**Preparation for adulthood**

Preparing for adulthood is about taking action with young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The aim is to achieve the best outcomes in the following areas:

* Employment
* Independent living
* Being part of the local community
* Being Healthy.

<https://www.ndti.org.uk/resources/preparing-for-adulthood-all-tools-resources>

Thinking about the future is important. This can happen as early as possible. From Year 9 plans will start to be made for when a young person is an adult. All organisations have to be committed to making sure plans are in place for young people and their families.

**Post 16 education**

By December in year 11 young people will have decided on their choice of education for year 12. Young people can visit colleges to find out more about different courses. It is important to know which college offers support with additional needs.

The funding for the course at a college will need to be agreed by the council. By 31 March in year 11 the EHC Plan will have been amended to name the post-16 provider. Funding is agreed for the duration of the course, normally two or three years.

**Study programmes**

Further education should help young people to improve their future career prospects and/or prepare them for adulthood.

Education providers offer:

* Entry level qualifications such as entry level awards, certificates and diplomas, functional skills and skills for life.
* Level 1 qualifications (GCSE D-G or equivalent)
* Level 2 qualifications (GCSE A\*-C or equivalent)
* Level 3 qualifications (AS or A levels or equivalent).

In year 12 functional English and Maths will be taught to young people who have not achieved GCSE Grade 4 in English and maths.

Non- qualification programmes can be followed. This happens when an academic or vocational course cannot be followed. This is due a person’s particular needs. In this case a preparation for adulthood programme will be followed.

**Post 19 Education**

The Department for Education says that most young people with EHC Plans will complete their further education with their peers by the age of 19 years.

Some young people may need more time to complete a course of study to help them to move on into adulthood. The permission for having extra time is made by the council’s SEND panel.

Post 19 courses have to:

* Provide progression.
* Enable the young person to gain a qualification.
* Support participation in meaningful work experience/volunteering.
* Be at a higher level of study that the young person has attained before.

Young people with more severe additional needs may follow life skills courses. They will then transition into adult social care services or other community services. Plans for this transition will be made in the final year of study.

Careers Advice

**Careers Education Information Advice & Guidance (CEIAG)**

All Schools and Colleges must deliver good quality CEIAG to all their students.

The CEIAG offer should be included in a strategic careers plan and be developed in line with the Gatsby Benchmarks. It is not a legal requirement for schools and colleges to follow the Gatsby framework, but they must provide independent careers advice to learners throughout their secondary education (11- to 18-year-olds) and up to 25 if the learner has an EHC Plan.

Learners with an EHC Plan, or those identified as requiring additional support for their special educational needs (SEN), deserve to receive, and benefit from, CEIAG in the same way as any other young person.

Careers leads may need to adjust their processes to develop personalised support plans and should be well informed about ways in which adults with SEN or disabilities can be supported in the workplace.

CEIAG plans should always be aspirational, if a learner has an EHC Plan, their Annual Reviews must, from year 9 at the latest, include a focus on adulthood, including employment.

**Reach Your Potential**

From the 1 October 2023 ‘Reach your Potential’ is available and will provide intensive, wrap-around, personal support and training service for young people in Warrington (aged 16 to 19 or up to 25 for adults with SEND) who are economically inactive.

**Supported Internships**

A supported internship is a study programme which is delivered by further education colleges and training providers, mostly based with an employer. Supported Internships help young people aged 16-24 with an EHC Plan to achieve sustainable paid employment by giving them the skills they need for work, through learning in the workplace.

Alongside their time at the employer, young people complete a personalised study programme which includes the chance to study for relevant qualifications and, if appropriate, English and maths.

Supported internships were designed to help young people with an EHC Plan that, “want to move into employment and need extra support to do so.”

The Council oversees supported internships; providing support and guidance to learners, families, employers and education partners, including hosting a forum which regularly brings together all stakeholders.

Examples of providers that deliver supported internships in Warrington include:

* Warrington & Vale Royal (WVR) College
* Willow Green Trust
* Myerscough College

It is proven that supported internships are most effective when completed in the young person’s local community, allowing young people to gain important skills and experiences, such as independent travel, which will help them sustain employment in the future.

Supported internships work best when a person’s aspirations and skills are matched to an employer. Good quality careers advice and planning, along with previous work experience, can significantly aid this process. For the employer, the internship must meet a real business need and provide the potential of a paid job at the end of the programme, should the intern meet the required standard.

Our key local providers have built fruitful relationships with a diverse range of local employers. We support employer engagement wherever possible and have helped to negotiate fantastic opportunities for each education partner including placements within the Council itself.

