

What do we mean by Transition?

The term Transition means change and movement.

All children will go through transition to adulthood.

For some individuals, transition could continue up to the age of 25yrs. The move from children's to adult services can happen at different times in some areas of health and social care – it doesn't all happen at 18!

The transition process should be suited to each individual. This means that the stage at which a young person has completed their transition into adult life will vary.

Planning for this move should begin, formally, in Year 9 – when the first Transition Review Meeting is held. The difference, from Year 9, is the focus is much more towards adulthood and everything associated with that. (See the Preparing for Adulthood section.)

Stepping from children's to adult services for young people with complex needs and their families requires coordinated planning. The process must ensure the young person's voice is heard; take account of everyone's views and help prepare families to work effectively with all agencies involved.

The young person should be at the centre of this planning.

Supporting a young person to be part of decision making may be difficult. Depending on their capacity, they should be actively involved in exploring their aspirations and abilities, their plans for what they want to do when they leave education or training and the support they will need to do this.

In 2014, legislation was introduced which has determined how this planning needs to be carried out and what needs to be planned for.