



A Young Person's Guide to Transition

What young people and their families can expect
in Wakefield district

A Young Person's Guide to Transition

This guide shows the steps in Transition from year 9 to becoming an adult. It explains the process, and tells you about who can support you as you get older.

What is Transition?

Transition starts when you are a young person. It is the steps you take from being a young person to being an adult. It's about making choices and planning for:

- Your needs.
- Your hopes and dreams for the future.
- Your education and training in the future.
- Working and doing things you like.
- Living your life – enjoying and being the best you can.

Becoming an adult

You might not have thought about becoming an adult yet. You may find that becoming an adult is easy and without problems. But you may want to **talk to someone** who can help you make your choices, or think about your future.

As you get older, you have more **choices and decisions**. You will need to think about what you want to do. Your relationships and friendships can change. Your daily routines and activities can change too. Your interests and likes may also change.

Becoming an adult can be a difficult time, but it should also be a rewarding time. It is important that you let people know **what you want to do**. You should share your ideas for your future. There will be people around to help you make up your mind.



Transition Planning

Young person starts year 9 at school.

Young person starts to think about their goals when they leave school.

Workers and family help young person to work out what needs doing to reach their goals.

Transition Review Meeting

Everybody talks about young person's goals and how to reach them.

The **Transition Plan** is written (who will do what and when)

Transition meeting held to see how goals are being met (every year at school). Transition Plan changed if needed.

Last year of school. Final transition review.

The Transition Steps

1. Transition Planning

Transition Planning starts when you are in Year 9 (13-14 years old) at school.

The person that starts working with you in Transition is called a **Connexions Personal Adviser (PA)**. They will help you with your choices after school.

Your school annual review meeting becomes a '**Transition Annual Review Meeting**'. These meetings start to look at what you would like to do after Year 11 (15-16 years old). At the review you will be able to talk about:

- How you are doing at school.
- What is working well for you and what is not.
- What you are good at.
- What you are interested in.
- What ideas you have for your future.
- What choices you have in education.
- What job you might want to do when you are older.
- What support you might need or want.
- What information you and your family need.

Decisions about Transition are made during the meeting.

2. The Transition Annual Review Meeting

You and your family/carers should be supported to bring your ideas and hopes for your future to these meetings. They are very important. You should try to give as much information about what you think, feel and want to do in the future.

The meeting should be in a place where you feel comfortable and happy to talk. Let staff know if anything can be done to make this meeting better for you to share your feelings, or if you have any cultural or communication needs.

The staff that can help with Transition will also be at the meeting, for example:

- Your Connexions PA.
- Your social worker (as you get older this might include a social worker from an adults team).
- Your class teacher.
- Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO).
- Headteacher.
- Health workers you have such as a physiotherapist, nurse, occupational therapist, etc.

Other people who are important to you should be invited. At the end of the meeting, everyone should have a good idea about what you are thinking of doing in the future and who can support you.



The Transition Steps continued...

Person Centred Planning

Some Transition Annual Review meetings are done by **Person Centred Planning**. This puts you at the centre of the plan. It focuses on what you want out of life. It makes the meetings more relaxed and open. It should be easier for you to join in.

Person centred reviews are about family and professionals listening to you. This should help you to think about what is important in your life now and in the future. The plan is agreed with you to make these hopes and ideas happen.

3. Transition Plans

Everything that has been talked about at the Transition Meeting will become part of the **Transition Plan**.

The Plan will include:

- What you hope to do after Year 11 or when you leave school.
- What has been said at the meeting.
- What things need to be done.
- Who will do these things.

The Transition Plan will be reviewed every year in school in your Transition Annual Review meeting. This is to make sure that what was agreed has happened. And also to see if any changes need to be made to your plan.

At each meeting you will look at:

- What was said last time.
- What needs doing.
- Any changes since the last meeting.
- What new things need putting in your plan.
- What old things need taking out of your plan.

You and your family will receive a copy of the Transition Plan after the meeting has taken place.



Connexions offers information, advice and guidance on courses. They can help with training opportunities and careers. They can support you with other issues that might affect young people. Connexions work with young people aged 13-19 or up to the age of 25 if you are disabled or have a learning difficulty.

Connexions Personal Adviser (PA)

Connexions Personal Advisers are the workers from Connexions. They will come to your Transition Meetings and will complete your Section 139a paperwork.

Section 139a

The Connexions PA fills in a form called a **Section 139a**. This is completed when you are in your last year at school. This can be in Year 11, 12, 13 or 14. It is better to do this after your final year Transition Review meeting. Sometimes it has to be done before this meeting takes place. The Section 139a form lets people know what help/support you have had at school. It lets people know what help/support you may still need in your next setting. Once you have left school and the form is completed, you will not have Transition meetings again.

Other meetings

There might be other review meetings that you go to such as:

- Looked after Child Review
- Child in Need Review
- Health Review
- Education or School Meeting

These will continue during Transition.

13-14 years old (Year 9)

The first Transitional Annual Meeting takes place in Year 9 and will happen each year until you leave school. Connexions become involved.

They will start to look at what you might like to do when you leave school: This might be:

- Staying on at school (if the school has a sixth form).
- Moving to a school with a sixth form.
- Moving to Further Education College.
- Moving to Specialist Residential College.
- Moving into employment/supported employment.

14-15 years old (Year 10)

You will continue to have Transition Review Meetings. These will look at what you want to do in your future and what needs to be done to help you get there. Your Transition Plan may be changed at these meetings.

15-16 years old (Year 11)

This is the last year you must go to school - at the moment. (From 2013 everyone will go to school until they are 17, and by 2015 it will be 18). It is a time when you make choices about what you would like to do when you leave school. If you stay on at school after 16, you will continue having Transition Review meetings.

