

The Care Act and Transition to Adult Social Care Services.

The transition from being a young person to adulthood can be a difficult time for anyone but it can be particularly difficult for disabled young people or young people with long term health conditions. Often the young people will be in contact with a number of different people and agencies and some of these contacts might change as they approach adult life.

Some young people will require support from adult social care services when they reach the age of 18. Sometimes this will just be in the form of advice and guidance but for young people with more complex needs they may require additional care and support to meet their needs.

When a young person requires help from Adult Social Care, we want to ensure there is a smooth transition from any children's services they might have been accessing.

Care Act 2014

In April 2015 the Care Act was implemented. This introduced a number of changes for Adult Social Care services, including:

- the need to provide information and advice
- a change to the "eligibility criteria" which Local Authorities use to determine if someone meets the criteria for care
- more support for carers, including young carers
- new duties and responsibilities in relation to Transition.

in 2016 it's expected that further changes will be implemented relating to the costs of care to individuals.

Eligibility for services

The Care Act introduced new eligibility criteria to assist Local Authorities in deciding who is eligible for care and support. Adults are likely to meet the criteria where they have care and support needs due to a physical or mental disability or illness and where they are unable to complete specified tasks or activities.

Transition

Where it is likely that a young person will have care and support needs when they reach age 18 and it is thought to be of significant benefit to the young person then an assessment can take place. The assessment will consider the young person's well-being and what care and support needs they are likely to have at age 18.

A young person, or someone acting on their behalf can make a referral to adult social care to request a transition assessment. If the request is made on behalf of the young person then it should be with their agreement.

The assessment will usually involve the young person, their parents and carer and any person the young person or parent or carer requests to be involved.

If it is decided that an assessment is not needed, the reasons why will be explained in writing and advice and information will be provided.

For some young people with Special Educational Needs, and who are also likely to have care and support needs at age 18, a joint assessment and transition planning may be appropriate.

The assessment is an important part of the transition planning to identify what needs the young person is likely to have on reaching age 18. Early transition planning can help prevent a gap in services for the young person.

Carers

The Care Act also enables young carers who are approaching 18 to have their needs assessed. In addition there is provision in the Care Act for the carers of disabled young people going through transition to have their needs assessed.

More Information

For some disabled young people their transition planning is linked in with their reviews at school, for others who have a social worker then the social worker can assist in contacting Adult Social Care services to arrange a transition assessment.

More information is available on our website www.Kent.gov.uk or by contacting KCC Adult Social Care on:

Telephone: 03000 41 61 61

Text relay: 18001 03000 41 61 61