Follow us on Facebook: [Connexions South Tyneside](#)

- **South Tyneside's Local Offer**

[www.southtyneside.gov.uk/SENDlocaloffer](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/SENDlocaloffer)

Here you'll find information about activities, employment, education and housing.

- **South Tyneside SEND Information, Advice and Support Service**

This service offers free independent support and advice to young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their parents/carers. You can contact the service by:

Phone: 0191 424 6345

Email: [SENDIASS@southtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:SENDIASS@southtyneside.gov.uk)



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