

## **Devon Protocol for managing the Transition of young carers from childrens services to Adult Services**

The Care Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to conduct transition assessments for children, children's carers and young carers where there is a likely need for care and support after the child in question turns 18 and a transition assessment would be of 'significant benefit'.

A young carer is defined as a person under 18 who provides practical support, personal care and/or emotional support to a family member or friend of the family.

The Devon County Council Preparing for Adulthood Strategy vision is that:  
"All young people should experience the transition to adulthood as a positive, exciting, and challenging time. They will be supported to reach their full potential as an adult, by helping them to make decisions about their career, education, social life and where they are going to live. The transitions process will be driven by their needs, views and wishes in order that they can become as independent as possible".

It should also be recognised that there are many different transition processes for young carers and whilst this protocol focuses on transition to adult services, a flexible and personalised approach should be embedded to support **ALL** young carers in **ANY** transition that may affect their lives

Although this protocol is focused on the young carer, it should also take account of any transitions that may impact on the young carer i.e. the transition of the 'cared for' e.g. a cared for sibling from children to adults service etc. Therefore in **ALL** assessments, reviews etc the Think Family approach must be undertaken

### **Identification**

It is the responsibility of **ALL** agencies, childrens and adults, to recognise, identify and support all children who have caring responsibilities.

A young carer also has the right to request a transition assessment.

Agencies who are working with families where a young carer has been identified or there is likelihood for a young carer to be within the family (i.e. a sibling with disabilities, or a sibling transitioning from CAMHS to AMS) **MUST** ensure they identify the young carer and immediately refer them for appropriate support once consent has been sought

**Preparing for Adulthood (PfA)** – (This protocol should be read in conjunction with the PfA Strategy)

1. As a young carer approaches their **14th** birthday there are many changes taking place in their lives and these changes include opportunities to consider their own future contact should be made with them explaining options around transition.
2. As part of ongoing/existing work transition planning should be included in current assessment plans/reviews.

3. It should be clear who is the lead worker/agency for the transition plan and this agency **MUST** ensure all other relevant agencies are involved where appropriate in the planning with the young carer.
4. The plan should set out clearly all the agencies that are supporting the young carers assessment, including links to any statutory/non statutory services
5. Consent to refer to appropriate agencies such as Careers South West should be sought. If it is considered appropriate and useful to a young person they may be referred to young adult services at this stage and in some cases will be allocated an adult mentor.
6. Decisions should be recorded as to the wishes of the young person in relation to moving to young adult or adult provision.
7. Transition work can take place in a flexible and personalised manner at any time from 14-17 when it is considered appropriate by the young carer, their family or the Young Carers service/services working with the family/young person.
8. Transition planning must be continually reviewed at relevant stages in the young carer's life from 14 onwards i.e. it should not be forgotten until the young carer is reaching 18.
9. Where possible and as soon as it is practical an adult service practitioner should be identified to provide a consistent person/link for the young carer during their transition
10. In all cases, prior to the young person's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday ( at a time appropriate to the needs of the young person as identified in their support plan) the Young Carers service will inform Young Adult Carer Services/Adult Carer Service
11. A transition assessment will be offered to young people reaching the age of 18 if it has not been done previously and it is considered that this is in the best interests of the young person.
12. If it is agreed that the young person should move to adult services a planned transition should take place between young person, young carer worker and adult agency. A transitional care plan should be drawn up which will identify whether they are eligible for care and support as an adult, what further input young people's services will give, the method and transfer of information to adult services and the responsibilities and actions that each service will undertake.
13. The Young Adult Carer service can allocate a transitions worker to support the young adult carer to reach their desired outcomes. This support will include ensuring young adult carers are aware of their rights in respect of education, health and benefits.

14. If the young person does not wish to be supported by Young Adult Services or Adult Carer Services or are not eligible for services they should be informed of relevant universal services to receive health information about their rights around benefits, education. Guidance will be given to the young person as to how to access adult services or young adult services in the future.

### Flow Chart

