

TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD

As young people move from school into adulthood they need to make lots of choices. Young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (**SEND**) will need extra help and support to make these choices and adjust to change.

We want to ease the transition process for a young person and their parents/carers, through creating a transition pathway and a guidance document to provide the tools and resources that are needed to reach a meaningful and successful outcome for all involved.

OUR CONCERNS:

Preparation for transition:

- 1) Transition from childhood to adulthood is an extremely uncertain time for all children with added complexities for children with **SEND**. The current pathway is confusing for both the child and parent/carers, irrespective of whether the child has a Record of Need (**RoN**) or not.
- 2) Children with **SEND** are usually supported through the school system, however, on leaving school this support as well as all other connected support ends abruptly. This is particularly the case for those children without **RoN**.
- 3) Young people with **SEND**, are more at risk of becoming **NEET** (Not in Education, Employment or Training) as transition needs are not clearly identified and parents are unsure as to how to access support as there is no clear pathway. This results in them feeling very alone, vulnerable and unsupported with a possible significant impact on their mental health.
- 4) From the age of 16 children are regarded as young adults and are expected to make informed decisions about their health and social care. This is often unsuitable for young people with **SEND**, and unless they have a dedicated social worker, they and their parents/carers are left alone and unsupported.
- 5) Additional care provisions which are often arranged through a specialist, i.e. a Paediatric Consultant, end abruptly at the age of 18

OUR VISION:

A clear and concise pathway that explains the transition process, ensures consistency in approach and is bespoke and therefore successful for young people with **SEND**.

OUR GOALS:

- 1) Transition for all those with **SEND** (with or without a **RoN**) to begin earlier with a dedicated team lead.
- 2) Transition should be a simplified and transparent journey which accommodates interaction with Parents/Carers in a sensitive manner.
- 3) Transition needs to be bespoke, a person-centred approach considering his/her complexity of needs and circumstances, strength and weaknesses as well as individual choices and options.
- 4) Transition needs to be accompanied by regular reviews involving all wider agencies to ensure the transition process stays holistic and flexible. A dedicated lead will ensure agreed actions are implemented.

