

Barking and Dagenham

Preparing for Adulthood Pathway

Guidance Document



1. Introduction

For many people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) the transition from teenage years into adulthood can be challenging as well as exciting. In Barking and Dagenham, young people, parents and professional from Health, Education and Social Care have come together to jointly develop a '**Preparing for Adulthood Pathway (PfA)**' that lays out, in clear and accessible language and format, what support, advice and options are available at different stages between the ages of 14 and 25. The Preparing for Adulthood processes are exactly the same as the 0 to 14 processes, hence this guidance should be read in conjunction with the **EHC Guidance and Pathways Document**.

In summary, the EHC Guidance and pathways document explains that from September 2014 if a child or young person has a Special Educational Need or a Disability (SEND), they may be entitled to an Education Health and Care Plan (EHC) that details the multi-agency support they are legally entitled to. The EHC plan is reviewed annually until the needs of the child or young person reduce and the plan is no longer required, or until a young person leaves education. If a young person remains in education, an EHC plan may be maintained up until the age of 25. The EHC plan and processes are replacing Statements of Educational Needs (Statements). After 2014 Statements will no longer be issued and over the next three years all existing Statements will be converted into EHC Plans.

Although EHC processes are the same for 0 to 25 year olds, from 14 onwards the processes focus on preparing for adult life and different professionals get involved in planning and review. The PfA explains at which points key decisions need to be made and lists the stages various services become available, such as:

- Careers advice at the ages of 14, 16 and 18
- The Department of Work and Pensions Benefits advice from the age of 16.
- The availability of Adult Social Care Assessments from the age of 18.
- The transfer to Adult Health Services at 18.

The PfA aims to raise aspirations and expectation for young people as they move into adulthood, it ensures that everybody knows how to support all young people to achieve positive life outcomes in the areas of, employment, maximising independent living, good health, friends, relationships and community participation.

2. Person Centred Planning; shifting from the family unit to the individual

EHC processes use, **Person Centered Planning (PCP)**; the practice of focusing solely on the individual and the family in question designing services around them. The key purpose of PCP is to ensure children and young people with Special Educational Needs and disabilities get the maximum outcome from the services and support available for them.

There is a legal requirement that EHC plans are Person Centered and the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham are currently



rolling out PCP training to professionals involved in the EHC processes.

Up until the age of 14 EHC processes plan around the needs and wishes of the family unit. For a young person transitioning to adulthood there is a need to gradually shift the focus from the needs of the family to the needs of the young person. The extent of this shift will differ in every case and will need to be sensitively managed. From 14 onwards, as far as possible, increasing independence for the young person needs to be encouraged. From the age of 16, young people may have aspirations that significantly differ from the aspirations their parents or carers have for them. From 18 the young person is legally an independent adult. The PfA pathway details the different points at which increased independence needs to be considered.

3. Personal Budgets and Direct Payments During the Preparing for Adulthood Pathway

From September 2014, anyone who has an EHC Plan can apply for a Personal Budget. A Personal Budget is the amount of money spent on the services listed in the EHC plan. The Budget is predominantly still managed by statutory services and not given to families or young people to manage themselves.

In some instances it is possible for elements of a Personal Budget to be paid directly to a family or young person as a Direct Payment, enabling them to directly purchase some of the services that are stipulated in the EHC plan. Examples of possible Direct Payments could include, transport, respite care, domiciliary care, and equipment.

From the age of 16 young people can apply for a Personal Budget and be in receipt of a Direct Payment independently of parents or carers.

The Preparing for Adulthood Pathway encourages increasing independence, where possible, between the ages of 14 to 25. As young people's move along the **PfA** their needs are increasingly seen independently of their family. In many cases a young person's view on how to spend Direct Payments may differ from the views of their parents or carers. It is essential that wherever possible, young people between the ages of 14 and 18 are involved in the negotiation and management of Personal Budgets and Direct Payments.

More information on Personal Budgets, Direct Payments and how to apply for them is included in a separate document; Guidance on Personal Budgets.

