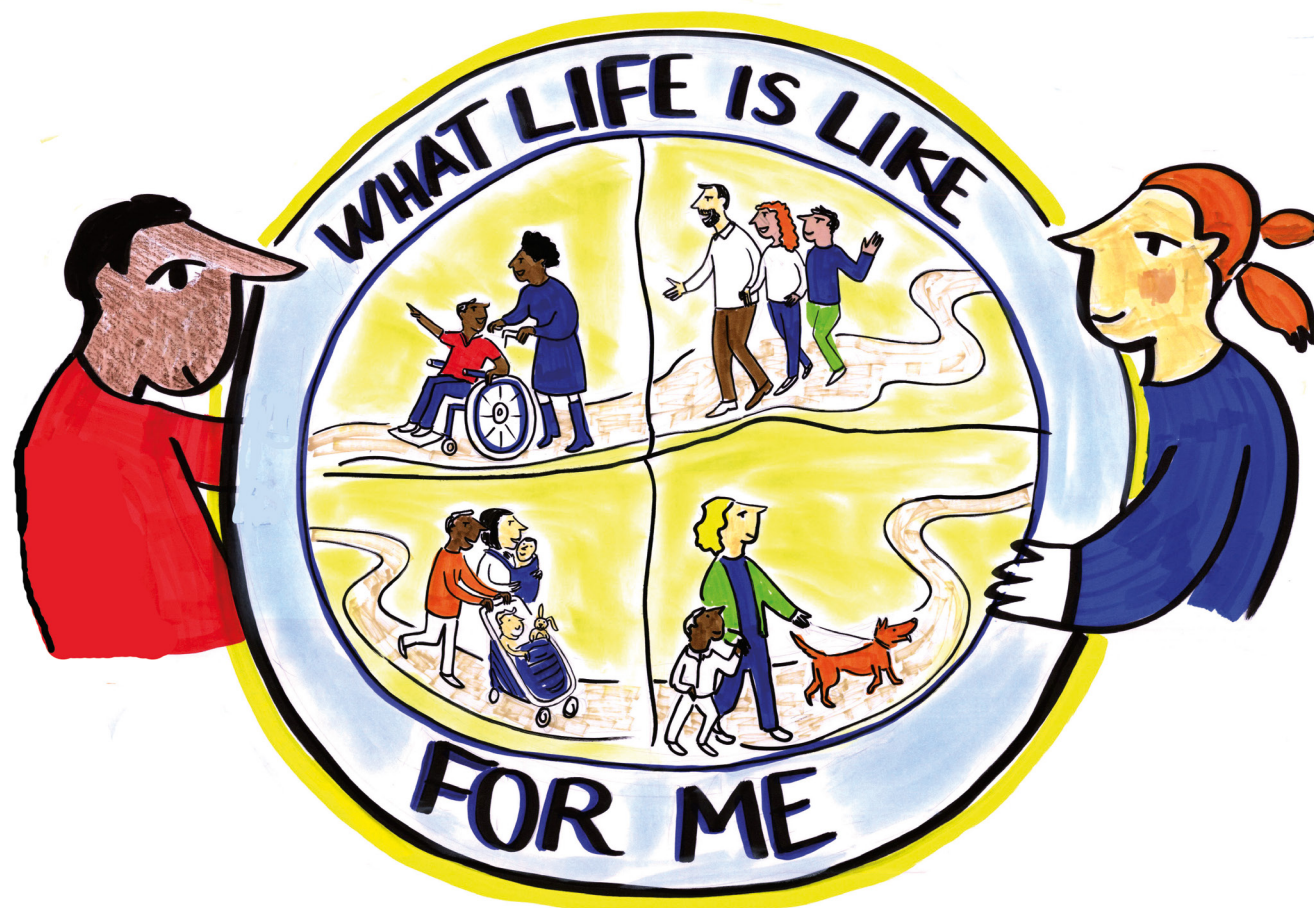


Bexley 14 – 25

Preparing for Adulthood Guide



Bexley 14 - 25 Preparing for Adulthood Guide

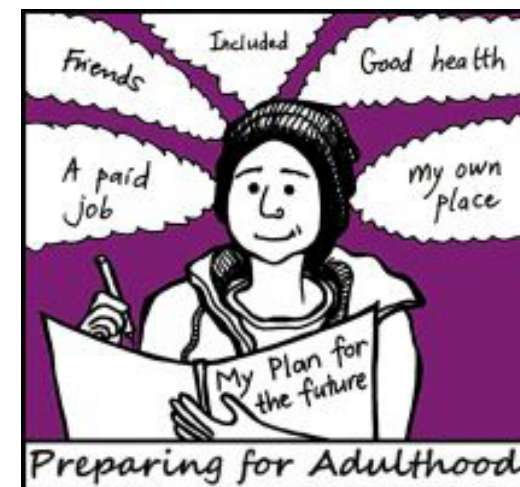
A guide for parents of young people with Education, Health and Care Plans aged 14 to 25 who are preparing for adulthood

Includes information about:

- Education
- Health
- Social care
- Employment
- Transport
- Housing
- Leisure
- Finance and benefits

For more information please see the Bexley Local Offer website (www.bexleylocaloffer.uk).

