

Preparing for Adulthood – Factsheet for Parents and Carers

From the last Friday in June after they turn 16, your child will become a young person according to SEN Law. They will be encouraged to make decisions about their EHCP, learning and life choices. As a parent or carer you are probably used to making these decisions for your child and you will continue to have a vital role in encouraging your young person to make and share their views, goals and ambitions for future life and have a smooth and positive transition to adulthood.

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After Year 9 there will be more focused planning for:

- Education/training after leaving school;
- Post 19 education and/or employment;
- Independent Living;
- Being part of society;
- Being healthy.

*Key decision making rights around the EHC Plan processes
pass to your young person after compulsory school age
(Last Friday in June after 16th birthday)*

They can:

- Ask for an assessment for an EHC Plan (they can do this up to their 25th birthday);
- Ask for changes to the content of the EHC Plan;
- Ask for a particular learning setting to be named in their EHC Plan;
- Ask for a personal budget to fund parts of the provision in the EHC Plan;
- Appeal to the SEN and Disability Tribunal about decisions concerning their EHC plan.

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Young Person – The laws says that at the young person must be closely involved in decisions about their future. This will usually be with the support of their parents/carers but the young person must be in agreement to any decisions reached. They can also be supported by an advocate who will ensure that their views are taken into account by everyone involved. These will include:

Parents / Carers – If your young person wants this, you will continue to be part of discussions and decisions about their future.

School / College – Will provide information about your young person's progress and any support they need to enable them to progress.

C and K Careers Advisors – Will support your young person from Year 9, to make decisions about their future learning, training, or career options.

Any other professionals actively involved

Health and Social Care Professionals – When the young person is likely to need continuing support from these services

What can you do to support your young person?

Talk to them about the changes, now that they are 16 and encourage them to think about

- What they like doing and are good at;
- What things are most important to them now and for the future;
- What types of support have worked well for them and what might be done better in a different way;
- What they need to learn to enable them to fulfil their ambitions for life and what support would help them to do this.

Where can we get information, advice and support?

The law says that children and young people can access information, advice and support independently from their parents. The advice that they receive must be impartial, confidential and free.

Here at Kirklees Independent Advice Service (KIAS) and Calderdale SENDIASS we can offer this support. All our officers have undertaken training in SEN Law and are happy to support you and your young person through the journey to adulthood.

Our Young Person Advocate, Sheila Hickerton, would be pleased to give advice and support including:

- Telephone or email enquiries;
- Support at meetings;
- Help with writing letters and completing forms;
- Support through mediation and appeal to SEN Tribunal.

We would be happy to hear from you on

- **KIAS – (Kirklees enquiries) - Tel 0300 330 1504**
- **SENDIASS – (Calderdale enquiries) – Tel 01422 266141**

You can contact Sheila Hickerton directly on:

Tel: 07969 053026

Email: sheila.hickerton@kias.org.uk

Preparation for Adulthood is a shared, gradual process and most young people will want their parents/carers to be closely involved in decisions they make but if parents ask KIAS for support for a young person over 16, we need the young person's consent for this to go ahead.