
Post 16



Post 16

Timeline - Post-16 Service

Here is a brief note of things it might be helpful to think about at certain times in your child's life.

For up-to-date advice on benefits (these change all the time) a couple of helpful websites are:

[Citizens Advice](#)

[Contact - for families with disabled children | Contact](#)

[Home | Disability charity Scope UK](#)

14/15 years old

Post 16 Placement

It can be helpful to start to think about where your child might want to go for their post-16 placement in year 10. What are they interested in? Where can their needs be best met? What is available locally? It can be helpful to be well prepared and to begin to visit the potential post-16 placements in time for an early Annual Review in Year 11. Ups and Downs Southwest can help with signposting, arranging visits and accompanying you on your visits. Please get in touch if you would like a chat to see how we can support.

Preparation for Adulthood

It is beneficial to involve the local authority Preparing for Adulthood Team if they are not already working with your child. This team can work with your child as they move through their teenage years helping them to build their independence across four main life outcomes: living independently; employment and training, community inclusion and health.

Year 10 EHCP Annual Review

The Preparation for Adulthood Team should be invited to your child's EHCP Annual Review in Year 10. If your child's school hasn't already invited them to the Annual Review they can be contacted at your local authority. Ups and Downs Southwest can support with contacting your local authority, Annual Review preparation and by attending the meetings with you.

Finances

The Government has created a useful toolkit:

[Making financial decisions for young people who lack capacity: A toolkit for parents and carers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

If your child doesn't already have a bank account in their own name, it can be worth applying for one especially if they have a Child Trust Fund.

It might be hard for your child to access their child trust fund savings once they reach 18 years old if they don't have a bank account in their own name. It is also worth noting that if they have savings over a certain amount this might have an impact on any benefits they might be claiming. The websites at the top can offer up to date benefit advice.

15/16 years old

Year 11 EHCP Annual Review

This Annual Review should be held in the autumn term – this is the transition review to post-16 and the Preparation for Adulthood Team should attend and ideally the post-16 placement should be named in Section I of the EHCP during this meeting. If you have a clear idea of where you would like your child to go the following year the placement provider should be invited to the Annual Review so they can make sure they can meet your child's needs and they can have some input to the post-16 outcomes. In addition, they can start to be involved in the transition planning for your child which will make it much smoother in September. Your council has a deadline of 31st March by which date your child should have received their final amended EHCP naming their September post-16 placement. Ups and Downs Southwest are happy to support with Annual Review preparation and by attending meetings with you.

Transition to post-16 placement

Once the post-16 placement has been confirmed in the EHCP, arrange a transition meeting with the new staff who will be working with your young person. This will help the new staff get to know your young person well before the start of term. It can also be helpful to request some transition days, if these are not offered, as this will make the transition in September much easier for your young person. Ups and Downs Southwest are happy to support with arranging and attending transition meetings.

Transport

It is helpful to start to think about transport as once your young person turns 16 you will need to apply to your council for transport every year. There might be a financial contribution to be made and the amount will differ slightly from council to council. It is worth noting that currently there is no legal requirement for your Local Authority to provide transport once your young person turns 16. Ups and Downs Southwest are happy to support with transport applications.

16 years old

DLA to PIP

When your young person turns 16 you should be sent an invitation to apply for PIP. There is a deadline for the application once you have received the initial letter from the DWP and the application is something that Ups and Downs Southwest would be very happy to support with.

Motability

If you have a Motability vehicle there might be an impact on eligibility if the higher rate PIP is not awarded. If you currently receive higher rate DLA there is no guarantee that you will receive higher rate PIP and this will impact on your eligibility for a motability vehicle. It is however worth considering appealing though if this does happen as a large percentage of appeals are successful. You will not automatically transfer from DLA to PIP. It will be a new application for a new benefit.

Child Benefit

HMRC will write to you when your child is in Year 11 asking you to confirm their plans i.e. if they are staying in education or training. If your young person stays in education or training, you will continue to receive child benefit but you must let HMRC know or the benefit will stop on the 31st of August on or after your young person's 16th birthday. If your young person is staying in education or training you will continue to receive child benefit until they turn 19, or in some instances 20. It might be helpful to take some up-to-date advice from either Citizens Advice or Contact as the benefit system is complicated and changes frequently.