The Local Offer is a 'one stop shop' for information and services that support children and young people with special educational needs and disability aged 0-25 years old. It has been co-produced with the help of parents, professionals and young people and is under continuous development.



You can phone the Local Offer Officer for telephone support and get free internet access and support on using the LO in Bexley libraries.

Being supported towards greater independence and employability can be life-transforming for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). This preparation for adulthood should happen from their earliest years and no later than by Year 9 (age 13 or 14).

Education

Preparing for Adulthood Review

If a young person has an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan, the local authority must ensure that each annual EHC plan review from Year 9 includes a focus on preparing for adulthood. Education, health and social care services should all be involved in planning and supporting this from Year 9 and into adulthood.

Preparing for adulthood planning should include support to:

- prepare for further/higher education and/or employment
- prepare for independent living
- maintain good health in adult life
- participate in society, including support in developing and maintaining friendships and relationships

Subjects

Young people attending a mainstream school will be asked to choose which subjects they want to study at Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11, ages 14-16). If appropriate, these will be the subjects they will take for GCSE exams.

If your young person is not working at the levels necessary for GCSEs, ask the school about other accredited qualifications that might be available.

For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/accreditation-of-gcses-as-a-levels-for-teaching-from-2017>

For some students with special educational needs the National Curriculum at Key Stages 3 and 4 is not appropriate, especially in relation to qualifications and examinations. Legislation means that pupils with EHC plans do not have to follow the National Curriculum.

For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disapplying-aspects-of-the-national-curriculum>

Health

Local Health Services are provided by a number of different agencies, who work in an integrated way to support the health needs of children and young people in Bexley.

For parents of young people with the most complex needs, planning may need to begin now. This is an opportunity to ensure all health professionals involved are engaged in the effective and timely planning of future care.

Hospital services

Planning for the move from children's to adult hospital services will also begin in Year 9. It will be managed according to your young person's needs in line with their developmental and health needs. Clinical specialities do transition differently, but they should all follow the NICE guidelines (see <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng43>).

Some use the Ready Steady Go Transition programme and plan developed by the NHS. For more information visit Ready Steady Go (www.uhs.nhs.uk/ourservices/childhealth/transitiontoadultcaresteadysteadygo/transitiontoadultcare.aspx)

Specialist Community Services in Bexley will work jointly with education and your young person to identify their goals and aspirations for adulthood, and improve their identified independence skills. The services provided include:

- CAMHS (Child and Adult Mental Health Services)
- Community Paediatrics
- Speech and Language
- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Audiology
- Dietetics
- Community Nursing
- Special School Nursing
- Looked after Children's Nurse

For young people in special schools, from year 9 to year 11, these health teams will contribute to the annual EHCP review, if your young person is currently known to them, or they are asked to contribute by the education team.

Young people in mainstream schools currently known to therapy/nursing services will be provided with support in a range of ways which may include:

- Contribution to the annual EHCP review when invited in
- Working with them to improve their independence skills.
- Promoting inclusion and participation in the community.

For further information on the range of services we offer and whether your young person will be eligible, please visit www.oxleas.nhs.uk

For young people with Learning Disabilities

It is useful for families of young people with a learning disability to plan ahead, but they are unlikely to have contact with specialist adult learning disability health services at this stage. However, it is worth starting to think about the next 5 years, particularly for those with complex needs, in regard to

- medical or health checks;
- education and college and communication and support for this;
- how and where information about your young person is recorded.

For more information visit Oxleas Preparing for Adult Learning Disability Services. (<http://oxleas.nhs.uk/gps-referrers/learning-disability-services/young-people-in-transition/preparing-adult-learning-disability-services/>)

Annual Health Checks for those with a learning disability

An annual health will involve a visit to the doctor's surgery to see a GP or a nurse who will:

- carry out a general physical examination (weight, heart rate, blood pressure etc.)
- assess emotional wellbeing and behaviour
- ask questions about lifestyle and diet
- review currently prescribed medication
- check whether any long-term condition, such as asthma or diabetes, is being well-managed
- review arrangements with other health professionals, eg physiotherapists or speech and language therapists

The Annual Health Check helps your young person get used to visiting the doctor's surgery. It can also be used to review any transitional arrangements for the move to adult health services. If you consent, information gathered through the annual health check can be used as part of your young person's Education, Health and Care plan.

