GROWING UP AND MOVING ON

Transitions Guide for Young People Aged 14-19 with Disabilities or Special Educational Needs and their Parents and Carers

Looking to the Future

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
INTRODUCTION

This booklet is for all young people with Special Educational Needs. Its purpose is to help you understand more about ‘transition’ – or preparation for becoming an adult. It is particularly for young people who are in Year 9 or above at school. However it may also be useful to parents and carers of younger children who want to find out more about future choices for their child as they grow into adulthood.

The information in the ‘Transition Guide’ is designed to help signpost you through each school year from Year 9 through to adulthood. They set out what you can expect various professionals, voluntary and community groups to be doing to prepare for your move into adult life.

Parents and Carers also have a vital role to play in helping their child make informed decisions about their future. So on each page there is advice on what you and your child might want to be doing and thinking about at each stage of the transition journey.

WHAT DOES TRANSITION MEAN?

There are many transitions in people’s lives but in this booklet we are talking about the transition disabled young people and those with special education needs will make from childhood to adulthood and changes from children’s services to adult services. For individual young people transition may mean:

- moving from school to college or employment;
- a move from children’s to adult social care;
- a change from children’s paediatricians and therapists to the adult health service;
- thinking about moving away from the family home.
At a Glance

Year 9 (13–14 years): Making the Transition Plan

Year 10 (14–15 years): Planning ahead and looking at what is possible

Year 11 (15–16 years): Firming up the options and possibly leaving school

Year 12 (16–17 years): Getting ready to move on

Year 13 (17–18 Years): Becoming an adult

Year 14 (18 – 19 years): Last possible year of SEN Statement
YOUR RIGHTS AROUND TRANSITION

If you have a Statement of Special Educational Needs you are entitled to:

- Have your Transition needs explicitly considered in the annual review of your SEN statement from Year 9 onwards for as long as you remain at school
- Have a Transition Plan drawn up following your Year 9 Review
- Have your Transition Plan reviewed each year for as long as you remain at school
- Have a named Services for Young People Worker to oversee your Transition Plan.
**Year 9 (13–14 years): Making the Transition Plan**

The purpose of the Year 9 meeting is to review the child's statement of Special Educational Needs and will include a discussion about future options. What is different about this review is that the Transition Plan is produced at this meeting and so it is often called the Transition Review. This is a time when the parent and child will need to start thinking about what changes will need to be made for the young person to move into adulthood.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What we should do...</th>
<th>Things parents and young people might find helpful to do...</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School should send you information about the review and invite you and your parents to the meeting</td>
<td>Contact the school direct if you haven’t heard when your Year 9 review will happen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any professional working with you (e.g. nurse, speech therapist, classroom assistant, social worker) should also be invited</td>
<td>Talk to the school about who will be at the Review and any other people you’d like to attend</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Transition review should cover:</td>
<td>Ask if you don’t understand who everyone is or what their role is</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Your goals for the rest of your school life</td>
<td>Ask about the best way to make your voice and aspirations heard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Post school education, training and employment options</td>
<td>If anyone at the Review uses terms you don’t understand don’t be afraid to ask what they mean</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Any social care needs you are likely to have as an adult</td>
<td>Before the review ends make sure you are clear about what each of the professionals at the Review will be doing in relation to your plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Health support needs</td>
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<td>o Friends, relationships and leisure</td>
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<tr>
<td>School is responsible for drawing up the Transition Plan. It should state:</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Your plans after Year 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>o What support you will need in your transition from school into adult life</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Who will provide this support</td>
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<tr>
<td>What will happen in your final years at school</td>
<td>Get the name and contact details of Young People’s Worker from school. Remember s/he’s the person responsible for co-ordinating the delivery of your Transition Plan.</td>
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<tr>
<td>How any additional needs will be met</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Transition Plan should be reviewed each year you remain at school as it is intended to be a fluid plan responsive to your changing needs and wishes</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Young People’s Worker from Stockport Council will attend all Year 9 Reviews and s/he has responsibility for overseeing the Transition Plan.</td>
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PLEASE NOTE FROM 2013 THE AGE FOR COMPULSORY PARTICIPATION IN LEARNING WILL BE RAISED TO 17. IN 2015 IT WILL BE RAISED AGAIN TO AGE 18. THIS BOOKLET WILL BE REVISED IN 2013 TO REFLECT THESE CHANGES

The Education and Skills Act 2008 increases the minimum age at which young people in England can leave compulsory education/learning. From 2013 the Act will require young people to continue in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17 and from 2015 until their 18th birthday.