Mental Capacity Act

It can be worth thinking about the Mental Capacity Act and whether your young person has the capacity to make financial decisions. The Government has created some very helpful guidance which can be found at:

[Making financial decisions for young people who lack capacity: A toolkit for parents and carers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-financial-decisions-for-young-people-who-lack-capacity-a-toolkit-for-parents-and-carers)

17 years old

Post-18 Placements

Some post-16 settings continue until the age of 18 and some until the age of 19 and it might be helpful to start to think about the next steps for your young person in their penultimate year, especially if they have more complex needs, including medical needs.

Care Act Assessment

This should happen when your young person is 17 years old in preparation for the transfer to adult services. Request this as soon as possible when your young person turns 17 because there can be a delay in receiving an assessment. It is through this assessment that your young person might become eligible for a personal budget for adult social care, which you might be able to choose to receive as direct payments, to meet their needs as under the Care Act 2014.

You can also request a Carer's Assessment to be held at the same time to see if you are eligible for direct payments for yourself to help with for example housework, gardening or to provide you with some time off from your caring responsibilities. Here is a link to a quick guide to eligibility under the Care Act 2014 - [Quick guide to eligibility outcomes under the Care Act 2014 | SCIE](#)

18 years old

Post-19 Placements

Some post-16 settings continue until the age of 18 and some until the age of 19 and it might be helpful to start to think about the next steps for your young person in the penultimate year of their current placement. If your young person has more complex needs, including medical needs, it might be more of a challenge to find them a suitable post-19 educational placement. It might be helpful to visit any placement providers to check their suitability for your young person and to see if they can meet their needs. One option for young people with more complex needs might be a residential placement, if they are ready for it. Some of these are out of county so it would be necessary to demonstrate that your young person's needs could not be met within county provision. For some young people it might be that adult social care will take over from education when they reach 19.

Mental Capacity Act

The situation under the MCA changes when your young person turns 18. Helpful guidance can be found at:

[Making financial decisions for young people who lack capacity: A toolkit for parents and carers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-financial-decisions-for-young-people-who-lack-capacity-a-toolkit-for-parents-and-carers)

Benefits

The benefits system is complex and often changes and it might be helpful for you to take up to date advice from either Citizens Advice or Contact (the details are above). If you need any support filling in forms such as DLA, PIP, Blue Badge or transport applications Ups and Downs Southwest would be happy to support.

It is worth noting that if you receive the single occupier discount on council tax that this might no longer be available when your young person turns 18. However, there are other ways be given reductions on your council tax so please get in touch with either Citizens Advice or Contact to find out more.

19 years old +

Post-19 Placements

Education Health and Care Plans run until the age of 25 if the person continues to benefit from being in education. Post-19 placements are varied and can be either for example in an FE College or an apprenticeship or on a residential basis. Please call or email the Post-16 Service to talk through all the options. When visiting the post-19 placements, it is worth talking to them about the progression routes available for your young person. It might be that the college can offer a Supported Internship route which will support them into the world of work after building on their life skills or, depending on their needs, it might be that they can only offer your young person a two year course and after that there would be no further educational route and they would have to recommend that the EHCP be ceased. If you have an idea of your young person's progression route it will be easier to plan and put in place any further support you feel they might need by accessing, for example, adult social care provision. There can be waiting lists for some

adult social care providers so it can be helpful to think about this as early as possible. Ups and Downs Southwest are happy to help by arranging visits to colleges and social care placements.

Adult Social Care

Needs for adult social care can be accessed via a needs assessment from your local authority under the Care Act 2014. If your young person hasn't already had one you can request one direct from your local authority. After the assessment your allocated Social Worker should create a support plan which will be sent out to providers to see if they are able to meet your young person's needs. Direct payments are also an option here.

Supported Internships

These are a good route into the world of work for those aged 16-24. Many colleges, and other providers, run a one-year Pre-supported Internship course followed by a one year Supported Internship course. The young person is supported by a Job Coach and also given travel training. Most of the time is spent at a work placement with some time at college, or at the other provider, such as, for example, the Police. Ups and Downs Southwest have a good understanding of what is out there and would be happy to provide advice and support.

Benefits

The benefits system is complex and often changes and it might be helpful for you to take up to date advice from either Citizens Advice or Contact (the details are above). Your young person might be entitled to claim out of work benefits in their own right for example universal credit. If you need any support filling in forms such as DLA, PIP or Blue Badge or travel applications Ups and Downs Southwest would be happy to support.

Further support :

Our School Liaison Service can provide further advice and support. Contact us by emailing: info@upsanddowns.net