Attending health checks at the GP enables local services to better understand the needs of local people with learning disabilities and plan the best possible support.

Continuing Health Care

If your young person has complex health needs they may be referred for a Continuing Health Care (CHC) assessment. Also known as fully funded NHS care, CHC is free care outside hospital which is arranged and funded by the NHS. To be eligible for CHC a person must be assessed by a multi-disciplinary team as having a 'primary health need'.

For more information visit NHS Continuing Health Care

(www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/pages/nhs-continuing-care.aspx)

If your young person is receiving Continuing Health Care or a personal health care budget they will have an annual review to see if their needs have changed and your package of support needs to be altered.

Make sure that your GP knows that your young person has a learning disability

He/she can make adjustments to ensure your young person can access high quality care at all times and ensure they invite your young person into the practice to have an annual health check each year from age 14.

For more information visit Bexley CCG – GP Services. (www.bexleyccg.nhs.uk/your-services/your-gp.htm)

Social Care

Think about your young person's current and future support needs. Is the support they receive still relevant to them now they are a teenager?

You might want to consider asking for direct payments. Some young people will be eligible for a Personal Assistant (PA), who can help them access social and leisure activities and/or Short Breaks. For more information about access to social and leisure activities, including direct payments and Short Breaks, see the Eligibility and Threshold Criteria for the Disabled Children's Service by visiting Bexley's Local Offer – Social Care and Support (www.bexleylocaloffer.uk/category/269)

If your young person has an Annual EHC plan and they have been identified as likely to require adult social care when they turn 18, your Adult Social Care worker from the Preparing for Adulthood Team (PfA team) will be introduced to you and your young person. The social worker will attend the EHC plan annual review to support you to start thinking about the future for your young person when they turn 18. It is possible that you will have a PfA Social Worker present at your young person's year 9 annual review, even if they do not have a children's social worker.

In most circumstances you do not need to do anything to involve the PfA team at this stage. The professionals currently involved will invite the PfA social worker. The PfA social worker will contact you ahead of the meeting to inform you they will be attending. If no contact is made by a PfA social worker and you believe that your young person is likely to require adult social care when they turn 18, please discuss with your SEN case officer. They will arrange for a PfA team social worker to contact you.

For the criteria and contact details for Preparing for Adulthood team visit Bexley's Local Offer – Preparing for Adulthood Team (www.bexleylocaloffer.uk/content/39002)

The Care Act (2014) and the Children and Families Act (2014) gives local authorities a responsibility to assess your needs for support as a carer. This assessment should consider:

- The impact of caring on you
- What you want from life:
 - Are you able or willing to carry on caring?
 - Do you work or want to work?
 - Do you want to study or do more socially?

When the assessment is complete, the local authority must decide whether your needs are 'eligible' for support. If they are, a support plan will be agreed, setting out how your needs will be met, eg help with housework, respite care etc.



Transport and travel

Parents and carers of young people who meet the eligibility criteria, can apply for travel assistance using our online application form.

While you plan for the coming years, it may be worth exploring the flexibility offered by a Personal Travel Assistance Budget and the opportunity for your young person to undertake Independent travel training, whilst it is available.

For more information on transport and travel assistance, visit Bexley's Local Offer - Transport (www.bexleylocaloffer.uk/category/276).

Leisure

Leisure time is an important part of life for people of all ages and abilities. Leisure time allows children and young people to find out more about activities they enjoy. Taking part in leisure activities can help people to develop skills and express themselves in a relaxed and fun environment.

In Bexley there are a range of organisations that offer activities where young people with learning difficulties or disabilities can be supported while they enjoy activities and socialise. These include arts and crafts clubs, sports lessons, youth clubs, music lessons and lots more.

For more information visit Bexley's Local Offer – Entertainment and Leisure (www.bexley.localoffer.uk/category/277)

Finance and Benefits

As a carer you could be eligible for a Carers Allowance or a Carers Credit.

Carers Allowance

You could be eligible for a Carers Allowance if you care for someone at least 35 hours a week and they get certain benefits. For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance>

Carers Credit

Carers can claim Carers Credit if you're caring for someone for at least 20 hours a week.