Raising the participation age does not mean young people must stay in school; they will able to choose one of the following options:

- full-time education, such as school, college or home education
- work-based learning, such as an Apprenticeship
- part-time education or training if they are employed, self-employed or volunteering for more than 20 hours a week.
The Year 10 review is about looking in more detail at the possible learning choices discussed last year. It is also the time to start thinking about other practical arrangements for when you become an adult.

### What we should do...
- School should send you information about the review and invite you and your parents to the meeting
- Check the actions agreed in the Transition Plan and agree any changes
- Look in more detail at the education and employment options available and the support you might need to use them
- Consider how you are going to travel to college or work
- Consider health support for the future.

### Things parents and young people might find helpful to do...
- Are you clear who will be at the review meeting and their roles?
- If you are leaving your current school at age 16, have the decisions been made about your next steps?
- Ask at the review meeting if you do not understand how decisions will be made about post-16 options available
- Has anyone mentioned work/employment opportunities, including work experience.
The Year 11 review is about confirming arrangements age 16+ including any support needed, for example where you are moving on to a college or training provider.

### What we should do...
- Review and update the Transition Plan
- School should invite further education or work place representatives if this fits in with your plan
- If you are looked after by the local authority and are likely to continue to need social care as an adult, a referral will be made to adult services. In the year after you reach 16 they will become involved in assessing your likely needs for adult care

### Things parents and young people might find helpful to do...
- Make sure you ask any questions you have about the Transition Plan
- You will want to consider the legal changes that apply to all young people at age 16 e.g. you can:
  - choose your own GP, and sign a medical consent form
  - legally have sex
  - marry with your parents consent
  - get a full time job
  - claim social security benefit under certain circumstances
  - leave home with your parents' consent
  - get a license to drive a moped
  - drink wine, beer or cider with a meal in a restaurant
  - buy a National Lottery ticket
- Are you clear about whether you are likely to be assessed under Fair Access to Care for adult social care services, when that will be confirmed and who to contact if you have any questions?
If you have significant health needs this is the time to clarify whether you will be eligible for support from the Continuing Health Care Team. A referral can be made by any professional, or you, or your family.

Paediatricians see children with disabilities up to the age of 16 years. After that the GP takes responsibility for healthcare. However, children in special schools will usually be seen by paediatricians whilst they are still at school.

If this is your last year at school your Young People's Worker will draw up a Learning Difficulty Assessment (139a) which will set out your educational and training needs and the support you will need to meet them.

Are you clear whether there will be a Continuing Health Care assessment and if so, who will do it?

If you have a paediatrician ask them when they will handover responsibility and to whom. Also discuss with them the best way to prepare for the change.

If you receive physiotherapy, speech and language therapy or occupational therapy check with your therapist what will happen about these services once you reach 16.

Find out about making applications to Learning Providers by reading the Looking Forward Booklet.

Check what funding might be available for young people in full time study post 16.
## Year 12 (16-17 years): Getting ready to move on

The Year 12 Review is about finalising plans for learning and making sure arrangements are in place for social care and health support.

