



Planning for Transition

A guide to support parents and carers of children with learning difficulties and / or disabilities

2008 edition

www.connexions-bs.co.uk



Planning for Transition

This booklet is for parents and carers of young people aged 13 to 19 with learning difficulties and / or disabilities.

It will help you to make plans with your daughter / son for their move from school to adult life.

This is called Transition Planning.



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13 to 14 years (Year 9)

The Connexions Personal Adviser (PA) will meet your daughter / son to discuss their future plans.

The Annual Review of your daughter's / son's Statement will include making a Transition Plan. The school must invite you, your daughter / son and their PA to the Review. They may invite Social Services and others e.g. Health Service.

You may want to get ready for the meeting and you can have help with this (see the section "Preparing for Transition Planning Meetings")

You will get a copy of the Transition Plan from the school. This is a record of what is agreed at the meeting.

The school must find out if your daughter / son can get help in the future from Social Services.

14 to 15 years (Year 10)

The Connections Personal Advisor (PA) and the school should work together to make sure all the action points agreed in the Transition Plan are carried out.

The Annual Review at school will look at the Transition Plan again and you should agree any changes.

At the annual Review, your daughter / son will continue to look at what they want to do in the future. This will be an opportunity to get more information about future options e.g. leisure, education, work, short breaks, transport and housing.



15 to 16 years (Year 11)

Your daughter / son and you will need to make a decision about leaving school or staying on up to age 19.

If your daughter / son leaves school the Connexions Personal Adviser (PA) will arrange an assesment of their future needs. This is called a Learner Support Plan.

This assessment will suggest where your daughter / son might go after school. You may both want to go and look at some of the options before choosing.

At 16 some benefits will change. You can contact the Jobcentre Plus for help.

You may be able to apply for a Direct Payment to pay for care needs. In Birmingham contact the Disabled Children's Register and Information Service. Telephone: 0121 449 6375 or 0121 303 3237.
www.birmingham.gov.uk/disabledchildrenregister

If you live in Solihull you should contact the Adult Learning Disability Team. Telephone: 0121 704 7470.

16 to 19 years (Post 16/6th form)

If your son / daughter remains at school, the Transition Plan is reviewed and amended annually.

With support, your daughter / son will need to make a decision about where to go after leaving school.

Before your daughter / son leaves school they should talk to their Connexions Personal Adviser (PA) and look at their future needs. You may want to go long to this.

Going through the Transition Planning process – a parent's view

"Before my daughter Alice left school in July there were lots of things to think about and do. Meetings were set up in school that both my daughter and I attended. The other people at these meetings helped us to understand what the different options were for Alice and make plans for these changes. We really felt they listened to us and involved us in the planning. They also helped us identify other organisations that could support Alice and brought us together.

Alice is going to go to college next. The process was not always smooth but now everything is in place and Alice is looking forward to her new start.

My advice to any parent / carer going through transition planning would be to start the planning process as early as possible. That way you are less likely to find that places are already full and it will help make sure that everything is arranged before your daughter/son leaves school at the end of the school year."



Transition Pathway



Some schools in both Birmingham and Solihull are using the Transition Pathway to help students plan for the future.

The Transition Pathway helps young people and their families / carers think about what will be important for their future. Organisations like us, the Connexions Service, can then use this knowledge to develop the Transition Plan.

You can find more information on the Transition Pathway website: www.transitionpathway.co.uk

Preparing for Transition Planning Meetings

Before you go to the meeting

Think about:

- What your daughter / son likes to do, at home, school and in their free time.
- How you can help them say what is important to them.
- What you expect in the future for your daughter / son.
- What information you need to help plan for the future.
- All the people who help your daughter / son now e.g. physiotherapist.
- Other people you may want at the meeting e.g. a friend to support you, an advocate, a community nurse.
- Asking for extra help if you need it at the meeting e.g. interpreter, information in Braille, a BSL communicator.

It may help to write some of these things down and take to the meeting.

At the meeting

Talk about your daughter's / son's:

- Ideas, hopes and concerns for the future.
- Future options.
- Developing independence.
- Education needs.
- Help needed in school and after school.
- Help for now and in the future.
- Social and leisure opportunities.

Remember:

- If there is anything you don't understand in the meeting, you can ask for it to be explained.
- Decisions don't need to be made at the meeting.
- More time can be taken to think about choices.



After the meeting

- You will get a copy of the Transition Plan. This will say what needs to be done next.
- The Plan will be reviewed every year and can be changed or added to.
- You can contact your PA if you have any questions.



Questions and Answers

When my daughter / son is 16, will there be any changes to benefits?

