



**STOCKPORT**  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Policy**

**THE CARE ACT 2014:  
TRANSITION TO ADULT CARE AND SUPPORT**

**Statutory Basis for Policy**

The Care Act 2014

<b><u>Version</u></b>				
<b><u>History</u></b>				
<b>Version Number</b>	<b>Summary Of Change</b>	<b>Approved By</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>The Executive</b>		<b>17<sup>th</sup> March 2015</b>

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## **CARE ACT 2014: TRANSITION TO ADULT CARE AND SUPPORT**

### **1. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND**

The Care Act 2014 replaces numerous previous laws and builds on recent reviews and reforms to provide a single, coherent approach to adult social care in England. The aims of the Act include:

- a clearer and fairer approach to care and support;
- an approach that focuses on the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of both the person needing care and their carer;
- the prevention and delay of the need for care and support;
- giving people control over their care; and
- collaboration and integration between local authorities and other public authorities, including health and housing to work seamlessly to meet care and support needs.

To achieve these aims, the Care Act outlines a number of changes in law and/or in practice that will affect all local authorities. The Act is divided into three main parts. Part One of the Act details the reform of adult social care legislation, and describes the journey through the reformed system for both the person receiving care and support and their carer. Part Two of the Act seeks to enhance the quality of care, by increasing transparency and putting people and their carers in control of their care and support. Part Three establishes Health Education England and the Health Research Authority.

This policy statement refers to Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council's statutory obligations regarding the sections of the Care Act that refer to the new requirement for transitions into adult care and support.

The government has made some changes to how some children and young people and their families are supported. There are many policy changes that will affect the lives of young people with Special educational needs (SEN), disabled young people and their families, and will impact on the range and quality of support available to them as they prepare for adulthood.

The two pieces of legislation that will have the greatest influence on support for disabled young people preparing for adulthood are Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014, which focuses on Special Educational Needs and Disability and was implemented in September 2014, and Part 1 of the Care Act, which focuses on the care and support of adults. Both acts have sections that are linked and referenced.

Importantly, the Children and Families Act 2014 introduces a system of support which extends from birth to 25, while the Care Act deals with adult social care for anyone over the age of 18. The statutory guidance for the care Act clearly supports the inputs required of

ASC prior to the young person 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. This means there will be a group of young people aged 18-25 who will be entitled to support through both pieces of legislation. The two Acts also have the same emphasis on outcomes, personalisation, and the integration of services. It is therefore essential that the planning and implementation of both of these Acts is joined up and Stockport practitioners work together with families in the spirit of co-production.

## **2. STATUTORY BASIS FOR THE POLICY**

The Care Act was published as a Bill in the House of Lords in May 2013, and received Royal Assent on the 14th May 2014.

The Act consolidates existing social care legislation into a single statute.

The Act places new legal duties on local authorities to carry out transition assessments; the duties are new in law and reflect best practice in relation to preparation for adulthood. When either a child or a young carer approaches their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, they may ask for an assessment from their local authority. A parent or carer can also ask for an assessment as the child they are caring for approaches 18.

**Part 3** of the **Children and Families Act** transforms the system for disabled children and young people and those with SEN, so that services consistently support the best outcomes for them. The reforms create a system from birth to 25 through the development of coordinated assessment and a single Education, Health And Care Plans (EHC); improving cooperation between all services responsible for providing education, health or social care; and giving parents and young people greater choice and control over their support. The SEND reforms focus on the following themes:

- Working towards clearly defined outcomes
- Engagement and participation of parents and young people
- Joint Commissioning and developing a Local Offer of support
- Coordinated assessments and Education, Health and Care Plans
- Personalisation and personal budgets

Preparation for adulthood is a key element of the reforms that cuts across all of these themes.

**Part 1** of the **Care Act** pulls together threads from over a dozen different Acts into a single, modern framework for care and support. It reforms how the law works, prioritising individual wellbeing for adults with care and support needs over the age of 18, with a particular focus on person centred practice and outcomes, putting people in control of their care and support.

The intended outcome of the new legislation is that people's wellbeing, needs and goals are prioritised so that individuals will no longer feel like they are battling against the system to get the care and support they need.

