



Shropshire Multi-Agency Transition Protocol for supporting young people from year 8 to adulthood who have additional needs

Shropshire Multi-Agency Transition Protocol for supporting young people from year 8 to adulthood who have additional needs

1 INTRODUCTION

Transition into adulthood can mean a period of uncertainty for young people and their parents or carers. At times they may be unsure what to expect and what support is available to help plan for the future. This Multi-Agency Transition Protocol seeks to address these issues. The Transition Protocol starts from year 8, however practitioners and professionals can support parents and young people prepare for adulthood from a much earlier age.

This protocol is to support all the professionals and agencies in Shropshire that have a responsibility in ensuring young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) make a successful transition into adulthood. This includes Education, Health and Social Care professionals involved in planning and commissioning services as well as those delivering them.

This protocol has been designed with young people at the centre. It has been developed to support and continually improve the transition process, by ensuring multi-agency working for the benefit of young people, their parents and carers. The protocol aims to outline the transition pathway and ensure everyone involved in transition, including young people, parents and carers understand the specific roles and responsibilities so that they can work together effectively to support the young person.

2 SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND/OR DISABILITIES

A disability as defined by the Equality Act 2010; a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Examples covered by the protocol include: learning difficulties, learning disabilities, mental health needs, long-term neurological conditions, autistic spectrum disorders, sensory, and physical impairments.

A Special Educational Need is defined in the SEND Code of Practice 0-25 years – January 2015; A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

- has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
- has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.

3 OUR VISION

To provide a positive experience of Transition for all young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), through a person centred approach, that prepares young people effectively for adulthood.

4 OUTCOMES

Young people with additional needs would have the same opportunity as their peers to achieve employment, independent living, to be part of a community and achieve and maintain good health and wellbeing.

5 PURPOSE

The purpose of the protocol is;

- To provide transparency in decision making,
- To provide clarity on roles and responsibilities of young people, their parents or carers, agencies and professionals involved, so we are working together in an integrated, multi-agency manner.
- To support young people and their families through the transition process in a timely way and in accordance with the legal framework,
- To promote best practice and deliver quality outcomes,
- To ensure value for money and the effective use of resources.
- Education, Health, Social Care & other agencies working together to support the planning and commissioning processes.

6 VALUES

Delivering a person centred approach that empowers young people and their families through a way of working that is;

- Outcome focused
- Partnership based
- Respectful
- Honest
- Aspirational
- Open to challenge
- Equitable for all young people
- Co-productive

7 SCOPE

This protocol applies to the organisations and professionals who work with young people and their families in Shropshire, during transition from year 8.

- Educational settings
- Child and Adult Social Care
- Child and Adult Health Care services
- Child and Adult Education services
- Housing
- Employment Services
- Voluntary Sector
- IAG professionals
- Advocacy groups including Information, Advice Support and Service

8 TRANSITION PATHWAY

The pathway matrix is a timeline from Year 8 for professionals to have a multi-agency overview of the Transition process. Aspirational conversations will have started in year 8 to help support the formal planning in year 9. A multi-agency group has been set up from professionals across the service areas to support the transition process. Each service (or pathway) has a Lead Professional who co-ordinates a Multi-Agency team to work with the young person and their family. Occasionally a young person may have highly complex needs and 2 or more pathways may overlap, these need to be rationalised and an agreed Professional assigned to take the lead role. The A number of statutory assessments will be undertaken throughout the transition pathway. Refer to the pathway matrix for details.

9 TRANSITION ASSESSMENT BETWEEN CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Transition assessments and planning should take place at the right time for the young person or carer and at a point when the local authority can be reasonably confident about what the young person's or carer's needs for care or support will look like after the young person in question turns 18. There is no set age when young people reach this point; every young person and their family are different, and as such, transition assessments should take place when it is most appropriate for them.

Planning for Adulthood will take place from a young age to ensure that children's aspirations are met.

