



## FACTSHEET 11

# The Care Bill – transition for children to adult care and support services

*Services at transition should be aimed at moving a person into work/adult life in such a way as to promote their independence and so reduce their long term needs for care and support.*

Care and Support Alliance

*This factsheet describes how the Care Bill will support people moving from children's to adult care and support services.*

We know that the transition to adulthood is a time when young people and their families are thinking about their aspirations for the future. If people are likely to have care and support needs when they are 18, they need information and advice so that they can make the necessary plans.

### Planning

The Bill gives young people and carers of children a legal right to request an assessment before they turn 18. This is to help them to plan for the adult care and support services they may need.

The Bill says that if a child, young carer or an adult caring for a disabled child (or 'child's carer') are likely to have needs when they, or the child they care for, turns 18, the local authority can assess them if it considers there is 'significant benefit' in doing so. This is regardless of whether the person currently receives children's services. The Bill also says that the local authority must assess the needs of a child's carer (where that child is already receiving support) and can provide services to them.

Assessment for care and support needs can also take place alongside other assessments, so that someone does not need to have multiple assessments. For example, this could be an assessment for an Education, Health and Care plan proposed under the Children and Families Bill. (See overleaf for more information about EHC plans and the other links between the Care Bill and the Children and Families Bill).

### Information and prevention

The Bill says that when an assessment is carried out, information should be given about whether the young person, child's carer or young carer is likely to be eligible for public care and support. The person should receive advice and information about what can be done to meet eligible needs, as well as what they can do to stay well, and prevent or delay the development of needs.

This information will give young people, child's carers and young carers an indication of the sort of support they can expect. This will remove some of the uncertainty caused by having to wait and see what will happen when they turn 18.

If the local authority does not accept a person's request for an assessment, it must explain why in writing. It must also provide information and advice about what the person can do to prevent or delay the development of care and support needs. (See **factsheet 4** on assessments and eligibility.)

## Flexibility

The Bill does not say that you have to be a certain age to be able to ask for an assessment. It says that local authorities must consider, in all cases, whether there would be a 'significant benefit' in doing an assessment.

This means the local authority is able to take each individual's circumstances into account when deciding whether to assess them. This is instead of having a blanket rule that means everyone has to be assessed at the same age. This flexibility recognises that the best time to plan the move to adult services will be different for each person.

## Continuity

The Bill will ensure that no-one reaching the age of 18 and who is already receiving support of some kind under the legislation that relates to children, will suddenly find themselves without the care and support they need at the point of becoming an adult. The Bill requires local authorities to continue providing a person with children's services until adult care and support is in place to take over. This will mean there is no gap.

## Cooperation

A successful transition to adult care and support services needs the young person, their families and professionals to work together. This is crucial. The Bill gives local authorities a legal responsibility to cooperate, and to ensure that all the right people work together to get the transition right.

## The Children and Families Bill, and the Care Bill

The Children and Families Bill creates a new 'birth-to-25 years' Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) for children and young people with special educational needs, and offers families personal budgets so that they have more control over the type of support they get. In some cases, where a person is over 18 the "Care" part of the EHC plan will be provided for by the Care Bill.

The Children and Families Bill will also improve cooperation between all the services that support children with special educational needs and their families. This will require local authorities to involve children, young people and parents in reviewing and developing care for those with special educational needs. Local authorities will also need to publish information about what relevant support can be offered locally.

The Care Bill (and the Special Educational Needs provisions in the Children and Families Bill) require(s) that there is cooperation within and between local authorities to ensure that the necessary people cooperate, that the right information and advice are available and that assessments can be carried out jointly

### FURTHER INFORMATION

- See also **factsheet 3** on assessments and eligibility, and **factsheet 8** on carers (including young carers and parent carers).