If you leave school at 16 (end of Year 11) your Statement of Special Educational Needs will stop. You only keep your statement if you stay at school. It stops if you go to college, residential college, work or training.

The Section 139A paperwork (completed by the Connexions PA) will be sent to you and your family. If you agree, it will be sent to your next education or training place. If you go into training or education in college, they will use other ways of checking how you are doing as you will not have any more Transition meetings.

Options and support after you finish school

Further Education (FE) College

If you choose to go to a FE College, they offer a lot of full and part-time courses. Information about the courses that colleges offer is produced every year. You will need to apply for a course at college when you are in your last year of school. School staff and Connexions Personal Advisers will help you to apply.

Residential College

If your local college cannot meet your needs, you may want to look at a residential college. A Specialist Personal Adviser from Connexions will work with you and your family to look for a placement. You may not be able to travel daily to these colleges and will have to stay overnight. You might go home at the weekend or in the college holidays.

Education transport

Education after Year 11 is called post-16 education. If you need transport to get from home to school/college after Year 11, you will need to apply for it in the summer term of Year 11. There is a charge which is usually the cost of a 'School Plus' card.

Independent Travel Training

If you are able to learn how to travel independently, Wakefield Council wants to encourage and teach you how to do this. They have staff that can help you learn these new skills. They can teach you routes such as the way to school or college. This could be on a bus or a train.



Benefits

At 16 years old, you can claim your own benefits if you can get them. You can ask for advice from the Welfare Rights and Assessment Team at Wakefield Council. You can also contact the Benefits Advice Line or DIAL for information. You can contact them yourself, or your family/social worker could contact them for you.

Social Care Direct: 0845 8503503

Welfare Rights and Assessment Team: 01924 307317

Benefits Enquiry Line: 0800 882200

DIAL (Disabled Information and Advice Line): 01977 723933

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

From January 2011, EMA is closed to new applicants. If you already receive EMA, this will continue for the 2010-2011 school/college year. But it will stop from September 2011.

The government intends to replace EMA with more targeted support for young people, but it has yet to announce what this will be.

Independent Living Fund (ILF)

The ILF has stopped accepting any new applications for the rest of the 2010-2011 financial year. For more information about ILF please go to www.direct.gov.uk.

Health

In Wakefield, your health appointments may start to be with Adult Services. This can start from when you are 16 years old. It is important that you and those that support you know when the changes happen, and how the move to adult services will affect you.

18 years and over

At 18 years old you will have started making choices about what you want to do in the future, like what you want to do during the day. People who can help you do this are your social worker(s), your Connexions Personal Adviser, your teacher and your family.

Social Care Services

If you had a Social Worker or Children and Family Worker they will stop supporting you at 18 years old. Other support from Children's Social Care Services such as the Home Based Break Service will stop.

Some services may continue, but the amount you can have may change. If you have support from private care providers that work with children and adults, this may continue.

The Council may have looked at your needs for the future. It could have been done with you and your family as part of your Transition.

The Council use a system called **Self Directed Support** (SDS). SDS enables you to be in control of your own life by giving you more choice, control and independence about how your support is organised.

If you request services, they will complete an assessment of need. Following the assessment, you will be allocated a Personal Budget based on your needs.

As an adult, you may be asked to start paying towards your support. The amount will depend on your financial circumstances. The Council will look at your benefits and income, and work out how much you should pay towards your support.

Talk to your adult social workers if you need more information, or see www.wakefield.gov.uk.

What you might do during the day

Continuing your education

Connexions Personal Advisers (PAs) will work with you and your family, to look at what you might do after school. Connexions work with young people until they finish their college courses, and help them to move onto further opportunities. They can stay involved with disabled people or those with learning difficulties up to 25 years old, if needed. Things you might do include:

- College
- Residential College
- (Supported) Employment
- Day Opportunities
- Other things, such as voluntary work

(Supported) Employment

All young people should be encouraged to work. When you are 18 years old, you can get support to help you into work. The Disability Employment Adviser at Jobcentre Plus will help you. They can also help if you want Supported Employment.



Education transport

If you still require transport to get to school or college, then you will need to apply again. You may have to contribute towards the cost of your transport.

Day Opportunities

Day Opportunities are involved after a referral by your social worker. You cannot go to Day Opportunities if you move to Supported Living Accommodation. At Day Opportunities, you will be able to look at how to improve your skills and abilities. You will be able to try different types of work and day activities.

Voluntary Work

This is when you give your time but without getting paid. Young people often do voluntary work so they can meet new people. You can also learn new skills and gain experience. You can volunteer for a few hours or a few days each week. Doing voluntary work should not affect your benefits.

As you get older, you will have different choices about where to live. You may want to stay living at home with your parents/carers. You may want to rent or buy your own home. Some people move into Supported Living Accommodation with friends or on their own. You might need lots of support or just a little. Talk to someone from housing or your social worker about your choices.



We hope that your Transition to being an adult is smooth, enjoyable and exciting. We hope you find this guide useful.

Remember - getting the right advice and support is very important. Good advice helps you to think about your choices make the right ones for you.

For help to do this you can contact:

Social Care Direct: 0845 8503503

WeSail: 01924 379015

Cloverleaf Advocacy: 01977 705437

Connexions: 01924 371579

Please contact the Communication and Information Team to provide your comments about this guide, or if you would like this pack in another format (e.g. Braille, large print, audio tape, or another language).

Post: FREEPOST WF458

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Please note that the information within this guide was correct at the time of printing.