Carers Credit is a National Insurance credit that helps with gaps in your National Insurance record. For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/carers-credit>

Bexley Voice have developed a programme for parents/carers. support starts at year 9 annual review and includes workshops, parent planner, annual updates and a dedicated helpline.

www.bexleyvoice.org.uk/bv-parent-transition-planner.html



Education

If you think that your young person will need extra help to enable them to successfully take GCSE exams at the end of Y11 - such as extra time, a computer or a smaller/ individual room - you should talk to the SENCO and/or Examinations Officer at school as soon as possible about Access Arrangements.

Access Arrangements allow students with special educational needs, disabilities or temporary injuries to access exams without changing the demands of the assessment. They are based on evidence of need, the normal way of working in the classroom and must be appropriate to the student and the exam.

For example:

- If your young person does not normally have someone to read or scribe for them in class, they would not be eligible for this in exams.
- A student with dyslexia may require extra time for a written exam, but not for a practical one.

It is advisable to start looking at 16+ FE options now to get an early idea of what is on offer, allowing more time to prepare the young person. Get prospectus from sixth forms and colleges, visit open days etc.

Health

Your young person should be called for their annual health check if their GP knows that they have a learning disability. See Year 9 section for more information on Annual Health Checks.

For more information on Health Services visit

Bexley Local Offer – Health Services

(www.bexleylocaloffer.uk/category/268)

Bexley 0 – 19 Offer: <http://www.bexley0to19.co.uk/>

Flu jab for carers

The seasonal flu vaccine is the best way to protect yourself and the person you care for from flu, and may prevent you from being too ill to provide care.

Speak to your GP or pharmacist about having a flu jab along with your disabled young person.

You can ask for a flu vaccine nasal spray for your young person. Remember to check they haven't already had it in school.

Education

Year 11 is the last year of compulsory schooling.

If your young person wants to apply for a school 6th form or college place, check websites for open evenings/days or visit the Bexley Post-16 Directory. (www.bexley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/education-and-services-children/decisions-post-16)

You can also use the search facility on UCAS Progress:
www.ucasprogress.com/search.

The deadline for applications for sixth form and college courses is 31 January. Bexley school sixth forms usually require 5 GCSEs graded A* to C (grade 9-4 in the new system), including a grade C (4) in maths and English language. However, they have the option of being more flexible about entry requirements for students with EHC plans, if it seems likely that the student could cope with the course and it meets their needs.

If your young person is moving to college after Year 11, their course may not cover five full days. If your young person has an EHC plan and it is unlikely that they will be able to undertake unsupervised learning in college, and/or it is unsafe to leave them at home alone, where the young person meets the necessary criteria the local authority will consider providing a package of provision and support across education, health and social care that covers five days a week.

In making decisions about packages of support, local authorities should take into account the impact on your family and on your young person's progress.

For more information see: Local Offer – Social Care and Support.
(www.bexleylocaloffer.uk/category/269)



REMEMBER:

The school year finishes early in Year 11, whether your young person is taking exams or not. It will end either on the last Friday in June or earlier because of study leave. Check with school in good time to make alternative arrangements.

Health

For young people with Learning Disabilities

For young people with complex needs, it is useful to keep asking the same questions from year 9. Looking ahead, it is good to think about the relationships and connections your young person has with all of the different services. Health needs (physical, mental and behavioural) can have an impact on where you live, how you travel and what meaningful opportunities you have during the day. Having a detailed and positive plan is very helpful.

If your young person is either leaving or moving to alternative education provision, the Learning Disability Team will share information with other professionals provided you give consent (see Mental Capacity Act section below).

Health Needs of Young People in Out of Borough Schools

Young people who attend schools outside Bexley are likely to have been discharged from the care of local community health services in Bexley, such as CAMHS, nursing and therapy services. This means that transition to adult health services needs more planning and co-ordination.

With your consent, Education will pass the names of young people placed out of borough to Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust for consideration at their transition meeting. This will ensure that an appropriate representative of adult health services is identified who will gather the relevant health information, arrange any necessary assessments and contribute to care planning to ensure your young person's health needs continue to be met when they transition to adult health services.

For more information on Health Services visit:

Bexley Local Offer – Health Services

(www.bexleylocaloffer.uk/category/268)

Bexley 0 – 19 Offer: <http://www.bexley0to19.co.uk/>



Legal matters

Decisions about EHC plans

When a young person reaches the end of compulsory school age (defined as the last Friday in June of the school year in which they turn 16), some rights related to EHC plans transfer from the parents to the young person.