WVR College have created a new supported internship programme from September 2023 in partnership with Warrington Hospital and DFN Project SEARCH. DFN Project SEARCH is seen as one of the leading supported internship models, originally developed in America, and is delivered all over the world.

**Who can apply?**

You must:

* be 16 – 24 years of age.
* have a current EHC Plan.
* want to work.

**What is the application process?**

You can apply directly to colleges and training providers. It is a good idea to discuss your options with your family and at your annual review, as early as possible.

You could also get advice from Warrington Life (careers for young people) at Warrington Borough Council.

**What are the benefits?**

* Individualised study programme.
* Opportunity to continue to develop English, maths & ICT skills.
* Tailored programme designed to meet the young person’s requirements, needs and aspirations.
* Transferable work skills with opportunities to practice skills in real life situations.
* A real possibility of paid employment at the end of the Internship.
* Employer and job coach working closely alongside the learner.
* Work experience with a range of employers – learning on the job.

**Connect Yourself**

‘Connect Yourself’ supports young people and adults with SEND who are at risk of social exclusion to identify, and link them to, a range of opportunities within Warrington which promote the four main Preparation for Adulthood outcomes for you people and:

* Improved Emotional Wellbeing
* Independent Travel Training.

The service adopts a person-centred approach, and each intervention will be shaped by the individual choices of the young person, supported by experienced and qualifies professionals from Warrington Speak Up.

**Eligibility criteria:**

* 16 to 25 years olds.
* Last year(s) of education or have finished education with no agreed destination.
* Known to the PFA Team or completing a study programme with an EHC Plan or SEN support.
* Referred by a professional with consent of the individual and parent/carer.
* Must have a confirmed learning disability and/or autism.

**Preparation for adult team**

This is a team of social workers based at the council’s main office at Times Square in Warrington. The team telephone number is 01925 446170.

The team work with young people aged 14-25 years who have an EHC Plan and who meet Care Act (2014) eligibility criteria.

Social workers work with young people with SEND and their parents. They work with other organisations to make sure the journey from childhood to adulthood is a smooth one. Social workers use the law (Care Act 2014) to find out what needs a young person has and what support they may need.

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/365345/Making_Sure_the_Care_Act_Works_EASY_READ.pdf>

They will also complete a mental capacity assessment. Information about mental capacity can be found in the ‘decision-making’ section of this document.

**Making a referral to the PFA social work team**

Referrals can be made by:

* Young person
* By a family member
* Professionals working with the young person.

***How are referrals made?***

**For young people under 18 years of age with a children’s social worker.**

The children’s social worker will make a referral to the PFA team.

**For young person under 18 years of age with no children’s social worker**

Telephone 01925 443322, choose option 1 for social care then 1 for children’s social care. Request an assessment from the PFA team.

**For young person over 18 years of age**

Telephone 01925 443322. Choose option 1 for social care and then option 2 for adult social care. Request an assessment from the PFA team.

**Screening the referrals**

**Within 2 days of the referral being made:**

Social worker will telephone the young person and family. An appointment will be made for a full screening.

Within 2 weeks a social worker will complete a full screening with a young person and family. If the young person’s needs meet Care Act criteria and they have an EHCP the referral will be accepted by the PFA team.

If criteria is not met, the young person and family will be offered advice about other community services. Another referral to the PFA team can be made again if needs change, over time.

**Young people 14 and 15 years of age**

Support will be given by the PFA duty social worker. This worker will:

* Attend EHCP annual reviews.
* Give information about services for when a young person turns 18 years.

At this stage if a young person has a children’s social worker or a family support worker they will be the lead professional and will organise any services that are needed.

If the young person does not have children’s social worker or family support worker the SEND case worker and school/college will coordinate any services that are needed.

**Young people 16 years of age**

At this stage the young person will usually be given a PFA social worker who will:

* Attend EHCP annual reviews.
* Talk with the young person about their needs, now and future ones. This conversation will focus on:
* Being Healthy
* Being supported to live independently.
* Being occupied (e.g. day opportunities, work, volunteering,)
* Being part of their community
* Talk about services that may be needed once a young person turns 18 years.

At this stage if a young person has a children’s social worker or a family support worker they will be the lead professional and will organise any services that are needed.

If the young person does not have a children’s social worker or family support worker, the SEND case worker and school/college will coordinate any services that are needed.

**Young adults 18-25 years**

When the young person turns 18 the PFA social worker becomes the lead professional. Children’s social worker or family support will end. For care leavers who turn 18 years a personal adviser from the leaving care team will carry on supporting and will work with the PFA social worker.