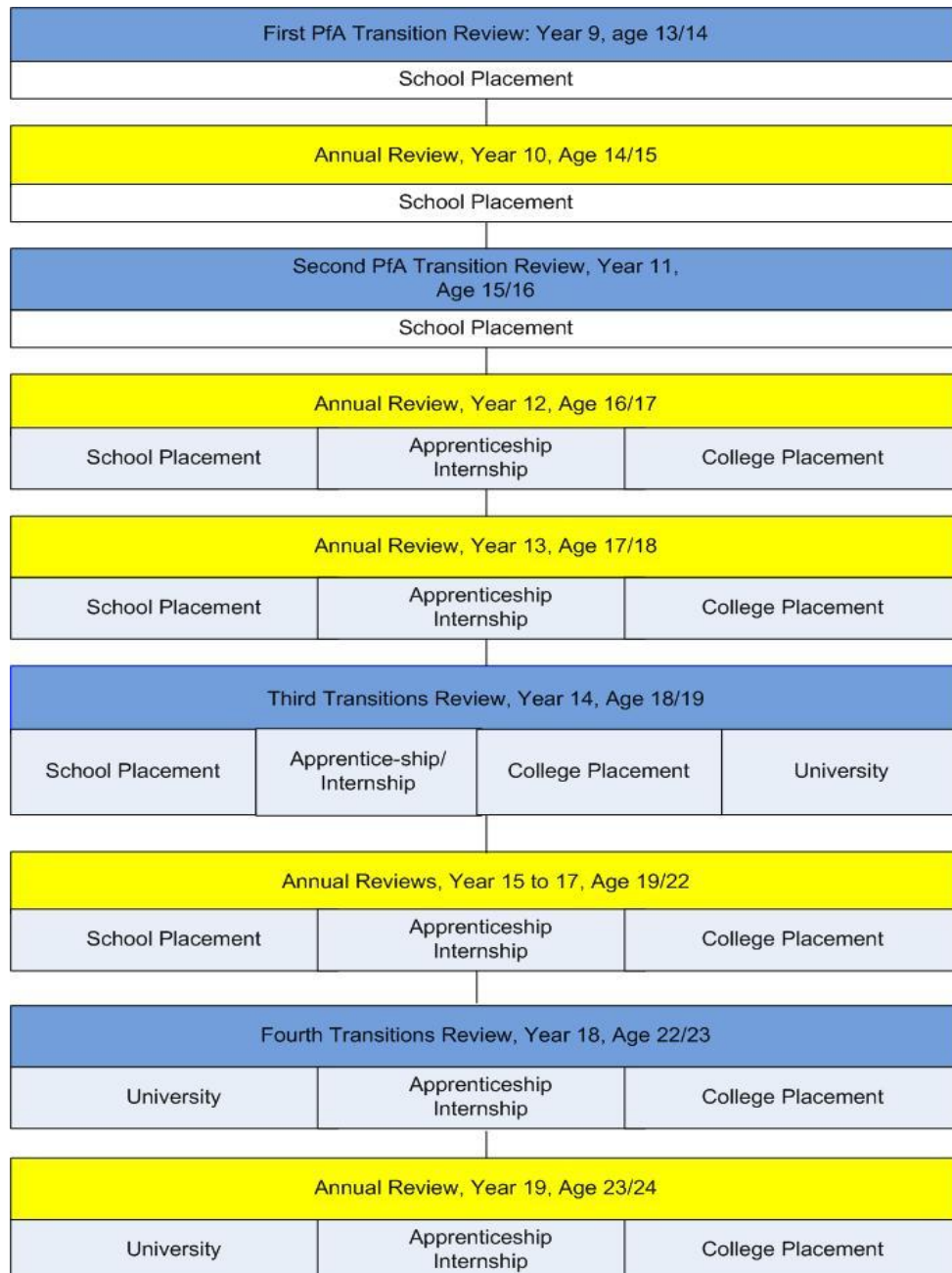
4. The Local Offer

The Local Offer is a public resource website listing local services that are available to children and young people with SEND and their families. The website also holds information about the EHC processes and how to gain referral to them. The content of the Local Offer is regularly reviewed to ensure provision reflects the support, needs and aspirations held by children, young people, parents, carers and service providers. It include services young adults may need to access as they transition to adulthood such as; benefits advice, Employment Services and Adult health and social care. A few contacts relevant the PfA Pathway can be found at the end of this document, but the complete Local Offer can be found at: www.lbbd.gov.uk/localoffer

5. Stages in the PfA Pathway

Every young person's EHC plan is reviewed annually during the PfA Pathway. Four of these reviews are transition reviews. Whilst the EHC plan can be maintained up until the age of 25, this is only the case if the young person remains in some form of education and still requires the EHC plan to progress academically.

Diagram: PfA Annual Reviews and Transition Reviews:



There are key changes in the focus of and professional attendance at annual reviews. The following section explains the focus of each review in detail.