These are the right to:

- ask for an EHC needs assessment,
- make representations about the content of their EHC plan,
- ask that a particular education setting is named in their plan,
- request a personal budget, and the right of appeal to the SEND tribunal.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005

This Act affects decision-making for all people aged 16 and over who are unable to make some or all decisions by themselves. The issue of capacity is 'decision-specific'. This means that capacity can only be assessed in relation to a particular decision that needs to be made at a particular time. This is an important safeguard against blanket assessments of someone's ability to make decisions based on their disability. It also recognises the fact that someone may be able to make some decisions, but not others. For example, someone can lack capacity to make complex financial decisions or consent to medical treatment, but have the capacity to decide what they would like to eat.

When someone is judged not to have the capacity to make a specific decision following a capacity assessment, that decision can be taken for them, but it must be in their best interests. The process of making a best-interest decision should be led by the person who requires the decision to be made, eg a doctor who requires consent before carrying out treatment.

Consulting with others is a vital part of best interest decision-making. The Mental Capacity Act requires the young person has an advocate. This would usually be their careers and family members. Where there is not an appropriate person to advocate on their behalf, the Preparing for Adulthood social worker will support you to access a formal independent advocate to support you with the assessment process and decisions arising from it.

For more information see: Social Care Institute for Excellence – Mental Capacity Act

www.scie.org.uk/mca/introduction/mental-capacity-act-2005-at-a-glance



Finance and Benefits

On turning 16 your young person can:

- Claim benefits in their own right. If they stay in full-time non-advanced education (eg GCSEs, A-levels, BTECs, NVQ levels 1-3) or some types of training, parents can choose to carry on claiming for them as part of their family.
- Receive Direct Payments in their own right
- Be assessed for Personal Independence Payment (PIP). If they have been getting DLA they will be reassessed. For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/pip>
- Apply for Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) if they are in full-time education and get DLA/PIP. For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/employment-support-allowance>. It's important to be aware that an award of ESA to the young person means that any benefits parents get for their young person as a dependant (eg child benefit or tax credits) will stop. Seek specialist advice to make sure your family won't be worse off!

You will need to weigh up which option will work best for your family.

You can get help from Jobcentre Plus (<https://www.gov.uk/contact-jobcentre-plus>) or Citizen's Advice Bexley (<http://www.bexleycab.org.uk/contact-us/>).

You can also use Turn2us, a free and easy-to-use Benefits Calculator and Grants search tools - <https://www.turn2us.org.uk/Find-Benefits-Grants>

16-19 Bursary Fund

Your young person could get a bursary to help with education-related costs if they're aged 16 to 19 and they are:

- studying at a publicly funded school or college in England - not a university
- on a training course, including unpaid work experience

A publicly funded school is one that doesn't charge you for attending it.

For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund>

Appointeeship

A young person turning 16 is usually expected to take on responsibility for any benefits they claim in their own right. If they are unable to manage their affairs, you can become their 'appointee' for benefit claims. You are then responsible for making any claims, giving any information required, and disclosing any changes that may affect your young person's entitlement to benefits. The benefits will be paid to you on their behalf. Becoming an appointee for benefit purposes does not mean you have any wider rights to deal with their affairs. For more information visit www.gov.uk/become-appointee-for-someone-claiming-benefits

Deputyship

A Deputy is a person appointed by the Court of Protection to manage the personal welfare or the property and affairs of another person, who lacks the mental capacity to manage them themselves. A Deputy can only act under a court order from the Court of Protection. This order sets out the Deputy's powers and entitles the Deputy to act on behalf of the person lacking capacity. More than one person can be deputy for an individual.

For more information please visit <https://www.gov.uk/become-deputy>

Housing

One of the important issues for young people transitioning into adulthood is deciding where they want to live. At 16, if your young person meets the threshold for Adult Social Care Services, their PfA Social Worker will support them to start thinking about where they would like to live post-18, based on their needs at the time. There are a range of housing options available to young people who may have care and support needs:

- Living at home
- Supported Living
- Independent housing with support
- Group homes with services
- Shared Lives
- Residential Care

For more information on Bexley housing and accommodation options also see: <https://www.bexley.gov.uk/services/housing>

Education

Young people must continue in education or training until their 18th birthday.

All students aged 16 to 19 should follow a study programme that stretches them, prepares them for adulthood, and supports their progression into work or further study. For students who have an EHC plan, a study programme can apply up to the age of 25.

Study programmes should always include English and maths, but at an appropriate level. Some students with SEND will be able to work towards achieving GCSE grade C (4) or above, whereas others may qualify for an exemption from the requirement to attain a grade C (4). While some students with SEND should be on study programmes which help them achieve academic qualifications, others will benefit more from programmes which concentrate on high-quality work experience and other non-qualification activities to help them prepare for employment and adult life.

