

We understand that transition can be a very unnerving time for young people with special educational needs and their families. We have composed this article based on our experience in supporting young people and their families during transition into adulthood, and hope that this information will be helpful to those that are just starting the journey.

As young people turn 16 years old, social services will hold a review meeting based upon your child's EHCP (Education, Health & Care Plan). This is a planning meeting and will require input from families and professionals. The intention of this meeting is to discuss your child's future, including their aspirations, possibility of employment, independent living, having a safe, happy and confident future, and to socialise, build relationships and be part of their local community.

When young people turn 16 years old, they no longer qualify for DLA (Disability Living Allowance) and an application for PIP (Personal Independence Payment) will need to be made, which is the adult equivalent of DLA. You can complete an application for PIP in the months leading up to your child's 16th birthday to ensure continuity. Parents/carers should consider opening a bank account in their child's name, so that their care and benefit payments can be paid directly into that account. This is because when they turn 18, young people become adults in the eyes of the law, regardless of their level of need, ability or

understanding, and as a result become legally responsible for their own care and the funds attached to it. However, the law understands that many young people cannot make decisions for themselves when they turn 18 and in this case, parents/carers can apply for deputisation and power of attorney. More information about deputisation and power of attorney on the GOV.UK website via the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/become-deputy>

<https://www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney>

When a young person turns 18 they will transfer from Children's to Adult Services. Your Children's Services social worker will make a request to Adult Services regarding your child's package of care being transferred to them. Adult Services usually honour young people's packages of care as it stands when they leave Children's Services. However, they will carry out their own assessment within six weeks and in conclusion will confirm the package of care going forward.

Some young people may have their packages of care transferred over to Health Services, which is funded by the NHS.