6. First PfA Transition Annual Review: Year 9, Age 13/14

Many families will already have started planning for their teenager's adult life well before the age of 14, but the first PfA Transitions Review in year 9 is when the young person, family/carers and statutory services sit down together and formally begin to plan a young person's Journey to adulthood. At the Transitions meeting the existing EHC plan is reviewed and subsequently rewritten, effectively becoming a transitions plan to adulthood.

The Transitions Review meeting is attended by the young person, their parents or carers, the Head/Deputy Head Teacher, the SENCO, the Local Authority EHC Coordinator, and a SEND Careers Adviser. Reports are submitted by all professionals listed as providing support in the EHC plan. Professionals submitting reports may also be invited to attend the meeting.

The role of the SEND Careers Advisor is to advise on the range of options available to the young person after year 11. Following the Transitions Review meeting parents and young people may begin to research potential provisions, possibly visiting colleges, attending open days, looking through prospectuses.

7. Annual Review, Year 10, Age 14/15

The year 10 annual review should be attended by the young person, their parents or careers, the Head/Deputy Head Teacher, the SENCO, and depending on capacity, the Local Authority EHC Coordinator. Reports are submitted by all professionals listed as providing support in the EHC plan. Professionals submitting reports should also be invited to attend the meeting although their attendance will depend on their services capacity.

The EHC plan is reviewed, if the plan is still needed it is updated. The review meeting gives parents professionals and the young person the opportunity to check whether any previous actions have been followed through.

If the young person has a long-term social care need they may begin to work with an Adult Services Social Worker who will support them to begin thinking about their future.

8. The Second PfA Transitions Review, year 11, Age 15/16

The second meeting is attended by the young person, their parents or carers, the Head/Deputy Head Teacher, the SENCO, the Local Authority EHC Coordinator, and a Specialist Careers Adviser. Reports are submitted by all professionals listed as providing support in the EHC plan. Professionals submitting reports may also be invited to attend the meeting.

It is hoped that agreement on the post 16 placement will have been reached with the parents and relevant professionals prior to the Transitions Review meeting and the meeting can just confirm the agreed placement. If an out of borough, or high cost placement is being sought the request for financing the placement needs to be passed to the EHC Team to be resolved through the SEND panel processes, mediation or the SEND appeals process.

At 16 the young person is able to apply for some benefits in their own right. If the young person is planning to live alone post 16 and is in receipt of social care services then a social worker attached to

the EHC team will also attend the Transitions Review having liaised with various housing services and investigated eligibility for housing benefit.

If the parents are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance parents may receive notification from the Department for Works and Pensions about Personal Independence Payments (PIP) requesting the young person's bank details. The young person may also be eligible for Employment and Support Allowance and Universal Credit.

9. Annual Review, Years 12 and 13, age 16/18

By the years 12 and 13 Annual Reviews the young person could be in a number of placement settings including, a school, a college, an apprenticeship or internship. If the young person is in a school the review will be called and chaired by the Head or Deputy Head Teacher, if the young person is in an internship or apprenticeship a SEND Careers Adviser will call and chair the review. If the young person is in college, the meeting will be called and chaired by the college. In all settings, the result of the review will be fed back to the EHC Team who will update and maintain the EHC Plan.

The reviews should be attended by the young person, their parents or carers, a representative from the placement provider, and depending on capacity, the Local Authority EHC Coordinator. Reports are submitted by all professionals listed as providing support in the EHC plan. Professionals submitting reports should also be invited to attend the meeting, although their attendance will depend on their capacity.

The EHC plan is reviewed and if the plan is still needed it is updated. The review meeting gives parents, professionals and the young person the opportunity to check whether any previous actions have been followed through. Parents and the young person are advised to begin researching and visiting their post 19 educational placement options. Job applications, work experience and/or further study could be discussed.

All families will be notified about their right to an Adult Social Care Assessment combined with a Carers Assessment.

10. The Third PfATransition Review, Year 14, Aged 18/19

The significance of the third transitions annual review is that the young person has reached legal Adulthood. If the Young Person leaves education the EHC Plan will cease to be maintained. If they remain in some form of educational placement the placement provider or, in the case of internships or apprenticeships, a Careers Adviser will call and chair the Annual Review.

The Transition Review should be attended by the young person, who may choose to be accompanied by their parents or carers, a representative from the placement provider and a Local Authority EHC Coordinator. If there is a Health or Social Care service listed in the EHC plan the relevant representatives from the respective adult services will attend. If the transition assessment to adult services is not complete by the 18th birthday, children's services will continue to provide support.

Some young people may find that although they had been in receipt of Children's Social care services they are not eligible for support from adult services; The EHC coordinator will advise what is available by referring to the Local Offer

The EHC plan is reviewed and if the plan is still needed it is updated in light of the young person being an adult.

