

Transition to adult services

www.devon.gov.uk/cwan

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Information for parents and carers of young people with special needs aged 13 and over.

Transition is an on-going process which takes place across the final years of school and into the early years of whatever comes next.

This might be:

- work
- further education
- vocational training
- life skills work
- independent living
- social opportunities.

Planning for transition should include education, employment, housing and support needs, community and leisure activities and health needs.

The transition process is one that all young people go through, but it can be especially difficult for young people with special needs.

To help make the process as smooth as possible, the **Devon Transitions Protocol** has been drawn up; this places certain obligations on people who might work with your child.

The purpose of this planning is to make sure your child has continuity in their care, and to make sure that they have access to all the information and opportunities they are entitled to, or want, at a time that is meaningful to them.

It should take account of the personal goals and aspirations of your child. Your child and you as their family or carers should be at the centre of planning for the future.

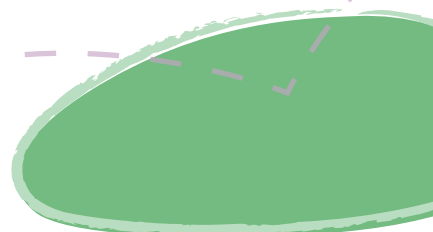
Research shows that the transition period is a stressful and difficult time. Planning should aim to reduce anxieties and reassure everyone involved that there is a clear plan for them all to work from.

The main things to remember about transition are:

- that there are people to help you through the process, and a protocol to make sure that those people are working together with you and your child to help plan for the future.
- that transition does not happen on your child's 16th or 18th birthday – it is a long process with plenty of time for you to find out everything you need and get the support that you want.

Who can I talk to?

You may like to discuss some of the things that you find at your child's Transition Review in Year 9, and in later reviews. You can also talk to your child's Connexions personal adviser and their social care contact.



Factsheet 15

The Transition Information Packs

The packs will help you to think about different issues and options, providing information, as well as signposts to other sources of knowledge and advice.

We hope the packs will provide you with enough detail to begin thinking about the issues involved, but we will also signpost you in the direction of other people who can help.

The Transition Information Packs are given to families of children who have a Statement of Educational Need when they are in year 9.

What's in the Pack?

The Transition Packs are two booklets, one for parents and carers and one for the young person. The booklets contain information about the transition process and tell you where you can get more support and advice.

The packs form the basis of a lot of information that you will collect over the next few years, so it is important to keep it safe. You may like to discuss some of the things that you find at your child's Transition Review in year 9, and in subsequent reviews. You can also talk to your child's Connexions personal adviser or their social care contact.

Devon Parent Partnership Service

01392 383080

www.parentpartnershipdevon.org.uk

This is a free, confidential and impartial service which supports families of children with additional educational needs. They can explain what happens at the transition annual review in Year 9 and at other annual reviews. They can advise you about who is likely to attend the review, accompany you to the review meetings if needed, support you in your contribution to your child's transition plan and signpost you to other organisations you may find helpful.

Parent Carers' Voice Forums

01392 384869

www.parentcarersvoice.org

A group of parents and carers who want to improve services for children with special needs. They meet regularly around the county to talk about relevant issues.

If you do not have access to the internet contact your DISCplus local information co-ordinator, they can print web pages for you and print spare copies of the Transition Packs if you need them.

If you prefer you can use the internet at your local library or children's centre or at many local community resources in rural areas.

DISCplus local information co-ordinators

The co-ordinators are there to help you get information on services and support available in your area.

Phone the main office on **0845 155 1013** and ask to speak to your local co-ordinator or email **discplus@devon.gov.uk**