**Sections 58-66** of the Care Act states that the wellbeing of each young person or carer must be taken into account so that assessment and planning is based around the individual needs, wishes and outcomes which matter to that person.

The Care Act contains provision to help preparation into adulthood for three particular groups of people; children (young person under 18), young carers and child's carers. A transition assessment is to provide young people and their families with information so that they know what to expect in the future and can prepare for adulthood.

There is no set age when young people reach this point; every young person and their family are different, and as such transition assessments should take place when it is most appropriate for them.

The Care Act states transitions into adult care and support are not only for those who are already receiving children's services, but for anyone who is likely to have needs after turning 18. The local authority must provide continuity and that their services must not stop abruptly when the person turns 18, but must continue until adult services have a plan in place.

For young people with special educational needs (SEN) who have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan under the Children and Families Act, preparation for adulthood must begin from year 9. When the local authority judges that a young person or carer is likely to have needs for care and support after turning 18, but that it is not yet of significant benefit to carry out a transition assessment, the local authority should indicate when it believes the assessment will be of significant benefit. The onus is then on the local authority to contact the young person or carer to agree the timing of the transition assessment,

The Care Act states transitions must be provided using a co-ordinated multi agency approach by professionals from different agencies, the wider community, family and friends. For any needs that are not eligible under the adult statute, the act places a duty on local authorities to provide information and advice on how those needs can be met, and how they can be prevented from getting worse. The information and advice must be accessible and proportionate, and must consider individual circumstances.

### **3. POLICY STATEMENT**

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council Adult Social Care will work closely with Children's Services and other stakeholders to ensure continuity of care throughout the transition stage for those likely to have eligible needs and will accommodate an assessment to take place at most appropriate time for the young person and their family. An Adult Social Care

representative in the form of a Transition Worker will attend the year 9 review where invited to do so by Children's Service or Education services and where it appears the young person is likely to have eligible needs at age 18

Adult Social Care will provide accessible information and advice to anyone regardless of eligibility, and will ensure a diverse range of quality providers of care and support throughout the borough. This will be available through the local offer which is also posted on the Children's local offer website.

As required by the Care Act Adult Social Care will carry out a Child's Needs Assessments (CNA) for young people who are likely to have needs for care and support after they reach 18. The purpose of a CNA is to determine what adult social care a young person might be eligible for once they reach 18 so they can make informed choices about their future. Young people or their parents can request a CNA at any time prior to a young person's 18th birthday whether or not they have an EHC plan.

Adult Social Care will carry out an assessment for anyone where there is "likely to be a need for care and support post-18" whether or not they are eligible needs. The CNA will be carried out at a time when it is of "significant benefit" to a young person's preparation for adulthood and should include what their future support might look like.

Adult Social Care may decide not to carry out an assessment where there is not "likely to be a need for care and support post-18" or because the timing is not of "significant benefit" to the young person's preparation for adulthood. In these circumstances the Transition workers will provide reasons for this in writing, and include information and advice on what can be done to prevent or delay the development of needs for care and support. If they do not carry out an assessment because the timing is not of "significant benefit", Adult Social Care will advise when it is likely to be of significant benefit and contact the young person and their family to arrange the assessment at that time.

For a young person with an EHC plan, a CAN will, as a starting point, be based on a review of the care element of the EHC plan.

At a date to be agreed with the young person and their parent(s) /advocates, Adult Social care will by no later than the persons 17<sup>th</sup> birthday ( and earlier where agreed significant benefit will be achieved) work towards developing the EHC plan to include outcomes enabling the person to consider their educational and or work and accommodation options. A provisional personal budget will be calculated enabling planning to commence. Consideration will also be given to what the Adult Social Care financial contribution for those eligible under the new eligibility criteria will be.

For those who wish to remain in Education Adult Social Care will continue to work with children's services colleagues and the young person to develop the EHC plan which shall be the planning tool used to meet the Care Act requirement to complete an assessment and produce a Care and Support Plan

For those not entering into education (or leaving Education) Adult Social Care will work with the young person to produce a care and support plan which will include a provisional personal budget and outcomes.

A carer's assessment will be undertaken where requested or where it appears the carer requires additional support