At 16, young people with a learning difficulty and / or disability who are in education may be entitled to new benefits such as Incapacity Benefit and Income Support. Young people can receive benefits in their own name at 16 and may have to renew their claim for Disability Living Allowance. This may change any benefits that you or your daughter / son are receiving.

Helpful contacts:

- Benefit Enquiry Line: Telephone: 0800 882200. Minicom: 0800 243355.
- Citizens Advice Bureau: www.adviceguide.org.uk
- In Birmingham contact the Local Neighbourhood Office. Telephone: 0121 303 9944 - this is the main Birmingham City Council switchboard, they can give you details of your nearest office.
- If you live in Solihull contact Citizens Advice Bureau. Telephone: 0870 1202 425. www.adviceguide.org.uk

How are Social Services involved in the Transition Planning meeting?

In Year 9, whether you have a social worker or not, the headteacher should invite Social Services to attend the Transition Planning meeting. During Year 11, Social Services should write to your daughter / son and ask them if they want an assessment of needs.

Helpful contacts:

- If you live in Birmingham you can contact: The Register of Disabled Children and Information Services. Telephone / Minicom: 0121 303 3237. www.birmingham.gov.uk/disabledchildrensregister
- For Solihull contact the Children's Disability Team. Telephone: 0121 722 8010.
- Social Services. Your school or PA can help refer you to them.



What are my daughter's / son's options after Year 11?

Most young people will go into one of the options listed below:

Educational Options:

- Staying at their current school (if there is a sixth form).
- Moving to another school with a sixth form.
- Further education at a local college.
- Residential specialist college where students live at college during term-time.

Non-education Options:

- Work-based Training
- Day Services
- Employment

The majority of young people with learning difficulties and / or disabilities continue with their education after Year 11.

Your PA will provide you with information and support you and your daughter / son to make an informed decision.

We also produce a helpful booklet called 'what next?' This contains information on options after school for Birmingham and Solihull students.

Helpful contacts:

- Your local Connexions Service: see page 13 & 14 for your nearest Connexions Centre.
- Schools / colleges: you can obtain a prospectus directly from any local school or college and they can tell you when they have an open day for visitors.
- NATSPEC: website: www.natspec.org.uk

Questions and Answers

If my daughter / son stays on at school, will I still get the same support from the Health Service?

Yes, services provided at school should remain the same. However, if your daughter / son leaves school the health worker in school should contact the Health Service to check if the services are still available.

Helpful contacts:

- In Birmingham contact the Community Nurse Team for learning disability. Telephone: 0121 465 8513. This number will enable you to contact your local team.
- In Solihull contact the Community Nurse Team. Telephone: 0121 722 8010 (17 and under) or 0121 779 5860 (18 and over).

Can I get help from any specialist or voluntary organisations?

Many voluntary organisations will have information on the separate areas of transition. Some may also have services that you and your daughter / son can use e.g. family support, youth groups.

Helpful contacts:

The following groups give information and links to local groups:

- MENCAP National Helpline for learning disability. Telephone: 0808 808 1111. www.mencap.org.uk
- Birmingham Disability Resource Centre. Telephone: 0121 789 7365. www.disability.co.uk
- Birmingham Parent Partnership. Telephone: 0121 303 5004. www.bgfl.org/services/parent/default.htm
- Solihull Parent Partnership Service. Telephone: 0121 733 7290. www.solihullparentpartnership.co.uk



When does my daughter's / son's statement end?

A statement would normally end when your daughter / son leaves school.



How can my daughter / son or myself get further help from Connexions?

Your daughter's / son's PA will work with them while they are at school to help them plan for the future. After they leave school they can still get help from a PA by going to their local Connexions Centre, see page 13 & 14 for addresses.

For an out of hours service you can ring Connexions Direct on 080 800 13219 or use their website: www.connexions-direct.com

Connexions Centres

Birmingham

Broad Street Connexions Centre

Charter House
100 Broad Street
Birmingham B15 1AE
0121 248 8004 / 8005

Erdington Connexions Centre

257 High Street
Erdington
Birmingham B23 6SR
0121 248 8700

Handsworth Connexions Centre

11 Soho Road
Handsworth
Birmingham B21 9SN
0121 248 8250

Kings Heath Connexions Centre

Trinity House
9a High Street
Kings Heath
Birmingham B14 7BB
0121 248 7177

Northfield Connexions Centre

1 Vineyard Road
Northfield
Birmingham B31 1PG
0121 248 8248

Yardley Connexions Centre

Church Road
Yardley
Birmingham B25 8UX
0121 248 8200



Solihull

Chelmsley Wood Connexions Centre

289 Bosworth Drive
Chelmsley Wood
Solihull B37 5DP
0121 770 1861

Shirley Connexions Centre

331-333 Stratford Road
Shirley
Solihull B90 3BL
0121 251 1800

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