For more information visit Local Offer – Education and Learning

Young people with an EHC plan can undertake Supported Internships or Traineeships which aim to prepare them for employment or apprenticeships.



Supported internships

Supported internships are structured study programmes based primarily at an employer. They are designed to enable young people with SEND to achieve sustainable, paid employment by equipping them with the skills they need for work through learning in the workplace. Internships normally last for a year and include unpaid work placements of at least six months. Wherever possible, they support the young person to move into paid employment at the end of the programme

Traineeships

A traineeship is an education and training programme with work experience that prepares a young person for their future career by helping them to become 'work ready'. Designed to help young people aged 16 to 24 who don't yet have the appropriate skills or experience, traineeships provide the essential work preparation training, English, maths and work experience needed to secure an apprenticeship or employment.

For more information, visit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/traineeships-programme>

Local College First

The Local College First programme is a tailored local offer of education provision. It is for young people who have been assessed as needing additional support not available on mainstream courses. This support is a combination of person-centred teaching programmes, employment skills and teaching assistance, or extra support as required. For more information visit Local Offer: Local College First (www.bexleylocaloffer.uk/content/13994)

Social Care

The Care Act 2014 includes important legal duties on local authorities about what must happen when a young person makes the transition from children's to adult services.

If your young person is likely to need support from adult social care, the local authority must complete a transition assessment before they reach the age of 18. It is important to remember that eligibility for Adult Social Care Services is under the Care Act and is different to eligibility for Children's Social Care and for SEN support and EHC planning. There is no requirement to offer a five day service but there is a responsibility on the Local Authority to complete a needs assessment and develop a social care support plan that meets the needs identified. Your young person's ability to manage independently, their hopes and aspirations and your needs as a carer will all be considered within the assessment and support plan. The focus will be on maintaining and continuing to develop independence wherever possible.



See Care Act Fact Sheets – Fact Sheet 11 Transition for children to adult care and support

- Your young person's PfA social worker will complete this initial assessment, known as a Transitions assessment or Adult Social Care Needs assessment, at age 16.
- This will enable the PfA Team to determine the funding required based on eligible needs and to discuss plans for care, support, employment or day opportunities and accommodation needs now in preparation for when your young person reaches 18.
- This needs assessment is reviewed at age 17 and prior to reaching 18, so the PfA Team can confirm your young person's personal budget and proposed support plan and put this in place by the time they reach 18.
- The information the PfA social worker has collated during the year 9-11 reviews will inform the assessment, as they will have a good picture of your young person's hopes and aspirations and potential for independent and daily living skills.
- The needs assessment will involve questions about how your young person manages personal tasks and will involve a home visit with you and your young person.
- It is important that the views of your young person are captured in the assessment, as well as observations from the social worker and information gathered from you and other people who are involved in your young person's care, or who are significant in their life.
- Some information captured in your young person's needs assessment will contribute to the social care element of the EHC plan.

- Prior to turning 18 your young person will be given an indicative personal budget and the PfA worker will discuss how best to use this personal budget to meet your young person's social care needs. This could be via a Personal Assistant, supported employment opportunities, accessing the community or other structured community based day opportunities, home care support or accommodation based supported living options. We are continuously developing new opportunities for young adults with disabilities in the community some which are also available for people with disabilities who do not meet Care Act eligibility.

To review up-to-date availability please visit the Market Place at www.carehub.bexley.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/home and also the Learning Disability Strategy www.bexley.gov.uk/news/consultations/bexley-learning-disability-strategy and the Autism Strategy www.bexley.gov.uk/news/consultations/draft-bexley-adult-autism-strategy-2017-2021

If you think your young person will need adult social care and you do not have an allocated worker from the PfA team, please speak to your young person's Senco, SEN case officer or contact the Preparing for Adulthood Team - Local Offer – Preparing for Adulthood Team.

www.bexleylocaloffer.uk/content/39002

Finance and Benefits

An Access to Work grant can cover the additional support your young person may need for the in-work element of a supported internship or traineeship.

To get an Access to Work grant, your young person must be 16 or over and have a disability, health condition or mental health condition that affects their ability to work.

Your young person may not be eligible if they are claiming Employment and Support Allowance or Income Support.

The amount of money your young person will get will depend on their circumstances.

www.gov.uk/access-to-work/overview

Transport and travel

There is no automatic entitlement to free travel assistance beyond compulsory school age (16 years) for students attending sixth form or college.