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<tr>
<td>You will only have a Year 12 review if you still have a Statement of Special Educational Needs. So the Year 12 review mainly applies to young people attending Special Schools which offer education post 16.</td>
<td>Take time to consider how the planning for your transition has gone over the past year. You are getting closer to adulthood and now is the time to raise any outstanding questions you (or your parents) may have.</td>
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<tr>
<td>If this is your last year at school your Young People’s Worker will draw up a Learning Difficulty Assessment (139a) which will set out your educational and training needs and the support you will need to meet them.</td>
<td>Make sure that you are clear whether or not the SEN statement will continue to be maintained.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>You need to be aware of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and how this affects decision making for all people over 16 years.</td>
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<tr>
<td>What we should do...</td>
<td>Things parents and young people might find helpful to do...</td>
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<td>If you are in school, sixth form or a local authority funded post-16 placement and still have a statement, the school or college should initiate the annual review.</td>
<td>Many universities and colleges now provide support for people with disabilities. Check with colleges you're thinking of applying to what support they can offer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A range of post school options should be discussed with you including college, University, Individual Budgets, daytime activities, voluntary services and employment.</td>
<td>Check closing dates for applications to colleges and funding applications.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Where mainstream provision is not appropriate and a specialist college placement is considered necessary the local authority's Young People's Worker will put together the funding application.</td>
<td>If a specialist college placement is being suggested are you clear why?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If this is your last year at school your Young People's Worker will draw up a Learning Difficulty Assessment (139a) which will set out your educational and training needs and the support you will need to meet them.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your Young People's Worker will stay in touch with you until you are settled in your first placement after leaving school. If you need further support you can contact them up to your 25th birthday.</td>
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If you have been referred to adult social care:
- The Adult Services Transition Worker will begin to provide advice and guidance during this year if you have a significant learning or physical disability.
- You and your parents will be helped to complete an assessment sometime in the year after your 17th birthday.
- Information will be provided about what options may be available to you. A decision will be made about which, if any, services will be arranged by Adults’ Services before your 18th birthday.
- Any services provided will be subject to annual review.

On your 18th birthday if you are eligible for Adult Social Care, Adults’ Services will formally take over care management responsibility and continue to liaise with other services as needed.

If you are eligible for services from Adults Social Care:
- You may be required to pay a personal contribution towards your services. This is decided following the completion of an Income and Assessment form.
- “Right to Control” (a way of giving you control and choice about how money will be spent on your support plan) will be discussed with you.
- Information can be provided about independent living.
- Your parents will be offered a Carer’s Assessment if they are providing you with support.

Are you clear about your eligibility for Adults’ Services and what that will mean for you (or your son/daughter)? If you’re not sure it’s important to talk to Children’s Services.

Talk to Adults’ Services staff if you have any concerns about differences in the way Children’s and Adults’ Services work with you or your son/daughter.

You may want to see a Welfare Rights Worker to ensure that you are getting your full Adult Benefit entitlement.

You may want to talk to Adult Services about moving away from home or make an application to Stockport Homes. Support may be offered through Housing Support Point which can provide short term accommodation support around cooking, budgeting shopping etc. but not personal care such as bathing or giving medication.
If you are being supported by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) they may refer you onto Adult Mental Health services if needed.

If you have a learning disability a Health Action Plan will be put in place at age 18 to identify how your health needs will be met. Work on this will start in year 13, led by one of a range of professionals including the school nurse or community nurse.

If you are eligible for Continuing Health Care you will have your health needs reassessed against the adult Continuing Care framework at the age of 17 to ensure an effective adult care package is commissioned in time for your 18th birthday.

If you have a learning disability, you may wish to have a Health Action Plan, you can discuss this with your GP and/or health professional.

You will want to consider the legal differences which apply when all young people reach adulthood e.g. you can:
- vote
- apply for a credit card
- apply for a mortgage
- be called for jury service
- buy alcohol and cigarettes
- place a bet.
**Year 14 (18–19 Years): Leaving Special School**

The Year 14 Review is about making firm plans for what you will do when you finish special school. This is the last possible year your SEN Statement can be maintained.