The PFA social worker will:

* Attend EHCP annual review.
* Confirm the details of the support plan.
* Arrange support for the young person from the most suitable provider.
* Provide a copy of the support plan to the young adult.
* Offer a carer’s assessment for parents of the young adults.
* Arrange a financial assessment of a young person’s income.
* Monitor and review the package of support.

Where possible it is best that any support provided is done in Warrington to avoid long journeys to other areas and to give a young adult a chance to get to know their local area.

**Care Act advocacy**

A statutory service. It supports people who may have substantial difficulty in being involved in making decisions about them and their care and support. This can include:

* needs assessments and reviews.
* carer assessments and reviews
* care and support planning
* safeguarding processes.

To be eligible for advocacy support a person must also have no one else who is willing and deemed appropriate who could support or represent them through the processes.

Social worker has a duty to arrange for an independent advocate if the person is eligible.

**Ceasing of an EHCP**

At each EHCP annual review a decision made to either:

* Maintain the EHCP
* Amend the EHCP
* Cease the EHCP

If the plan ceases the involvement from the SEND team will end. If the young adult still has Care Act needs and the support plan is stable, the ongoing reviewing of the support plan will pass to the under 65s adult service and the PFA team involvement will end.

**Paying for social care services**

Adults who have social care services may have to pay towards the cost of these services.

At 18 years the council will complete a financial assessment to calculate the amount of money a person has to pay towards the cost of the services they receive. The council assess the young adult’s income not the income of the whole family. The young adult will be sent a bill each month requesting payment for this contribution.

Please refer to Eligibility and Paying for Adult Social Care | warrington.gov.uk for detailed information regarding the financial assessment process.

**Social Care services that can be arranged for young adults if the Care Act assessment shows that such services are needed. These include:**

**Short Breaks**

At 18 years a young adult can have a short break including overnight support provided by:

**Catalyst choices**

Honeysuckle bungalow in Warrington; a 5-bedroom bungalow that is ‘like a home away from home’ for a young adult with a learning/physical disability.[Catalyst Choices – Innovative Personalised Care](https://catalystchoices.org.uk/)

**Shared Lives**

A shared lives carer can support someone in their own home or in the shared lives carer’s home. This can give respite to families and give an opportunity for the young adult to develop independent living skills. There are opportunities for:

* Long term placements
* Short term/respite placements
* Day Support.

Shared Lives is currently provided by the following provider.

* Macintyre [Empowering people with learning disabilities | MacIntyre (macintyrecharity.org)](https://www.macintyrecharity.org/)

**Direct Payments**

Direct payments are a way for the council to pay an agreed amount of money directly to a children and adults to buy and arrange their own services and support.

It can be spent on anything agreed in the social care section in the EHC Plan or a via a Care Act assessment such as:

* access to local community and groups
* access to a variety of short breaks
* personal care
* day trips/activities in line with the young person’s care and support needs and interests.
* personal assistants.

Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP) can off practical support associated with having a direct payment.

**Day Opportunities are provided by:**

Walton Lea [Walton Lea Partnership | Supported learning opportunities](https://waltonlea.org.uk/)

Catalyst Choices [Catalyst Choices – Innovative Personalised Care](https://catalystchoices.org.uk/)

Macintyre [Warrington Learning Centre | MacIntyre (macintyrecharity.org)](https://www.macintyrecharity.org/for-adults/day-opportunities/warrington-learning-centre/).

The Puddle Project [Home | The Puddle Project | Warrington](https://www.thepuddle.org/)

M-Power -M-Power Activity Services (mpowertraining.net)

Willow Green [Home - Willow Green (willowgreencio.co.uk)](https://willowgreencio.co.uk/)

[Ella Together | Inclusive Performance Group](https://ellatogether.org.uk/)

**Activities in the community which do not require a Care Act assessment beforehand.**

* **Creative Remedies**

Art activities to improve the health and wellbeing of Warrington residents. <https://www.warrington.gov.uk/creativeremedies>

* **Great Communities**

[Great Communities | MacIntyre (macintyrecharity.org)](https://www.macintyrecharity.org/for-adults/community-innovation/)

* **Wellbeing Service**

Young adults with a learning disability can be referred to the Wellbeing service to pursue interests including music and sports groups.

* **Accessible swimming**

Accessible swimming is available at Orford Jubilee Hub and Dallam Hub including a hydro pool, with moving and handling equipment.