10 ADULT CARERS AND YOUNG CARERS

Preparation for adulthood will involve not only assessing how the needs of young people change as they approach adulthood but also how carers, young carers and other family members needs might change. Local

authorities must assess the needs of a carer where there is a likely need for support for a young person and when a young person turns 18.

11 MENTAL CAPACITY

The Mental Capacity Act (MCA) is designed to protect and empower individuals who may lack the mental capacity to make their own decisions about their care and treatment. It is a law that applies to individuals age 16 and over. The MCA is built on the following 5 guiding principles

1. The starting point is to assume that a person has capacity
2. All practicable steps must be taken to support someone to make their own decision
3. No one should be said to lack capacity just because they make an unwise decision
4. When someone does lack capacity for a specific decision this decision should be made in their best interests
5. Before anyone takes a decision or carries out an action for someone else they must see if it can be done in a way that is less restrictive of their rights.

Young people aged 16 and over have the right to make their own decisions in relation to the provision that is available for them including being consulted about provision in their areas, although there is nothing to stop them asking their parents, or others to help them make the decision. However, some young people, and possibly some parents, will not have the mental capacity to make certain decisions. A person has capacity for a specific decision if they are able to do all of the following

- Understand the key points of the information they are given
- Retain that information long enough to make a decision
- Use and weigh the information
- Communicate the decision

Where someone does not have capacity for a particular decision the MCA tells staff how to act in the persons best interests and the steps that must be followed. This will always include participation by the young person and consultation with them to determine their wishes, feelings, beliefs and values. Part of the best interests' process will also involve consultation with others and parents/carers will have a significant role in this consultation. They will be asked what they can share about the young person's wishes, feelings, beliefs and values. They will also be asked what they think is in the young person's best interests.

12 FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

SEN and Disabled Children Focus Groups to support the on-going Transition process development work – “the voice of the young person”.

Disabled Children and Young People 0-25 Strategic Board re-evaluating and developing the Protocol and Pathway on a half-yearly basis.

Future partnership working with other professional agencies, young people and their families to co-produce review and amend the Transition Protocol.

13 MANAGEMENT OF THE TRANSITION PLANNING

The Disabled Children and Young People 0-25 Strategic Board provides leadership, strategic direction and support in establishing effective and efficient transition of young people across Shropshire. They have specific responsibilities for:

- The development and co-ordination of services for young people as they move into adult: - health and social care service.
- Meeting the assessed needs of Shropshire residents
- Ensuring that transition, across all agencies, is managed in accordance with agreed standards, processes and protocols
- The implementation of the national Transition Support Programme.
- Ensuring that transition, across all agencies is delivered in accordance with all relevant legislation regarding the transition process, with a particular focus on the requirements in the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2015.
- Ensuring that the effectiveness of local transition processes to ensure that preparing for adulthood outcomes are effectively delivered for young people with SEND in Shropshire.

14 LEGAL INFORMATION

The main legislations used to provide a positive transition in to adulthood are;

- Children and Families Act 2014
- Promoting the Education of Looked After Children (Statutory Guidance for local authorities) July 2014
- Care Act 2014
- Children's Act 1989
- Education Act 1996
- Equalities Act 2010
- Looked After Children and Leaving Care Act 2000
- Short Breaks Regulations 2010
- Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970
- Mental Capacity Act 2005

15 CONTACTS

Shropshire Council

www.shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 0345 678 9000 General enquiries

Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group

www.shropshireccg.nhs.uk

Tel: 01743 277500 General enquiries

First Point of contact (FPOC)

Tel: 0345 678 9008 Children's Services

Tel: 0345 678 9044 Adult Social Care

All calls will be dealt with sensitively and in the strictest of confidence by a friendly and dedicated team of advisers, who will ensure customers get the right help and support as quickly and easily as possible.

COMPASS

www.shropshire.gov.uk/early-help/compass

Tel: 0345 678 9021

Compass is the single point of contact for receiving NEW enquiries regarding concerns for the welfare or protection of children and young people and Mental Health conditions (CAMHS) in Shropshire. Compass promotes the offer of early help to children and families in the first instance, where it is safe to do so.