11. Annual Reviews, Years 15 to 19, Ages 19 to 25

Before September 2014 Statements ceased to be maintained after the young person reached the age of 19. The new EHC Plans can be maintained up until the age of 25, but only if the young person remains in some form of education:

- If a young person decides to move or remain in further education, the EHC plan would potentially continue dependent on the young person's needs, but this could only apply if the further education is supported by the outcomes in the EHC Plan
- If the young person begins an apprenticeship then the EHC Plan would potentially continue, dependent on the young person's needs
- If the young person starts a supported internship, then the EHC Plan would potentially continue, dependant on the young person's needs
- If the young person is to attend a residential specialist college, it is most likely the EHC plan will continue

If the EHC Plan is continued the plan needs to consider how any required health care is accessed:

- The young person may access healthcare independently
- The young person may access healthcare with support from specialist settings
- The young person may rely on family for good access to healthcare
- The EHC Plan would need to ensure that support for complex health needs are integrated across education and social care to ensure all staff have the necessary core skills to provide support.

The EHC Plan would also need to consider the accommodation needs of the young person. This is because they may;

- live at home,
- live Independently away from family home and possibly receive housing benefit,
- move to supported living and if eligible, they may receive housing benefit,
- live at college or in a residential care setting

If the EHC Plan is to continue continued, the plan needs to re-consider the young person's social needs:

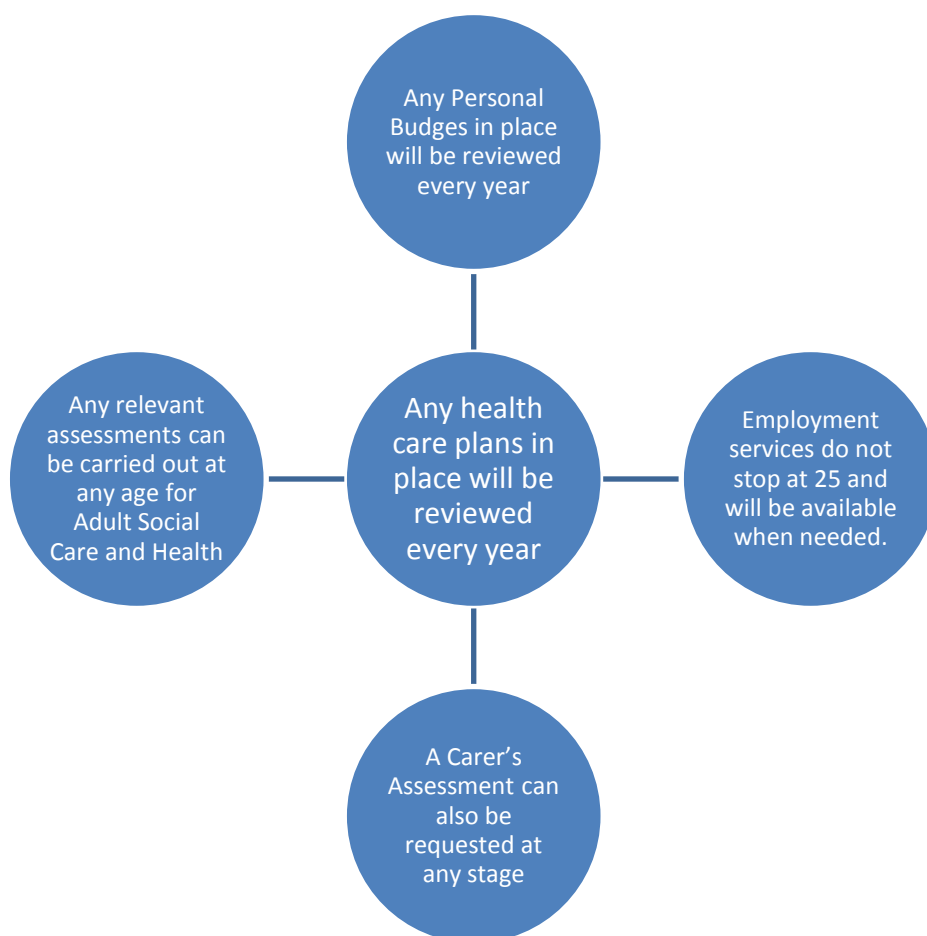
- How the young person accesses mainstream social activities and social settings and whether that is with or without support
- If appropriate, how the young person access specialist social clubs
- How the young person engages in family life

The EHC Plan will cease to be maintained if:

