



Preparing for Adulthood

Information for parents/carers of young people with special educational needs and an Education, Health and Care Plan

Preparing for adulthood

As the parent/carer of young person with special educational needs, the move from school to college or work can be an exciting, but also a worrying time.

This booklet describes what you can expect to happen during the transition process from Year 9 onwards if your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan). You should read this alongside Gateshead's Transition Protocol which can be found in our Local Offer: www.gateshead.gov.uk/localoffer

A successful move can be achieved by providing the right information at the right time along with relevant support before, during and after the transition to a new place of study or work.

If you need to speak to someone about any of the issues raised, contact information is given at the end of this booklet.

What the SEND Code of Practice says

The SEND Code of Practice (0-25 years) states that 'with high aspirations, and the right support, the vast majority of children and young people can go on to achieve successful long-term outcomes in adult life'

From Year 9 onwards, local authorities and education providers must work with young people to prepare them for adult life. There are four areas that need to be considered:

- **higher education and/or employment** - including exploring different employment options, such as support for becoming self-employed and help from supported employment agencies
- **independent living** - enabling people to have choice and control over their lives and the support they receive, their accommodation and living arrangements, including supported living
- **participating in society** - including having friends and supportive relationships, and participating in, and contributing to, the local community
- being as **healthy** as possible in adult life

What kind of support should I expect from my child's school?

From Year 9, schools have to start planning for your child's move to further education, employment or training. This means they will invite you, your child (and your social worker, if you have one), to a Year 9 Planning meeting where:

- You and your child can give your views about the four key areas set out above;
- You may meet an Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) Adviser who will explain how they can help and how to contact them

In the year before your child leaves school, your child's IAG Adviser will contact you again in order for your child to consider in more detail what they want to do when they leave school. The IAG Adviser can give you information about college courses, apprenticeships, internships, traineeships and university courses. If your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan, the local authority (LA) will also decide at this point whether this needs to continue once your child has left school and will write to you to let you know the decision.

Moving to Post-16 placement (young people with an EHC Plan)

Summer Term Year 9 (May - Aug)
Pupil in Year 9 (age 13-14)
identified as requiring an EHCP
Transition review meeting during
Year 11 (age 15-16)

- SEND Service identifies relevant young people and provide info to IAG Adviser.
- IAG Adviser provides relevant information regarding progression routes and opportunities. This work continues during Year 10 and up to the autumn term in Year 11. EHCP outcomes from this point should focus on Preparing for Adulthood.

The following section of the process only applies to students moving to a new placement:

Autumn Term Year 11 (Sept – Dec)
Information shared and
multi-agency EHCP Transition
review meeting held at school

- IAG Adviser shares relevant information with the school and relevant services. Information about open days is shared with young people and parents/carers.
- Panel consider potential options around post-16 providers/ placements including any options suggested by the young person where known. A decision is made and parents/carers informed .
- School arranges an EHCP Transition review meeting (no later than 2nd week Nov), where relevant professionals and young person/his/her parents/carers are invited. This must focus on preparation for adulthood and transition outcomes, ensuring that these are added to the EHCP and reviewed annually.

Spring Term (Jan – April)
Preparations made in advance
of Transition to relevant post-16
services and opportunities

- For education provision, formal consultation regarding the placement takes place between LA/provider. Information is shared between school/care and health services and is passed to the new placement
- School/care and health services/providers liaise to ensure necessary arrangements are put in place to aid successful transition.
- Relevant transition visits are made to the new placement by the young person and family to ensure the young person becomes familiar with buildings, people and travel arrangements.

Summer Term (May - Aug)
Final plans made prior to
transition to identified
placement/service.

After leaving school
Young person commences new
placement and annual reviews of
EHCP are conducted thereafter

- Placement provider monitors provision to ensure it is appropriate and meeting the needs of the student.
- Placement provider arranges annual reviews of EHCP's until next Transition point and thereafter until the EHCP ceases.

Who makes decisions about my child's future plans?

Once your child reaches school leaving age at the end of Year 11, they can make their own decisions about their future unless they do not have the mental capacity to do this. They will probably still want to involve you or another adult when they make their decision but their views take precedence when it comes to their future plans.

Does my child's Education, Health and Care Plan automatically continue until they are 25 years old?

Your child has to continue in education or training until the age of 18 but some young people need extra time to complete their learning because of their special educational needs.

