

CHILD TO ADULT EXPLOITATION TRANSITIONS PATHWAY

Guidance on Transitional Planning and Support

Young people can experience a range of safeguarding risks. These do not simply disappear when a young person becomes 18. However, as a result of a change in safeguarding frameworks and needs assessment eligibility, many young adults may find themselves without the professional support they need or relied upon to stay safe from harm as a child.

The type of support that a young person will need during their transition to adulthood depends on a whole range of factors and is not determined by whether they have care and support needs. For example: a young adult who has experienced trauma, neglect and abuse, might require additional support to be safe and well during this phase of their lives, to reduce the risk of mental health issues and to build resilience against future risk. Another example is a young person under 18, with the desire to make their own choices and decisions about risk could benefit from a person-centred safeguarding approach usually used with adult safeguarding. Young adults may need ongoing support to manage ongoing risks and vulnerabilities from their networks or environment.

Liaison between Children's Services and Adult Services

Professionals working in Children's Services should involve adult services (and relevant partner agencies) in individual cases where safeguarding plans are likely to need ongoing action/review from the age of 18. Adult services should contribute to those plans by sharing their knowledge of support and services that the young person may be able to access and considering who will need to be involved in making sure this is effective. Likewise, adult services should involve children's services (and relevant partner agencies) after the young person has turned 18 when it is relevant to do so. There needs to be an agreement of who the main point of contact for the young adult will be, to coordinate any support. The named worker could be a school nurse, personal advisor, social worker, named GP. They should ensure that the young person is offered support with the appropriate aspects of transition where relevant, e.g. to education and employment, health and well-being support, independent living/ housing options.

Support available

0-18 years – Children at risk of, or victim of exploitation are supported through the GET SAFE programme, including regular Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) meetings. Depending on the level of need, they may also have an Early Help Plan, be subject to a Child Protection Plan, or they may be in care.

18+ where young person is not a care leaver and does not have care and support needs –

- Multi-agency support pathways such as the multi-agency Complex Adult Risk Management, Breaking the Cycle, or signposting may be appropriate.
- Planning should start at least 12 months before the child turns 18, to identify what support is available and plan handovers.
- The Adult Exploitation Toolkit may be used to understand the risk and devise a support plan.

- If potential care and support needs are identified at a later stage, refer to the Adult Referral Team for assessment.

18+, where child has a disability (including if the child is in care) and has care and support needs going into adulthood –

- As a child (0-18), support would be provided through the GET SAFE programme (as above), and, if relevant, any child protection procedures depending on the level of need. Early Help support could be provided through an Early Help Assessment for adults with SEND up to 25 years, this may lead to targeted support being provided if there is an identified need.
- 14-25 – Young Adults Team involvement to plan transition to adulthood, moving on to Adult Social Care support if care/support needs are ongoing. The Young Adults Team start to be involved with school Education and Health Care Plan from 14 years, while transition planning for adulthood starts at 16 years. (Note: a safeguarding concern will still need to be raised if section 42 of the Care Act is met)
- If exploitation/safeguarding concerns are present, consider if thresholds set out under section 42 of the Care Act are met and if so, raise a safeguarding concern.
- If child/young person is not already supported by Young Adults Team and they have the appearance of care and support needs, a referral should be made to the Adult Referral Team to screen and forward to the relevant team/s (safeguarding, locality teams).

18+ where young person is a care leaver and has no care/support needs –

- Young person can receive support from the Leaving Care Team / Personal Assistants.
- Multi-agency support pathways such as the multi-agency Complex Adult Risk Management, Breaking the Cycle, or signposting may be appropriate, either after the young person turns 18, or when support from Leaving Care Team ceases (at 25 years or earlier)
- If the young person has the appearance of care and support needs, a referral should be sent to Adult Referral Team to screen and forward to the relevant team/s (safeguarding, locality teams).

Get Safe – [Get Safe - Contextual Safeguarding - Herefordshire Safeguarding Boards and Partnerships](#)

*Eligibility Criteria for Adult Social Care (Care and Support Needs) - [Get care and support – Herefordshire Council](#)

Complex Adults Risk Management - [Adults Policies & Guidance - Herefordshire Safeguarding Boards and Partnerships](#) (see first tab for CARM)

Breaking the Cycle – this process (led by Herefordshire Council's Making Every Adult Matter Lead, Katie Labbett) aims to support adults who are experiencing three or more multiple disadvantages, for example, are identified as being at risk of exploitation, poor mental health, trauma, lack of family or friend connections. Any services who identify a person who has a combination of three or more multiple disadvantages are asked to complete a referral form. An assessment will be completed to determine whether they meet the criteria for Breaking the Cycle. If eligible, agencies will provide support to meet the needs of the individual and complete any safety planning necessary to mitigate any risks. Services referring must advise what they are or have done to support the individual and what support they believe they require including any potential or current blocks.

If at any point there is an immediate risk to a person's safety, and/or criminal activity is known or suspected, contact 999 immediately.

Concern of ongoing risk of exploitation for child / young person as they turn 18, or when they cease to receive support from Leaving Care Team (25 years or earlier)



Is the child/young person a care leaver, supported by the Leaving Care (16+) Team?

Yes

Post 18 support led by Personal Assistant, following young person's Pathway Plan. If young person has the appearance of care and support needs that were not previously identified, refer to Adults Referral Team to screen and consider next action (safeguarding concern or Strength Based Assessment). If the young person does not have eligible care and support needs, consider support options, (CARM, Breaking the Cycle), either alongside Pathway plan or when 16+ team support will cease. Adults Exploitation Tool may be used to identify ongoing risk of exploitation.

No

Does the child/young person have, or may have in adulthood, care and support needs*

Yes

An Early Help Assessment (EHA) could be offered to adults 18-25 where there is SEND, which may lead to some targeted support if there is an identified need.

No

Consider support options post-18, including CARM, Breaking the Cycle, Signposting.

Start transition planning at least 12 months before child turns 18 – identify support available and put plans in place.

At last MACE meeting, complete transition to adulthood support.

Adults Exploitation Tool may be used to identify ongoing risk of exploitation.

Child/young person may already be known to the Young Adults Team – if yes refer safeguarding concerns to Adult Safeguarding (s42 process).

If they are not known to the Young Adults Team, and have the appearance of care/support needs, refer to Adult Referral Team for initial screening.

Adults Exploitation Tool may be used to identify ongoing risk of exploitation.