- The young person finds a job and starts paid work
- The young person attends Adult Social care day provision, if eligible, or Independent daytime activities.
- If the young person attends residential care

12. What Happens Post 25?

The EHC Plan will cease if not ceased already:



13. Useful contacts

Young People' education, training and employment services

Streetbase Advice Suite,
Barking and Dagenham Foyer
Waking Road
Barking, IG11 8GN
Tel no: 020 8724 3372
Email: careers.services@lbbd.gov.uk

Adult College of Barking and Dagenham

127 Ripple Road
Barking, IG11 7PB
Tel No: 020 8270 4722
Email: carol.chaplin@lbbd.gov.uk

Havering College

ROSE Programme
Havering College
Tring Gardens, Harold Hill
Romford, RM3 9ES
Tel No: 01708 462865

Worksmart

Tel Num: 0845 671 7173 (choose option 1)
Email: worksmart@LCDDisability.org

Citizens Advice Bureau

55 Ripple Road
Barking
Essex
IG11 7NT

Tel No: 020 8594 671

Family Information Service

Barking Town Hall
1 Town Square
Barking, IG11 7LU
Tel No: 020 8227 5395
Email: fis@lbbd.gov.uk

Way 2 Say

The sycamore Trust
482 Gale Street
Dagenham, RM9 4NU
Tel No: 020 8220 0090
Email: admin.pact@ntlbusiness.com

Carers of B and D Parent's Group

Heathway Centre,
512a Heathway, Dagenham,
RM10 7SJ

Creative Parents/Carers

Heathway Centre,
512a Heathway, Dagenham,
RM10 7SJ

Just for parents

Heathway Centre,
512a Heathway, Dagenham,
RM10 7SJ
Tel No: 020 8227 5500

Parents Forum

Heathway Centre,
512a Heathway, Dagenham,
RM10 7SJ
Tel No: 020 8227 5500

Short Breaks Service

Social Care Team/Disabled Children's Team
Tel No: 020 8227 3811
Email: shortbreaks@lbbd.gov.uk

EHC Team

5rd Floor Roycraft House
15 Linton Road
Barking Essex
IG11 8HE
Tel No: 020 8270 6900

Education Inclusion Team

5th Floor, Roycraft House
15 Linton Road

Barking, Essex
IG11 8HE
Tel no: 020 8227 2636

Services for Visually Impaired Children

The Education Inclusion Team
5th Floor, Roycraft House,
15 Linton Road, Barking,
Essex IG11 8HE
Tel no: 020 8227 2636

Independent Living Agency

Tel No: 020 8593 6677
Email: ila@btconnect.com

Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Service

Paediatric Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Team
Child and Family Centre
79 Axe Street
Barking
IG11 7LZ
Tel No: 020 8522 9622

Speech and Language Therapy Service

North East London Community Services
Child and Family Centre
79 Axe Street
Barking
IG11 7LZ
Tel No: 020 8522 9625 / 9646

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

The Child and Family centre
79 Axe Street
Barking
IG11 7LZ
Tel No: 0300 555 1035 / 0844 492 0279
Email: B&DCAMHS@nelft.nhs.uk

Maples Resource Centre (in-house service)

80 Gascoigne Road
Barking
IG11 7LQ
Tel No: 020 8724 1606

Heathlands Day Centre

(in-house service)

Heathway
Dagenham
RM10 7SE
Tel No: 020 8227 5921

Keyring Supported Living Network

Osborne Square
Dagenham
RM9 5BE
Tel No: 0208 592 5742

**Independent Living
Agency (ILA)**

7 Althorne Way
Dagenham
RM10 7AY
Tel No: 020 8593 6677

Barking and Dagenham Healthwatch

Healthwatch Barking and
Dagenham
Harmony House Dagenham CIC
Baden Powell Close
Dagenham
Essex
RM9 6XN

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Local Offer

www.lbbd.gov.uk/localoffer

Moving on Resource Pack: Pathways for getting a life: Transition Planning for Full Lives

- www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk

Tel No: 0208 526 8200

Independent Living Agency (ILA)

7 Althorne Way
Dagenham
RM10 7AY
Tel No: 0208 5936677

Carers of Barking and Dagenham

15 Althorne Way
Dagenham
RM10 7AY
Tel No: 020 8593 4422
Email: carers@carerscentre.org.uk

Supported Living Services

Tel No: 0208 227 5432
Email: cldtintake@lbbd.gov.uk

Ab Phab 18+

Pembroke Gardens
Dagenham
Essex
RM10 7YP
Tel No: 020 8526 8065
Email: abphab18plus@dabd.org.uk