

## How will my future support arrangements get paid for?

When we have worked out with you what sort of accommodation, activity, and care will work best for you we can then talk about how it is paid for. You may qualify for Housing Benefit to pay for your accommodation; in some cases where you need a lot of support 'round the clock' the NHS may pay for some of your services, and for many people the Council will contribute to the costs of support.

When we have worked out with you what should work for you as an individual we will then tell you what the Council can afford to pay. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee that we will pay for your first choice of service because we have to make sure that the money we have available goes around all the people that need a service; therefore we will look for arrangements that we consider to be good quality and achieving the aims that we have agreed with you and we will set a Personal Budget that will buy you that service; if you are hoping for something that is more expensive then we may have to settle for the arrangement that we say is affordable to the Council.

## When will I know what funding will be available to support me?

We believe that for most people it is important to have some certainty about the sort of arrangements that can be made by the age of 16 years therefore before you reach 17 we will expect to apply in principle for funding to support a plan that has been agreed with you. There are two very good reasons why we will do this: firstly the Council may have queries about the type of plan and the likely costs and it is better that any such negotiations are undertaken at an early stage; the second is that identifying and securing the best available service for you may take several months.

Having agreed in principle the care plan for you after-18 we will then need to agree exactly how this care plan will work, which providers will supply your service, when it will start and how it is to be funded. If Council funding is needed then we will expect to have a final agreement to your plan by the time you are seventeen and a half years of age.

## Equalities

If you require this information in a format more accessible to you, please contact Adult Social Care on [01635 503050](tel:01635503050) or email: [ccenquiries@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:ccenquiries@westberks.gov.uk)

## Further information

Copies of this leaflet are available from Adult Social Care as a download on the West Berkshire Council website: [www.westberks.gov.uk/adultsocialcare](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/adultsocialcare)

# Adult Social Care

What we can offer to children with a disability as they approach adulthood.



## Starting to make plans

When should we start? For all youngsters, leaving full-time education is a major point of change; when their lives are complicated by disabilities they may need special plans which take months or even years to work out. For this reason we start to have conversations with individuals and their families at the age of 14. This may seem early, however, it gives us a chance of understanding what hopes a person may have for life after 18; we know that between 14 and 18 plans can change but the most important thing is that we are shaping and developing plans together.

## Contact point in Adult Social Care

When a child who is considered by the Disabled Children's Team or Education Services to be likely to need some service beyond the age of 18 they will notify Adult Social Care at the age of 14 and a member of the Adult Team will be nominated as their point of contact.

## What can you expect from the Adult Social Care Worker?

We will begin a long-term conversation with individuals and families so that we can understand what your hopes are in terms of future living accommodation, employment and daily occupation, social contacts and activities, and all aspects of life that can contribute to your wellbeing. We will respond to you by giving as much information as possible about how these hopes may be realised, what range of community networks may be available and what contribution Adult Social Care is likely to be able to make to your wellbeing.

If you are likely to need a service funded by Adult Social Care after 18 we will discuss with you the range of options that may be open to you; this will be based on what is appropriate to your particular needs and circumstances and what is affordable to the Council; we will get to a point where together we can explore favoured options in detail and if we can arrive at a solution that we can agree as the best of the options then we can apply for funding approval so that we have established certainty to the plan at an early stage.

Once we have an agreed plan we can then work out what sort of introductions, visits and trial periods will be right for you.

## How will Education, Children's and Adult Services work together?

Adult Service staff are primarily focused on working with you on the post 18 plan. Our starting point will be to arrange to meet with you and your family together with the key person who works with you from the Children's or Education Team; this will take place when you are 14 years old.

This will give us a chance to start to understand what plans for adulthood will be most suitable and realistic; we would then expect to attend the next review meeting that you have so that all who are working with you can understand the sort of plan that we are discussing, and this gives everybody an opportunity to build this into their current thinking and work with you.

Following this meeting we will not necessarily expect to be present at all the standard six monthly or yearly reviews that take place but we will have discussions with the key worker from Children's or Education Services to ensure that all parties understand the plan going forward. We will want to test these plans with people working with you currently and confirm that from their knowledge of you these plans make sense. The extent to which Adult Workers are involved in meetings and reviews will vary according to individual cases and how straightforward or how certain your plans may be, but as a minimum we will ensure that all the people working with you are clear about the plans that we are making with you and that there is a shared commitment to the plans.

## What approach will Adult Social Care take to arranging support to adults?

For any Adults that we work with we will be hoping that they can have as much fulfillment, independence and experience of life, activity and social interaction and friendships as possible. We recognize that for some this will be partially or even severely limited by the constraints of a particular condition, but this will be the starting point of our discussions about the future with you and your family. We will try to understand what are the most important things for you, recognising that we are all different in what we want to get out of life. We will want to balance carefully thoughts about risk and safety.

Sometimes people will be looking for a 100% guarantee of safety but the danger is that this leads to a life that is very limited and unfulfilling. We will want to talk through what approach to the future will best give you a fulfilling life, will contribute to your wellbeing, and will allow you to feel safe but not unnecessarily restricted. When we understand this we can talk about the practical options that may be open to you which can then lead to an eventual choice.