Compass provides other professionals with support and guidance in completing assessments for early help and delivering early help plans. This support includes the opportunity to book a consultation with either an early help social worker, a primary child and adolescent mental health worker, or a targeted youth worker.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Team

[www.shropshire.gov.uk/special-education-needs-and-disability-\(send\)](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/special-education-needs-and-disability-(send))

Tel: 01743 254366

The majority of children and young people with SEND will have their needs met within the educational setting and by universal services. Some young people with complex needs may require additional support through the provision of an Education, Health and Care Plan.

Local Offer

www.shropshire.gov.uk/local-offer

Tel: 0345 678 9063

Local Offer brings health, education and social care services together to improve outcomes in special educational needs and disability. The platform contains information on services, clubs and activities relating to SEND.

Shropshire Choices

www.shropshirechoices.org.uk

Shropshire Choices is a website that pulls together information from Adult Social Care, Housing and Health that can assist you in finding the information, advice and support that you or the person you care for, need to remain independent and keeping well. It pulls together a variety of options that are available in your local community for you to choose from. There may be times when you need care and support to remain independent, Shropshire Choices will help you, your family and friends to find the support that is right for you. The range of information will help you to make the right choices at the right time.

Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk/camhs-shropshire

Tel: 01743 450800

The Shropshire CAMHS team is based at Coral House in Shrewsbury but some practitioners hold clinics in different parts of the county. Our team consists of Psychiatrists, Mental Health Practitioners, a Speech and Language Therapist, Primary Mental Health Practitioners (PMHP), a Family Therapist and a Cognitive Behavioural Therapist. Some of these Practitioners are Non-medical Prescribers. We are supported by our Administration team. The team offers specialist assessment, therapy and therapeutic interventions. These can be with families or on an individual basis depending on the need of the young person and family. It may or may not include medication. We see young people under 18 who have been admitted to The Princess Royal Hospital after harming themselves.

Children South Staffordshire and Shropshire Health Care

www.sssft.nhs.uk

Tel: 0300 790 7000

The Trust provides mental health, learning disability and specialist children's services across South Staffordshire and mental health and learning disability services in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Powys. We also provide some services on a wider regional, or national basis.

We aim to be positively different through positive practice and positive partnerships. What matters most to us are people; the people we work to provide effective services for, the people who work for us and the people we work in partnership with.

Young Minds

www.youngminds.org.uk

Young-Minds is the UK's leading charity committed to improving the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people.

Continuing Health Care (CHC) Shropshire

www.shropshireccg.nhs.uk/continuing-healthcare

Tel: 01743 277531

NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) is a package of support funded by the NHS.

It helps care for a patient's physical or mental health needs that have arisen as a result of disability, accident or illness. Individuals assessed as having a certain level of care need may receive NHS Continuing Healthcare. It is not dependent on a particular disease, diagnosis or condition, nor on who provides the care or where that care is provided. If someone's overall care needs show that the primary need is a health need, the person should be eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare. More information can be found at NHS Choices.

Shropshire Information, Advice and Support Service (Shropshire IASS)

www.cabshropshire.org.uk/shropshire-iass

Tel: 01743 280019

The Shropshire Information, Advice and Support Service provides free, confidential and impartial information, advice and support regarding special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), including health and social care.

Shropshire Virtual School

Tel: 01743 250124

A team of educational professionals staffs the Shropshire Virtual School. We are committed to the education of children in the care of Shropshire Local Authority. We promote the attendance, achievement and progress of Shropshire's looked after children from rising threes to adulthood.

The Virtual School works closely with social care and education settings to ensure that all children have a termly Personal Education Plan (PEP) that is of high quality, and clearly tracks the progress of the young person.

All local authorities have a Virtual Head who is responsible for the education of the children in its care wherever they are placed.

Parent and Carer Council

www.paccshropshire.org.uk

Tel: 0845 601 2205

PACC is a local parent carer forum and promotes the participation of parent carers in the planning and delivery of services for children and young people (0-25 years) with disabilities or additional needs in Shropshire.