There are a number of schemes and funds to support people of all ages with additional needs to access education, while preparing students to be independent, confident travellers.

- 16+/18+ Zip Oyster Card
- 16-19 Bursary Fund
- Travel Pass-Supported Travel on Public Transport
- Freedom Pass Scheme

Where the student needs travel assistance and that assistance cannot be provided more appropriately by the learning venue or through external assistance, the Council may offer one of these options:

- Pick-up point
- Personal Travel Assistance Budget
- Independent Travel Training
- Shared transport

For more information on transport and travel assistance, including policies Post 16's please visit Local Offer – Transport (www.bexleylocaloffer.uk/category/276)

Education and Training

College

Young people with SEND are not automatically entitled to maintain their EHC plans after they turn 19. It is expected that most young people with EHC plans will have completed their further education by the age of 19, but the Government has recognised that some need longer to complete and consolidate their education and training.

The length of time needed will vary according to each individual up to the age of 25.

When a 19 to 25-year-old continues with an EHC plan, the local authority must review it at least annually. The plan must contain outcomes which should enable the young person to complete their education and training successfully and move on to the next stage of their lives.

Special School

Young people aged 19 cannot remain in a special school unless they are completing a secondary education course started before they were 18 years old. They will need to move to college to continue their education or training.

Higher Education

A young person studying for a level 4 in a further education college or at university is not entitled to an EHC plan. There are separate systems in place to support disabled young people in higher education, including Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs). These are non-repayable grants that assist with the additional costs incurred by disabled students. DSAs fund a range of support, including assistance with the cost of:

- specialist equipment
- travel
- non-medical helpers (eg sign language interpreters)

For more information, visit the DSA finance guide:
www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas

Help with daily living and personal care at university is normally funded by adult social care.



Supported employment

Bexley Twofold Supported Employment

Bexley Twofold is the job search, skills and supported employment service for residents in Bexley with Learning Disabilities, who have a need for support to access training and employment opportunities. The long-term aim is to help individuals obtain and sustain suitable paid employment.

For more information see visit

<https://www.bexley.gov.uk/services/jobs-and-careers/support-job-seekers/bexley-twofold>

Reinstate

W-RAP (Well-being, Recovery, Activity, Parcels) is a project to support a number of people during their stay in hospital due to mental ill-health.

Reinstate take young volunteers from both Woodside School and Welling School, giving them work experience at their Community Hub in Belvedere. Reinstate work on an ad hoc basis with young people keen on learning about different aspects of Social Enterprises, Charities etc.

Re-Instate work as part of Bexley's Recovery and Well-being Service alongside Mind in Bexley and provide the employment support. The service is available for local residents of 18 years and older.

Reinstate have been approached by CAMHS to engage with young people prior to their 18th birthday to help transition to adult services.

For more information visit www.re-instate.co.uk

Remploy

Remploy is an organisation in the United Kingdom which provides employment placement services for disabled people. It is a major welfare-to-work provider, delivering a range of contracts and employment programmes for people with substantial barriers to work.

For more information visit <http://www.remploy.co.uk/>

Local Colleges / Supported Internships

Students from the Learning and Enterprise College Bexley and at London South East Colleges can access supported internships that help people with learning disabilities and complex needs into employment. This route enables students to learn in a real work environment gaining valuable skills and experience that will help them prepare for and sustain paid employment.

Prospects – Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance

The Council has commissioned Prospects to deliver services to support vulnerable young people and target help to those in greatest need. They support young people who face barriers in successfully transitioning into adulthood, including young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET), those at risk of getting involved with crime or anti-social behaviour, care leavers, looked after children and young people who have learning difficulties or disabilities.

Health

For young people with Learning Disabilities

Young adults over the age of 19, who have left school, are all discharged from children's services. The vast majority of adults are discharged to the care of their GP.

A smaller proportion will be supported by adult learning disability services. The LD Service make sure your young person:

- has a good care plan to manage their health needs (whoever works with them).
- is offered a black book and hospital passport.
- has a named professional to work with them.
- receives information that is easy to understand and is supported to communicate.

For further information on Bexley learning disability services for young people, visit <http://oxleas.nhs.uk/gps-referrers/learning-disability-services/young-people-in-transition/young-people-and-families/bexley/>

For more information on Health Services visit

Bexley Local Offer – Health Services

(www.bexleylocaloffer.uk/category/268)

Bexley 0 – 19 Offer: <http://www.bexley0to19.co.uk/>

Social care

Your young person's Needs Assessment will be reviewed on an annual basis, to confirm the support plan is still meeting their social care needs. You or your young person can request a review at any time, if there is a change in their support needs. Your PfA social worker will continue to be involved in your young person's social care and EHC plan reviews until your young person no longer has an EHC plan.

