



**Improving Outcomes
for
Young People
Moving into Adulthood**

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What is the challenge we are trying to achieve

In Bolton we want every young person to reach their potential regardless of additional needs/disability. We want to see major improvements for young people and their families in their experience and outcomes as they prepare for adulthood.

The implementation of the 2014 SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) placed emphasis on the local authority and CCG's to ensure children and young people are at the heart of planning and decision making. The focus to support them to improve their *outcomes* rather than simply *provision* of support.

Five years on practice in this area is not consistent. Many young people are not "getting a life" by lack of opportunity for meaningful employment, not connected to their community, not making friends, achieving maximised good health and/or maximised independence, choice and control in their lives.

Young people's experience is not sufficiently person centred in planning for the future or in the life outcomes. These should be much more designed around and with individual young people and families with services and supports flowing from these designs, not currently available options. Families should have the chance to be more aspirational and have "images of possibility" to inspire planning. Young people should have choice "Where I Live, What I do, and the Support I need.

Some of the underlying and linked reasons for this are:

- A legacy deficit assessment approach and culture
- A limited range of "traditional" service options
- Families sometimes choosing residential options in the absence of attractive alternatives or knowledge of possibilities
- Lack of underpinning strategy and operational structure to drive and sustain better "transition"

What is our approach?

In Bolton we are developing and updating an offer for young people moving into adulthood in accordance with Bolton Council's Department of People strategic plan based on one of the top priorities.

Our children have the skills and aptitude to make their own way in the world. We will design and deliver a new service model and pathways for young people who transition to adult services, to improve outcomes and consistent planning for young people.

The aim is to develop in Bolton a consistent transition offer for all young people with SEND.

We are in the later stages of programme of work through a transition steering group across children's, adults and mental health services to improve pathways, planning, practice and engagement with young people. This being in accordance with the key principles.

- Tell my story once
- Seamless experience
- Support my aspirations
- Protect and empower me
- Support resilience in families and communities

We have identified current system or policy barriers to the shift of culture and practice for both short and medium term action – for example, perceived policy and legal issues across children's and adults work which are seen to inhibit developments

Recognising this and practice elements to be agreed and built into a new approach we have

1. Developed a new pathway, agreed with key partners and professionals running from year 9.
2. In order to measure the effectiveness of this in the interim period we have develop a pilot a transition team to bring the pathway to life and model how the improved practice and outcomes can be achieved long term for a YP with SEND.
3. Identified young people for the pilot across a broad spectrum of need including young people using CAMHS, leaving care, and those with a lifelong disability.
4. Identified from this operational system challenges to inform the direction of future change.
5. Participated in a "planning live" planning and development programme that models person centred planning and asset based approaches for nominated families and professionals, contributes to the wider shifting of culture across the key agencies and professional groups and offers the basis for next stage professional development.
6. Taking a combined approach to developing greater flexibility and creativity in options for young people – pragmatic building on existing possibilities with families and using the new planning approach to identify and pursue new possibilities.
7. Exploring the further development of mechanisms that can positively drive and increase choice and control – personal budgets (including integrated personal budgets).

8. Considering true brokerage we are exploring an approach that could add capacity and expertise to the social workers by activating ideas for support emerging from planning.
9. Engaged an active working party from Bolton within the Rights of Passage Programme including the young people, parent carers, parent carer rep groups and third party sector working in collaboration with social care and education.

The learning from this and the pilot has identified a need to widen the **PfA Ages and Stages Pathway** into operational practice. This being for all YP with SEND between age 14-25 anticipated to have future adult health and or social care needs.

The view that such activity starting at year 9 (age 14) will ensure YP will have real choice in Where They Live, What they do and The support they need.

How are we going about this?

- Identified the need for changes in operational aspects of the children and adult social care workforce by the development of a new dedicated Transition team.
- To offer a consistent support to YP In all aspects of PfA, who need an additional layer of support. These being YP who are anticipated to have future adult health and or social care needs.
- **Early Identification** factoring in hidden need of YP not known to social care
- **Timely** consistent offer of support focused on all aspects of preparing for adulthood.
- **Earlier Assessment** of need by a Transitions Care Act Assessment and or Transitions CHC assessment.
- **Advance Planning of Need** in accordance with aspirational outcomes detailed in EHCP.
- **Delivery of Support** in a more person centred by informed Commissioning of future demand.
- We have engaged in a number of consultation events with all YP and parents and carers.
- Drafted up options on new service delivery models of which are now pending approval at the executive board.

Whilst this is a great step forward we need to ensure we develop change in all parts of the system across children services, education, health and adult services to ensure that **all** YP with SEND are consistently supported in accordance with the principles of PfA and what a good life looks like.

There are 1,181 Young people from age 14 who are in receipt of an EHCP. The Transition team will only be required to support around 30 % of these YP. We want to ensure that

All young people with SEND will have equal life chances as they move into adulthood. These will include Paid employment and higher education, Housing options and independent living, Good health, Friends, relationships and community inclusion. With real choice and control over their lives and support.

This can only be achieved by working in partnership with key stakeholders who share this sense of ownerships and embed this within their individual operational day to day practice.

This we plan to achieve by

- Developing the PfA element of Bolton's SEND strategy. Now named The Bolton Approach to Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) 2019-2024.
- Linking the above PfA element to Bolton's Autism Strategy ensuring compliance with the Greater Manchester Autism Consortium (GMAC).
- Incorporating the activity required at year 9 across
 1. Health and Social Care - as per Ages and Stages pathway /Transition team.
 2. Commissioning - across CCG, children adults an education. Developing the local market.
 3. Housing - developing the housing market for YP with SEND who struggle to safely manage their front door.
 4. Education - adapting the approach of schools and post 16/19 provision in the review of EHC plans. In doing so in accordance with the principles of PfA. Focused on holistic outcomes and not just academic progress.
- To offer more person centred and asset-based approach training to all schools and colleges with a shift away from just academic focus.
- Considering kite mark for inclusive good practice across provision.
- Using intelligence and insights to inform changes to commissioning in post 16 provision at individual, operational and strategic levels.
- Changing provision to respond to the different things young people need and want now and for the future.
- Adjusting commissioning to enable a more flexible range of possibilities and options reflective of YP's needs and choices in regards to Where They Live, What they do, The support they need.