

## **Preparing for Adulthood framework**

### **Guidance for Education, Health and Care Plans for 16-25 year olds with SEND**

#### **Introduction**

The Council is ambitious for children and young persons with special educational needs and disability. The Council recognises the importance of ensuring a smooth transition to adulthood for such children and young persons. For those with the most complex needs the Council is committed to providing an integrated approach across education, care and health to ensure a smooth transition into adult services.

As young people with special educational needs move into adulthood it will be important for their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to support their aims for employment and training, for independent living, for good health and community involvement.

The expectation is that the EHCP will serve as the coordinating Plan for young people with the highest levels of SEN up to the age of 19, by which time planning for their adulthood in terms of employment, care, health and community involvement should be secure. Between the age 16 and 19 the SEN Assessment and Planning team will identify education and training outcomes that support employability. Some of these outcomes may need to continue after the young person reaches the age of 19. There will also be a focus on supporting independent living, maintaining good health in adult life, and participation in society.

The presumption for all young people is that they are capable of paid employment with the right preparation and support. Ensuring young people are employable is a central objective of any continuing education and training beyond 19. The Council expect to usually only maintain an EHCP post 19 where it is needed to support the young person to make progress towards education and training outcomes which are linked to employability, or if more time is required to reach educational outcomes that have been agreed previously.

It is expected that the majority of young people who have special educational needs or disability will be identified before they reach the age of 16, and that those assessed as having the highest levels of needs will have an Education Health and Care Plan in place. The EHCP will identify long term education and training outcomes for the young person to be achieved by the time they reach adulthood. The aim is to start identifying the most appropriate education and training, care and health pathways as part of the Preparation for Adulthood review process starting at age 14 taking account of the child or young person's aspirations and abilities, and, for those with the most complex needs, to ensure planning is integrated across education, health and social care. It is anticipated that at 16, at the end of Key stage 4, many young people will be able to secure their education and training outcomes by progressing onto a College course where any necessary additional support can be provided through a College based Plan.

The Preparing for Adulthood review process will be underpinned by the following values and principles

- A focus on the interests and aims of the young person for their future, which is forward looking and based around pathway planning
- Open and transparent communication between professionals, the young person and their family
- Clarity about the level of special needs of the young person and the type of arrangements and support required for their education beyond the age of 16
- A proportionate approach which recognises some young people may require more support than others to plan their future
- A recognition that continued education may not be the most appropriate pathway for all young people with SEND ( especially at 19+)

After compulsory school age (the year in which the child turns 16), under statute the right to make requests and decisions applies to a child or young person directly rather than their parents. Parents or other family members can continue to support a young person provided that young person is happy for them to do so. In the vast majority of cases parents and family members remain central to planning, and the local authority seek to continue to involve them in the vast majority of decisions.

### Post 16 SEND Education and training pathways

The Council has identified four education and training pathways that will be followed for young persons aged 16+, save in the most exceptional circumstances. These pathways are not mutually exclusive, will be applied on an individual basis dependent on a range of factors, including need and aspiration. The identified pathways are:

- **Pathway 1:** Moving onto a College study programme, with a College based Plan at 16+ with the aim of being able to access employment opportunities, progressing to employment/employment related training or education or Higher Education at 18/19 .This pathway does not require the young person to have an EHCP.
- **Pathway 2:** Moving onto a more intensively resourced College study programme/remaining at school sixth form, with the aim being able to access employment opportunities/ progressing to employment/employment related training or education or Higher Education at 18/19;
- **Pathway 3:** Moving onto an apprenticeship/traineeship/supported internship/other employment related provision;
- **Pathway 4:** Remaining at a non-maintained special school or moving to a Independent Specialist provider with the aim of being able to access employment opportunities, progressing to employment/employment related training or education or Higher Education at 18/19, or moving into the adult social care system with the maximum degree of independence possible. For a few young people with the most complex needs the pathway may be to the continuing healthcare adult pathway. It is envisioned this pathway will be

provided only to those with the most complex needs or those with low incidence/high cost special educational needs.

By the time the young person reaches 19 it is expected that many of them will have achieved their educational outcomes and will be able to access employment opportunities, higher education or will be moving into the adult social care system. Some young people with Education Health and Care Plans will need longer to reach their educational and training outcomes and their education and training may continue beyond the age of 19. Regular Preparing for Adulthood reviews (at least once every 12 months) will continue to take place for students aged 16-19 with an EHCP with a particular focus on long term planning.

### Criteria for an EHCP post 16

The following criteria will guide the Local Authority when considering whether or not a young person aged 16-25 requires their EHCP to continue to be in place in order to meet their education and training outcomes:

- That they continue to have special educational needs requiring the additional resources only available through an EHCP
- They are attending a study programme which (at minimum) addresses personal and social skills, vocational interests and literacy/numeracy skills
- Preparing for Adulthood reviews have been undertaken and a long term progression plan with realistic outcomes is in place
- The total level of education funding required for the student is beyond core SEN funding available to schools and Colleges

Additional criteria will be considered for young people aged 19-25 as follows

- Whether or not the education and training outcomes in the Plan have been met
- Whether the young person needs or would benefit from more education in order to achieve their agreed education and training outcomes
- Whether the young person wants to remain in education and training so they can complete and consolidate their learning. This will in turn contribute to securing employability for the young person
- The young person needs more time to reach their long term education and training outcomes but is making definable progress
- The young person is able to demonstrate the ability to learn new things or apply learnt processes to new situations

If it is determined by the Council that a EHCP is no longer necessary it may cease the plan. In making a decision to cease a EHCP, the Council will have regard to whether the educational and training outcomes specified in the plan have been achieved.