If your young person has ongoing support needs after the EHC plan ceases, the PfA social worker will set up the ongoing care support and transfer your young person's Social Care Plan to either:

- the Adult Social Care Review Team, to review the Needs Assessment on an annual basis if your young person's support plan is stable, or
- the Adult Social Care Complex Care Team, if your young person's Support Plan requires continued active involvement from a social worker.

Transport and travel

Students attending sixth form or college up to the age of 25 may still qualify for Travel Assistance.

For more information visit Local Offer – Transport.

Your PfA social worker will discuss transport options for your young person to access day opportunities, including independent travel training and buddy system if this is appropriate for your young person. Your young person may also wish to use a volunteer driver scheme for adhoc journeys.

Finance and Benefits

Care and support costs

People over the age of 18 who have eligible care and support needs under the Care Act may have to contribute towards the cost of their care and support. The local authority will carry out a financial assessment to check how much your young person can afford to contribute towards their care and support. The financial assessment is completed by Capita, who will send your young person a form to complete, or send it to you if you have power of attorney over finances.

More information on the financial assessment can be found at <https://www.bexley.gov.uk/services/adult-social-care>

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP):

For young people with a live benefit claim, the local Jobcentre Plus office offers specialist support delivered by Disability Employment Advisors.

Young people who are ill or disabled may be able to claim a benefit such as Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), which offers financial support if they are unable to work or personalised help to work if they are able to. You can apply for ESA if you're employed, self-employed or unemployed.

Part of the assessment for ESA includes a Work Capability Assessment to see to what extent their illness or disability affects their ability to work. If entitled to ESA, the young person will be placed in one of two groups:

- the work-related activity group, where they will have regular interviews with an adviser, or
- the support group, where advisor interviews do not need to take place.

Your young person could get additional weekly payments by claiming Personal Independence Payment (PIP). The amount awarded depends on how your condition affects you, not the condition itself. Assessments are carried out by a health professional to work out the level of help available and are regularly reviewed.

Work Choice - provides help to get and keep a job if your young person is disabled and may find it hard to work. The type of support offered depends on needs and is different for everyone, but can include: training and developing skills; building confidence; interview coaching.

Visit www.gov.uk/work-choice

Specialist Employability Support - provides mentoring and training to help people with disabilities into work if they can't use other employment programmes. Visit www.gov.uk/specialist-employability-support/overview

Work coaches will also signpost claimants to other local options. An Access to Work grant provides support to those with a disability or health condition who need help to work. You should talk to your employer about reasonable adjustments before you apply for Access to Work.

For more information visit www.gov.uk/access-to-work/overview

Discretionary Learner Support

Young people aged 19 or over, on a further education course and facing financial hardship, could get Discretionary Learner Support (DLS). They would need to apply to their learning provider (eg college) for DLS. The amount depends on individual circumstances.

For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/discretionary-learner-support>

London Borough of Bexley

Bexley Local Offer:

<http://www.bexleylocaloffer.uk/>

Health Services:

Oxleas Preparing for Adult Learning Disability Services

<http://oxleas.nhs.uk/gps-referrers/learning-disability-services/young-people-in-transition/preparing-adult-learning-disability-services/>

Bexley Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

<http://oxleas.nhs.uk/services/service/child-and-adolescent-mental-2/>

Other groups and organisations:

Bexley Voice

Bexley Voice offer support to families of children and young people aged 0-25 with SEND. They act as a voice for families and young people to provide feedback to service providers and organisations working with young people, as well as signposting parents and carers to organisations who can support them and offer advice. Bexley Voice also offer support to parents and carers through workshops in schools and 'Tea and Talk' support groups. They have most recently produced a Year 9 Parent Transition Planner, and are also providing a series of workshops in schools relating to transition for young people with SEND.

To access support around Preparing for Adulthood from Bexley Voice please contact them at www.bexleyvoice.org.uk/contact-us.html

See Bexley Voice - Preparing for Adulthood / Education and Transition www.bexleyvoice.org.uk/preparing-for-adulthood.html



Citizens Advice Bexley - www.bexleycab.org.uk/contact-us

Bexley Voluntary Services Council - www.bvsc.co.uk

Contact - https://contact.org.uk/media/1163829/preparing_for_adulthood.pdf

Preparing For Adulthood - www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/

Transition Information Network 9part of the Council For Disabled Children) -

<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/our-work/adulthood>



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