<https://livewirewarrington.co.uk/leisure/our-locations> -

* Youth zone

info@wyz.org.uk

* **Warrington Wolves**

Wheelchair rugby/ youth group.

**Outreach**

Different providers offer outreach support within Warrington. Individuals would be able to receive support including:

* Accessing the community
* Support in and around there home
* Support with medical appointments.

**Deciding where to live**

At 18 years many young people decide to stay in their family home. Some people want to live in a different house to their family. Reasons for this decision include:

* having their own front door
* choosing where they want to live.
* doing what they like to do.
* choosing who they see
* deciding how they want to live and be supported.

When a young person lives away from family, they may need support with:

* cleaning
* paying bills
* cooking
* personal care
* cooking
* finding a job
* making new friends
* finding new things to do where you live.

Your home could be:

* Shared accommodation 2-10 individuals
* You could live alone with staff to support you.
* Flat within a block where there is background support on site.
* Flat within a block where there is support at agreed times.
* Support throughout the day with a concierge service over night.

It is a good idea to be able to have a look at some of the schemes where support can be offered. This could mean visiting somewhere that other people already live so your PFA social worker would need to see if they can arrange this for you.

Some people receive help for just a few hours a week, while others have 24-hour support. This will depend on the support plan which is agreed following the assessment.

To begin this process, it would be useful to have a discussion with the PFA social worker about your wishes.

**Travel and Transport**

Under the Care Act 2014, the council has a general duty to arrange care and support for those who are eligible following the assessment of need. Transport is not a service in its own right but is a way to access services and support. Transport will be provided by the council if it is the only reasonable means of ensuring that a service user can safely travel to activities and services as part of an agreed support plan. Transport is chargeable to all individuals at a fixed rate per journey. In some circumstances it may be more cost effective for the individual to arrange their own taxi or for a carer to receive mileage allowance.

The council will only support transport for individuals where all other options have been explored. These options could include:

* independent travel on community or public transport
* support from family and friends
* vehicle funded through PIP or DLA or sharing transport with other young adults.

Transport will not be provided to services outside of Warrington if there is an alternative service within Warrington that meets the need.

**Decision Making**

As we go through life there are lots of decisions we must make; some small for example, deciding what to eat for lunch and some much bigger, for example deciding where to live.

Having choice, control and dignity when making those decisions is an essential part of being a human being and ensuring those rights are looked after is hugely important.

As we grow older, we start to make more and more decisions about our lives. As we all develop capacity to make decisions at different ages our parents/carers make decisions on our behalf or support us to make decisions from the moment we are born and for many years afterwards.

The decision-making ability of a young person should be discussed on a regular basis as they are growing up, so it is not an unusual topic of conversation. It needs to be discussed in school, at EHC Plan Annual Reviews, during social care assessment and when receiving health services.

**Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005**

The MCA applies to anyone over 16 years of age. It is there protect people who may lack the mental capacity to make their own decisions about their care and treatment. It has 5 principles:

* Principle 1: Assume a person has capacity unless proven otherwise.
* Principle 2: Do not treat a person as incapable of making a decision unless all practical steps have been taken to help the person to make that decision.
* Principle 3: A person should not be treated as incapable of making a decision just because the decision they make is considered an unwise one. We all make unwise decisions at times.
* Principle 4: Always make decisions for people who lack capacity in their “best Interests”.
* Principle 5: Before doing something to someone or making a decision on their behalf always consider whether what we want to achieve could be delivered in a less restrictive way.

Under the MCA people who are over 16 are presumed to have mental capacity to decide on such things as deciding e.g., whether to go to college or get a job. They have the right to make these decisions even if other people, in their lives, disagree and/or feel they are making unwise decisions.

When someone is judged not to have the capacity to make a specific decision, any decision taken for them must be in their best interests.

The process of making a best-interest decision should be led by the person who requires the decision to be made, such as a doctor who requires consent before carrying out treatment or a social worker who is arranging care and support.

Family members have to be consulted when a best interest decision is being made. The young person has to be at the centre of the decision making. Some decisions related to mental capacity may need to go to the Court of Protection. This is a court that speciﬁcally makes decisions in this area.

If a person is unable to make a specific decision it is imperative to gain their view and promote their participation in decision. An advocate can support a young person through the decision making.

**Advocacy**

Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy is a statutory service provided under the Mental Capacity Act (2005). A referral for an advocate can be made when:

* The person is aged 16 or over.
* A decision needs to be made in the person’s best interests about either a long-term change in accommodation or serious medical treatment.
* The person to be referred has been assessed as lacking capacity to make that specific decision at the time it needs to be made.
* The person does not have a family member or friend who is ‘appropriate to consult’.
* The person has not executed a Lasting Power of Attorney for Health and Welfare
* There is no Court of Protection appointed Deputy who continues to act on the person’s behalf in relation to health and welfare.

