

Transitions Team

We start dealing with the Transitions Team from around Year 9. With your permission we send through some details about your child and their needs. Somebody from your area's Transition team may attend some Key Stage 3 and 4 Annual Reviews. This is so they can start assessing the support that may be needed as the child moves into adulthood. Your designated Transition Worker will carry out an assessment when your child is 17 years and 6 months. This will then determine the support that might be needed when they move into the adult services at 18. We work closely with the Transition Workers for when the pupils leave Hillside as they are the ones who will identify need and work with the family to support the next steps.

Background points

Although working in conjunction with one another, Lancashire County Council's 'Children's Social Care' and 'Adults Social Care' are separate organisations with differing roles, responsibilities and criteria's.

Historically, any children known to Children's Social Care, would 'age out' at 18 years of age and a new assessment process would begin from this time into Adults Social Care. For those with additional needs and support services in place this obviously presents a problem and potentially a gap in essential services.

The Transition Service.

The Transition Service was established to combat these issues and 'bridge the gap' between these two services, whilst itself being funded by and falling under Adults Social Care.

The Transition Service falls under Adult Social Care's 'Mental Health, Learning Disability & Autism directorate' and as such the main scope of their work falls into these categories. This being said, the service does also work with children/young people who may not have diagnosis of any cognitive impairment but do have a physical or sensory impairment.

The Service is an entryway into Adult Social Care for those children/young people with additional needs who meet the Service's criteria. Some of these children/young people may have been known to Children's Social Care historically, others may not, with this being their first experience of Social Care Services.

The Transition Service aim to get to a young person and their circumstances/needs prior to their 18th birthday in order to complete an Adult Social Care Assessment and look to plan what support services may look like from their 18th birthday and whether this will need to incorporate continued education or not.

For those who it is seen appropriate to continue in education post 18 years of age when they leave Hillside, Lancashire County Council's Inclusion Service will also be involved in planning and approving any proposed educational placements.

Once accepted by The Transition Service, they aim to support individuals with their transition into Adult Social Care, an accommodation move (If required) and an educational move (If approved). Once individuals reach approximately 19 years of age and their situation is settled they look to transfer their case to the appropriate adult social work teams for ongoing support or review.

Criteria

*The Transition Service accepts referrals from the age of 14yrs to 17yrs. Between 14 – 16 years their remit is to offer advice and support to individuals and their families about their futures. Once 17 years of age the team will begin an active role in assessing additional needs and planning support services for when they turn 18 years of age and enter adult social care.

*If an individual has already turned 18 years of age, a referral can still be made into adult social care, however this will be required to go straight through to the adult social work teams via the customer contact centre; 0300 123 6720.

*A diagnosis of a cognitive/processing, physical or sensory impairment. (Evidence of diagnosis preferred).

*An active EHCP plan preferred if individual in education.

NB; it is worth noting that Children's Social Care & Adult's Social Care's criteria are somewhat different and there may be situations where individuals may not have met the criteria for Social Care involvement from Children's Services but do meet the criteria for adults Services.

NB; It is also worth noting that if a child/young person does not meet the criteria for involvement for The Transition Service, this does not automatically mean that they do not mean the criteria for Adult Social Care as a whole in relation to The Care Act 2014 from their 18th birthday.