

Applicability to Care Leavers

This appendix is under review overseen by John Shaw Strategic Manager
Children with Special Needs CYPS

The essence of the Protocol as described above remains the same for Children with Special Needs who are also Care Leavers. (CSN LAC). However further clarity is required in relation to which team(s) are involved both prior to, and after the Young Person's 18th birthday, and adjustments may need to be made regarding post 18 statutory responsibilities.

- For a CSN LAC, at about the time of his/her 16th birthday an estimation of whether the child is likely to meet the Adult Services Fair Access to Care (FAC) Criteria will be made at the local Children In Transition (CIT) meeting. If it is considered that the criteria will be met then the YP will continue to be the responsibility of the Joint Agency Team. (JAT). If not then he/she will be transferred to be care managed by the Care Leaver's Team. There may be exceptions to this by mutual agreement.
- In both cases, both teams will be available for advice to the "other" team, and in some circumstances specialist areas of assessment/work may be allocated to a worker in the "other" team.
- In the exceptional circumstance where a child meeting FAC is care managed within the Care Leavers Team (for example as part of a sibling group) then the Care Leaver's Worker/Practice Manager should be invited and linked into the CIT.
- Once a YP is aged 18 and provided he/she meets the FAC criteria then full care management and financial responsibility rest with the appropriate Adult Services Team.
- In the exceptional circumstance where a JAT manages a LAC who does not meet the FAC criteria the arrangements for transfer (and joint working, if appropriate) to/with the Care Leaver's Team must be made well before the Young Person's 18th birthday. Only in the most exceptional of circumstances, and by mutual agreement, will the JAT, with advice and support, continue as the Key Worker.
- The Care Leavers Team will also provide advice to Adult Services regarding responsibilities arising from the requirements of the Care Leavers Legislation. In exceptional circumstance they may allocate an additional worker for specific and time limited pieces of work.