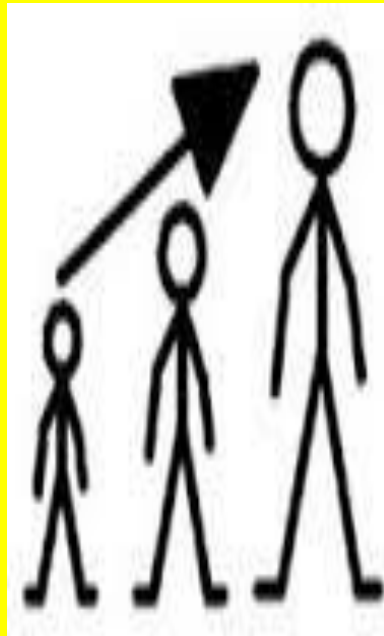


# **An Introduction to the Preparing for Adulthood Pathway**

**14 -25 Years of Age**



**A Booklet for Parents of  
Children with Special  
Educational Needs &  
Disabilities**

## The Preparing for Adulthood Pathway Explained

Things are changing! It used to be that if your child had a learning difficulties or a disability, they may have been given a Statement of Special Education Needs, (Statement) which could have lasted till they were 19 years of age if they remained in education. The Statement would have listed all the additional services that your child was legally entitled to help them access education. As from September 2014 your child will no longer be given a Statement. Now, if your child have a learning difficulty, or a disability, they may be assessed for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan). The EHC Plan will detail not just the education services, but also the additional health and social care services that they are entitled to. Additionally, if the plan is needed and your child is still in education it can last until they are 25 years old.

### WHY THIS BOOKLET?

Your child is now becoming a young adult and over the next few years they will find their life will start to change. Their future is important and as a parent/carer you need to know what is going to happen.

This booklet is to help you understand all the things that will take place from the age of 14 to 25 years of age. A series of Transitions Reviews will take place between year 9 and year 14 of your child's educational life.

Don't panic! It won't all happen at once. This booklet will give you step by step information about what will happen to your child in year 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and what is possible after that. Right up until they reach the age of 25.

Information on how to apply for an EHC assessment can be found at:

<http://www.lbdd.gov.uk/ChildrenAndYoungPeople/ChildrenwithSEN/Documents/SENLocalOffer.pdf>

### Personal Budgets and Direct Payments

From September anyone with an EHC plan can apply for a Personal Budget (PB). A PB shows the amount of money that will be spent on the additional services outlined in your child's EHC Plan. You may be able to receive some of the funding as a Direct Payment to give you more flexibility in how and when your child receives the services they require. Direct Payments will not be available for all the services and decisions will be made on a case by case basis. There will also be a requirement to demonstrate how and where the payments are being spent and if the purchased services are working towards the desired outcomes set out in their EHC Plan.

## First Things First

Before you look at what is going to happen, you must find out about the 'LOCAL OFFER'

The LOCAL OFFER is the website where you can find out about different services, for your child and family.

[www.lbdd.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.lbdd.gov.uk/localoffer)

## The Start of The PfA Pathway

### Year 9 (age 13-14) Review

In year 9 your child will receive their first Planning for Adulthood (PfA) Transitions Review. Basically, this means a group of people will support them to plan, their journey into adult life. In the review your child will have the support of a Careers Advisor. This person will help them start to think about what adult life might look like.

### Year 10 (age 14-15) Review

Your child's EHC plan will again be reviewed.

It is now time to start to plan and visit potential places where your child may want to work, train or attend college. This will allow them to get a feel for what they are going to do after year 11.

By doing this you will help them start to build up an idea of what the education options are like. These types of visits are really important in helping your child to consider which direction they are going to take.

### Year 11 (age 15-16) Review

A SEND Careers Advisor will be at this review. If your child decides that they want to live alone and need social care, a social worker will attend the review and liaise with housing services. You and your child decide what they are going to do after they are 16. Will they go to college? Will they go on an apprenticeship or internship? Or maybe stay on at school. The past couple of years' should have helped them to make a choice that you are happy with.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Your child will have officially left year 11 of secondary school. They are now 16 years or older. They will now find themselves in one of 3 positions.

1. They will be in a school placement.
2. They will be on an apprenticeship.
3. They will be on a college placement.

## Years 12-14

In years 12 (age 16-17), 13 (age 17-18) and year 14 (age 18-19) they will still have annual reviews. The people in charge of carrying out the reviews may differ depending on whether they are at school, collage or on an apprenticeship. During this time you and your child will start to fact find and make steps towards their future, once they have completed compulsory education. This may include: looking at further education options: Filling in job applications: Visits to educational placements.

## 19 to 25 Where do They Go Next?

Your child has officially finished their compulsory education. However, if they remain in education, the ECH plan could continue and therefore it will need to consider the following:

- Their accommodation needs.
- Their inclusion in social activities.
- Their education needs.
- Their health needs.

It is important that you know that the EHC Plans are only for people who are in education. If you find that your child wants to leave education get a paid job, then their EHC will cease. However, that is where the LOCAL OFFER can provide useful links to services which can assist you and your child with the above considerations. Once they reach the age of 25 the EHC Plan will cease. Once again your child can still access support through the LOCAL OFFER.

**[www.lbdd.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.lbdd.gov.uk/localoffer)**

More detailed information can be found in the ***Preparing for Adulthood Guidance for Parents and Professionals.***