The SEND Code of Practice (paragraph 9.151) says that this 'does not mean that there is an automatic entitlement to continued support at age 19 or an expectation that those with an EHC plan should all remain in education until age 25. A local authority may cease a plan for a 19 to 25-year-old if it decides that it is no longer necessary for the EHC plan to be maintained'.

We don't expect that many young people will continue to have an EHCP until the age of 25.

Every request the LA receives for an extra year at college is considered by a panel of professionals. The panel looks at progress so far and the proposed course for the next year. Support will be agreed providing there is evidence that your child can make meaningful progress towards appropriate and realistic outcomes.

Unless there are exceptional circumstances, additional years at college will NOT be agreed if:

- Your child wants to take a course at the same or lower level as a one already done
- Your child has made no progress in the current course
- There is no realistic chance of further training or employment at the end of the course

Will my child's Education, Health and Care Plan be stopped before my child starts college?

No. We sometimes stop an EHCP if we think that a college or training provider can meet your child's needs with the funding that they get from central government and it is no longer necessary for SEN support to be provided by an EHCP. Anyone who gets extra funding from the local authority to meet their special educational needs will need to have an EHCP.

EHCPs are triggered by having educational needs and will not continue if a young person only has health and/or social care needs.

Are there any supported employment courses available?

An IAG Adviser can provide details of supported employment courses. Contact them on 0191 433 2785. Please note that unless your child has a social worker, referrals for a supported employment programme can only be made via an IAG Adviser. If your child has been assessed as eligible for Adult Social Care, your social worker can give you details about courses available.

Does the LA provide travel support for young people in post-16 education or training?

We encourage pupils to independently travel using public transport from Year 9 onwards and can provide independent travel training in some cases to assist them to do this. Independent travel promotes independence, confidence and increases a student's opportunities and life chances for the future and should be introduced and encouraged from as early as possible.

Travel support in the form of taxis/minibuses will only be provided in exceptional circumstances and this is eligibility criteria which can be found in the Transport Information section of Gateshead's Local Offer: www.gateshead.gov.uk/localoffer

In general, help with travel support will only be provided if your child has:

- severe learning difficulty
- severe medical conditions, for example, severe unstable epilepsy, oxygen dependence, autism with associated severe learning difficulties, severe mental health issues (in cases where the applicant is receiving mental health support from professional staff)
- severe psychological conditions which includes extreme phobia (medical confirmation must be provided)

We would always expect a young person taking part in a supported employment course, traineeship or apprenticeship to travel independently to and from college/their work placement.

Will an EHCP continue at university?

No. The plan will automatically stop as universities provide their own support to students. It might be useful to provide a copy of the EHCP to the university, so they know what your child's needs are.

What happens about health and social care when my child turns 18?

If your child has a social worker, they will be assessed by their social worker before they reach their 18th birthday to see if they qualify for adult social care. If this is the case, they will move to the Transitions Team once they turn 18; a team of social workers providing support to young people aged 18 and over with a learning disability.

Social workers from the Children with Disabilities Team or the Looked After Children's Team, work closely with the Transitions Team social workers to ensure that there is a smooth transfer between the teams.

What happens if a college isn't meeting my child's needs – how do they request an EHCP?

Colleges may request an EHCP if they feel that a young person needs more support than they can provide, but young people and their parents/carers can also request an EHCP by contacting the SEND Team. It is helpful if you can provide evidence such as reports from college, a doctor's letter confirming a diagnosis etc.

Once a request is made, the local authority will let you know within six weeks of the request whether we will go ahead with the EHCP assessment.

What happens if the request is refused?

You can ask for a meeting with a manager from the SEND Team to discuss the reason for the refusal.

You can appeal against the local authority's decision to the SEND Tribunal. The Tribunal is completely independent of the local authority which must then carry out whatever decision the Tribunal makes. Before you can go ahead with a Tribunal, you must speak to a mediator to see whether you want to try mediation.

Where can I get more information and advice?

IAG Advisers

IAG Advisers offer impartial advice about college and university courses, apprenticeships and training.

Phone: 0191 433 2785

Email: iag@gateshead.gov.uk

Gateshead's Local Offer

www.gateshead.gov.uk/localoffer

Here you'll find information about activities, employment, education and housing.

Gateshead SEND Information, Advice and Support Service

This service offers free independent support and advice to young people with special educational needs and their parents/carers. You can contact the service by:

Phone: 0191 478 4667

Email: DIASS@barnardos.org.uk

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Team

Phone: 0191 433 3626

Email: senteam@gateshead.gov.uk