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<tr>
<td>If you are in school, sixth form or a local authority funded post-16 placement and still have a statement, your school or college will initiate the annual review</td>
<td>If you’re not going to college ask your Young People’s Worker about other options such as day care, voluntary services and employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As this will be your last year at school your Young People’s Worker will draw up a Learning Difficulty Assessment (139a) which will set out your educational and training needs and the support you will need to meet them</td>
<td>You will need to be aware of the deadline dates for applications, for courses and funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You will be invited to view colleges. Mainstream colleges will be given first preference but if a specialist college is considered necessary your Young People’s Worker will make the application and get the funding agreed</td>
<td>You may want to talk to your social worker about independent living</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consideration needs to be given to how you will get to college. SEN transport ceases at the end of school</td>
<td>If you want to exercise more independence there are advocacy groups that can assist you in getting your voice heard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you have a service from Adults Social Care your care package will be reviewed annually by the appropriate team</td>
<td>Your Young People’s Worker will stay in touch with you until you are settled in your first placement after leaving school. If you need further support you can contact them up to your 25th birthday.</td>
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</table>
USEFUL CONTACTS

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS TEAM
The team provide advice and guidance to parents/carers and other agencies about pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs. We assist in the initial determination of statutory assessment and aim to complete the formulation of statutory assessments within the 26 weeks national guidelines.

A named Assessment and Review Officer is designated to all local authority schools in Stockport and will work in partnership with schools, parents and colleagues from other agencies to support transition.

Contact details: 0161 249 4453

DISABLED CHILDREN'S SOCIAL WORK TEAM
This team is made up of social workers working with children and young people who meet the criteria of needing an allocated Social Worker because:

- there is evidence of stress likely to result in family breakdown (known as Level 3) without on-going support or
- where there is evidence that the child / young person with a disability requires safeguarding or is Looked After by the local authority (known as Level 4).

The role of the Social Worker is to ensure that disabled children are safe and that their assessed needs are met through a range of services whose aim is to broaden life experiences for them within and outside the home. Services provided through the team include, overnight stays, short breaks, Direct Payments and home carers. We hope to begin offering individual budgets in 2012.

Referrals are made via the Contact Centre, and may result in the provision advice and guidance, or an assessment of the child or young person’s needs. An assessment will identify how needs can be met, which may or may not include social care services. Workers in the team will also support families and young people who meet the criteria through the transition process into Adult
Services, if appropriate. If you don’t already have a social worker but feel you may qualify for an assessment you can contact the Contact Centre on 0161 217 6028 for referrals and queries about Children and 0161 217 6029 for Adults.

**PARENT PARTNERSHIP SERVICE**

The Parent Partnership Service aims to enable parents to take an active role in the identification and assessment of their child’s educational needs in school. We provide independent and impartial support to parents and carers of children with special educational needs. Support will vary depending on parents’ requests, but might include:

- Home visits
- Help with filling in forms and writing letters to the local authority and/or school
- Suggestions about working with those involved in your child’s education
- Locating other sources of information or support.

We can assist parents of children with special needs who have been excluded from school or feel they have been discriminated against because of their disability. We also hold information sessions for groups of parents and other agencies involved in meeting childrens’ educational needs. You can phone us on 0161 286 4230 or visit our website at www.togethertrust.org.uk/education/parent-partnership-services/stockport

**FAMILY INFO LINK**

Family Info Link is Stockport Families Information Service. We provide free, confidential and impartial information to all Stockport parents and carers, children and young people 0-20 years. We provide a wide range of information services including 'Starting Out', a directory of local services and support for children and young people with disabilities and their families. You can contact us through our Freephone helpline 0808 800 0606 or visit the website at www.fil.org.uk
PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP STOCKPORT

Parents in Partnership Stockport (PIPS) is a group for parents and carers who have children or young people in Stockport with disabilities or additional needs. PIPS want to improve services in Stockport for our children and young people. We work with parents and the Stockport Children and Young People’s Disability Partnership in order to assess, develop, improve and maintain services. PIPS have been meeting regularly with Stockport Council staff with the aim of improving services and to work on ways of helping parents join in decision-making. PIPS may be small but our achievements have been significant. PIPS and young people were involved in deciding which services were given money to offer short breaks for 2010/11 and we are proud to report that we were national forerunners in this area of work.