Progression through each pathway and specific criteria is set out below

Pathway	Pathway aged 16-19	Pathways specific criteria	Pathway aged 19-25	Pathway specific criteria	Long term outcome/destination
1	Moving onto local FE College with College based support plan	Not applicable	Either staying in an FE College with College based support plan or, if criteria are met, no further education and training provision	Not applicable	Employment opportunities , employment related training/education or Higher education  and/or  Support from Adult social care service – support at home; day service support/respite; accommodation based support through supported living; shared lives placements; residential care
2	Remaining at local school provision or moving to local FE College with an EHCP	Analysis of the arrangements/support required.  Progress to be evidenced	Transfer from school to local FE College/remaining at Local FE College course with an EHCP	A new course will normally be a progression from previous courses	Employment opportunities , employment related training/education or

		and differentiated.		<p>studied.</p> <p>Analysis of the arrangements/support required.</p> <p>Progress to be evidenced and differentiated.</p>	<p>Higher education</p> <p>and/or</p> <p>Support from Adult social care service – support at home; day service support/respite; accommodation based support through supported living; shared lives placements; residential care</p>
3	Moving onto an apprenticeship/traineeship/ supported internship/other employment related provision	There must be evidence of educational progress at a level which is sufficient to lead to employability	Moving onto, or progressing in, apprenticeship/traineeship/s upported internship/other employment related provision	There must be evidence of educational progress at a level which is sufficient to lead to employability	<p>Employment opportunities , employment related training/education or Higher education</p> <p>And/or</p> <p>Support from Adult social care service – support at home; day service support/respite; accommodation based support through supported living; shared lives placements;</p>

					residential care
4	Remaining at a non-maintained special school or moving to a Independent Specialist provider	<p>A range of local mainstream options to meet the agreed educational outcomes have been fully considered and there is evidence they are not suitable and cannot meet the young persons agreed educational outcomes</p> <p>Evidence of educational assessments undertaken by local providers which demonstrate why they are unable to put in place the arrangements required to meet the young person's educational outcomes (This should include consideration of specialist support budgets to provide additional resources for medical or therapy needs )</p>	Moving to an Independent Specialist provider	<p>Any new course must be a progression from previous courses studied.</p> <p>A range of local mainstream options to meet the agreed educational outcomes have been fully considered and there is evidence they are not suitable and cannot meet the young persons agreed educational outcomes</p> <p>Evidence of educational assessments undertaken by local providers which demonstrate why they are unable to put in place the arrangements required to meet the young person's</p>	<p>Employment opportunities , employment related training/education or Higher education</p> <p>And/or</p> <p>Support from Adult social care service – support at home; day service support/respite; accommodation based support through supported living; shared lives placements; residential care</p> <p>Or continuing healthcare adult pathway</p>

				educational outcomes (This should include consideration of specialist support budgets to provide additional resources for medical or therapy needs)	
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## New entrants 16-25

It is expected that the number of young people requesting an EHCP for the first time aged 16-25 will be very small as the Council expect to identify and manage the SEND of children and young persons at a younger age than 16. Those young people aged 16-25 who will request an EHCP for the first time may include:

- A young person with a disability who has recently moved to England from elsewhere;
- A young person who has developed or recently been assessed as having a special educational needs (for example a serious mental health condition/ brain injury)
- Where a young person's disability is becoming more apparent as they reach adulthood and move to independence
- Where a young person was well supported through the Local Offer while at school, but moves to an FE college where the same level of support is not available

Young people aged 16-25 have the right to request an assessment for an EHCP; such requests can also be made by a person acting on behalf of the young person or from a College, other education provider or school. Requests will be considered individually, and the Council will make a decision and communicate it to the young person or young person's parent within 6 weeks of receiving the request. Should a request be refused, the Council will provide reasons. Such a decision may be appealed to the Tribunal.

In deciding whether an EHC assessment is necessary, the Council will decide whether there is evidence that despite the young person's school or post-16 institution having taken relevant and purposeful action to identify, assess and meet the special educational needs of the young person, the young person has not made expected progress. The Council will take into account a wide range of evidence but will pay particular attention to:

- evidence of the young person's academic attainment and rate of progress;
- information about the nature, extent and context of the child or young person's SEN;
- evidence that where progress has been made, it has only been as the result of much additional intervention and support over and above that which is usually provided;
- evidence of the child or young person's physical, emotional and social development and health needs, drawing on relevant evidence from clinicians and other health professionals and what has been done to meet these by other agencies, and  
where a young person is aged over 18, the local authority must consider whether the young person requires additional time, in comparison to the majority of others of the same age who do not have special educational needs, to complete their education or training.  
Remaining in formal education or training should help young people to achieve education and training outcomes, building on what they have learned before and preparing them for adult life.