You can meet other parents and carers by attending monthly meetings (usually first Monday of the month 7.30-9.30pm at The Upstairs Room, The Old Rectory, Churchgate, Stockport but phone to check) or you can phone for information and advice on 07786 101 072. You can visit our website at www.pipstockport.org

STOCKPORT SIGNPOST FOR CARERS

Signpost Stockport for Carers is an independent charity, established in 1986, which provides free, confidential information to unpaid carers of all ages and ethnicity, and professionals who work with carers, in the Stockport area.

A carer is defined as somebody who looks after a relative, partner or friend who is ill, disabled or confused.

Signpost Stockport for Carers can direct carers to the appropriate sources of support available, and can offer information on services locally and nationally. All calls are treated with respect and complete confidentiality.

Signpost Stockport for Carers is part funded by Stockport Council and Stockport PCT, together with grants from the Big Lottery, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, BBC Children In Need and the Henry Smith Foundation. The charity is a Network Member of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers organisation. They can be contacted on 0161 947 4694, or email info@signpostforcarers.org.uk
Young Carers Project

Signpost Stockport for Carers has a Young Carers project that offers support to young carers aged 6 - 18 in lots of ways. They can arrange evening groups, trips out, weekends away and activities especially for young carers, so that you would have a chance to meet up with other young carers of your own age and in the same situation.

The project also offers one-to-one counselling to give a much needed ear, together with information and advice for both young carers and their parents. They can also offer help and support to all family members, for example, assistance with housing benefits, problems at school, social care services and other voluntary organisations.

Signpost Stockport for Young Carers
Address: The Heaton Centre, Thornfield Road, Heaton Moor. Stockport SK4 3LD
Phone: 0161 947 4690

SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

From Year 9, the Services for Young People Worker will become a familiar face and will be on hand to provide information, advice and guidance, support and personal development for all young people until they reach 19 (or 25 where the individual has a disability). The Services for Young People Worker will:
- attend reviews and parents’ evenings in schools and colleges
- help you make decisions on what to do next;
- arrange individual guidance interviews
- assist in arranging visits to schools, colleges, training providers and employers
- link with other agencies on the family’s behalf
- help with post-16 applications
- provide on-going support after leaving school and sometimes up until the age of 25 where appropriate.

You can contact Services for Young People through school/college.
LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Stockport Sports Trust operates an extensive mix of sports and leisure facilities across Stockport, ranging from small community recreation centres to large multi-use state of the art leisure centres. We operate an inclusive approach to ensure equality of opportunity for all sectors of our local communities and we openly value diversity so that everyone can enjoy the benefits of participating in sports and leisure activities. For more information you can visit the website at http://www.sportinstockport.com/about.asp or phone them on 0161 482 0900.

ADULT SERVICES

Visit the new, easy to use www.stockportflag.org.uk www.mycaremychoice.org.uk website for adult social care and find out about social care services for, adults with learning and physical disabilities and people with sight or hearing loss.

For free, independent advice on health and social care services in Stockport, visit FLAG (For Local Advice and Guidance) Adult social care operates according to different laws and guidance to those for children and young people.

Individuals classed as having a disability include: people with learning disabilities, mental health problems and physical or sensory disabilities. People who have mental health needs should be referred and seen by Pennine Trust Mental Health Access Team not Adult Social Care. Referrals to Pennine Trust Mental Health Access Team must come through your GP.

When a young person reaches 18, they become legal adults and their access and entitlement to services changes. These young people are then entitled to access the Adult’s Benefits System.
At 18, a person who meets the criteria for disability services and has eligible community care needs becomes the concern of Adult Services. Adult Social Care aims to help people aged 18 years or over to continue to live as independently as possible within the community. We believe this is best achieved by working with everyone involved, including carers and other agencies.

Please note: Adult Services is only obliged to provide services under the Fair Access to Care Services (FACS).

HEALTH SERVICES

NHS direct is available 24 hours a day 365 days a year for confidential advice if you are ill or have health concerns about someone close to you or you just need information about local health services call 0845 46 47 or visit www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk (this will cost 5 pence per minute from a BT land line).

If you have a minor problem with your health such as a cold or rash you can get advice from your local pharmacy.

If you need medication prescribing for a health problem you will need to see your GP. If your GP is closed there should be an out of hours service available on the same number.

If you are very ill or you think you have broken something you will need to go to your nearest Accident and Emergency Department and be seen there. Ringing 999 and stating a medical emergency will result in an ambulance being sent to you. Please don't call an ambulance if it is not an emergency.

Central Youth provides free and confidential advice, information, counselling and sexual health services for young people aged 11-25 at 1 St Peter's Square, Stockport, SK1 1NZ, 0161 426 9696.

Contraceptive clinics (CASH) are available at Woodley, North Reddish, Adswood Clinics and the Choices Centre, 0161 426 9677. There is a Specialist Disability Outreach Nurse who can advise on contraception at Central Youth 0161 426 9686.
BENEFITS

If you’re 16 or over and a disabled person, you may be able to claim certain benefits or tax credits (government payments). The state benefit system is complicated. Each benefit has its own set of qualifying rules and conditions, and it can be easy to misunderstand the information given to you. Before deciding to make a claim for any kind of benefit, make sure you are applying for the right benefit for your circumstances. For advice call **Stockport’s Welfare Rights Health & Social Care Team 0161 218 1300**, where there are specialist welfare rights officers for children and adults with disabilities and learning disabilities.

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<tr>
<th>BENEFITS WHICH MAY BE AVAILABLE TO DISABLED PEOPLE AGED 16+</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Working Tax Credit</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Available to people aged 16+ with a disability that affects the ability to work or look for work.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Employment and Support Allowance</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>For people aged 16+ with an illness or disability that affects the ability to work.</td>
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<td><strong>Disability Living Allowance</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is a tax-free benefit for disabled children and adults to help with extra costs you may have because you’re disabled. At 16+ DLA can be claimed by the individual disabled person. For children under 16 DLA can be claimed by a parent or carer on behalf of the disabled child. To be eligible the disabled child must need a lot more help or supervision than other children of the same age. The person’s level of mobility and the amount of care they need will be taken into account.</td>
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**Please Note:** DLA will be replaced by a personal independence payment (PIP) for those of working age.
from April 2013.

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<tr>
<th>BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO CARERS OF DISABLED PEOPLE</th>
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<td>Carers’ Allowance</td>
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<td>Carers’ Credit</td>
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MENTAL CAPACITY ACT

If you would like to know more about the Mental Capacity Act, HFT (a Carer’s organisation) has produced a very useful guide especially for people with learning disabilities and their families. There is also an accompanying video. It is called “Using the Mental Capacity Act – A Resource for Families and Friends of People with Learning Disabilities” and can be found at www.hft.org.uk/Family_Carer_Support/MCA_Resource_Guide
A free interpreting service is available if you need help with this leaflet.
Please phone Stockport Interpreting Unit on 0161 477 9000.
E-mail: eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk

A free interpreting service is available, if you need help with this information.
Please telephone Stockport Interpreting Unit on 0161 477 9000.
Email: eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk

如果你需要他人为你解释这份资料的内容，我们可以提供免费的传译服务，
请致电 0161 477 9000 史托波特传译部。

W przypadku gdybys potrzebował pomocy odnośnie tej informacji,
 доступне є послуги тлумачення. Просям дзвоніть до Interpreting
 Unit pod numer 0161 477 9000.

 خدمات مترجمی رایگان موجود است اگر جهت این اطلاعات احتیاج به کمک داشتید

با شماره تلفن اداره ترجمه استاکهورت تمساح گیرید 01614779000

تنویف خدمه ترجمه شفوهی ار اتکل مددکاری فهم این اطلاعات. ترجمه انتقال ار اینروی الی رقم

الهاتف: 01614779000