**Carers**

**Services for carers, including parent carers.**

The carers hub, managed by Ncompass, provides a range of advice and information services along with community-based support services to connect parent carers and provide a support network.

**Contact details**

The Gateway, 89 Sankey Street, Warrington, WA1 1SR

Email: enquiry@warringtoncarershub.org.uk

Tel: 0300 303 0623

**Carer’s assessment – if caring for a adult**

Carers can request a carer’s assessment. This will be provided by the council. Either a social worker or carer’s support worker will complete an assessment of a carer’s needs. This will include talking about how caring responsibilities are having an impact of wellbeing.

If a carer is eligible for support an offer of a direct payment will be made. Examples of services that be purchased using a direct payment include:

* Therapeutic
* Cleaning
* Laundry
* Gardening
* Sitting services.

To make a referral ring the council - 01925 443322 option 1 then option 2.

**Financial Matters**

**Citizens Advice (CA)**

Based at 89 Sankey St, Cheshire, Warrington WA1 1SR

Open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-5.30pm

Contact via email on admin@warrington.cabnet.org.uk.

<https://www.warrington-advice.co.ukwarringtoncab>

CAB national advice and information service: 0300 3309 091; calls charged at local rate. Open Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm

**Benefits/ Entitlements**

**Personal Independence Payment (PIP)**

[Check if you're eligible for PIP - Apply for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) (dwp.gov.uk)](https://www.apply-for-pip.dwp.gov.uk/eligibility/check-if-eligible)

Ages 16 onwards up to pension age. DLA ends at 16 years.

Includes children that have an ‘indefinite’ DLA award.

2 components; daily living and mobility. Each component has two rates: Standard or Enhanced.

PIP is a points-based system; 8 points to qualify; 12 for the enhanced rate.

Around a young person’s 16th birthday they will receive a letter from DWP advising that DLA is ending that PIP should be claimed. Ring 0800-917-2222 requesting a PIP claim form. Return form within 4 weeks or ask for an extension.

Include strong supporting evidence in the PIP claim form. This can include:

* EHC Plan
* Letters from Consultants, Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language. The form may also ask for a professional`s contact details such as a Social Worker.

The next step is to attend a medical assessment.

**Universal Credit**

<https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit/what-youll-get>

This is a single benefit. It can include a personal allowance, housing costs, the disability element and the severe disability element.

* Adults between 18 and pension age.
* Young adult in full time education once child benefit ends.
* Live in the UK - not subject to immigration control
* No income or low income
* Too ill to work.
* Unemployed or a jobseeker
* Employed but on a low wage.

To be claimed online at [www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit](http://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit). Universal credit applications have an online journal where applicants can manage their application, inform of changes and upload any required documents.

Paid monthly in arrears; initial 6-8 week wait for payment. It is possible to apply for an advance/hardship payment during the initial waiting period. This will be treated as a loan and paid back from benefits. Help with cost of housing is paid directly to the claimant, not to the landlord.

**Carer’s Allowance**

* Full-time carer who cares for someone for over 35 hours per week and earns less than £132 per week (after deductions).
* Living in England, Wales or Scotland
* Not in education more than 21 hours per week.

**How to claim**

Ring The Carers Allowance Unit on 0800 731 0297 Monday to Friday between 8am and 6pm. <https://www.gov.uk/carers-allowance/how-to-claim>

Carer`s allowance can be included in a young adult`s Universal Credit payment so check this before applying.

Care includes:

* physically looking after them
* Any tasks you complete for them
* Any supervision of them.
* If they don't live with you and they visit, it can also include any time you spend preparing for their visit, cleaning up after they leave, and taking them back home.

**Council Tax Disabled Band reduction scheme**

Discounted council tax if a person with disability is living in the property.

The reduction amount of discount is dependent on the young adult`s disability.

How Council Tax works: Discounts for disabled people - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

**Motability Vehicle**

Eligibility:

* To be receiving either Enhanced Rate allowances or Higher Rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance and:
* must have at least 12 months’ award length remaining.

If you choose to use your entitlement to have a Motability vehicle, then this value of this part of your DLA or PIP payment would be deducted from your payments and used to fund the vehicle instead.

[How it works | Motability Scheme](https://www.motability.co.uk/how-it-works/)

**Blue Badge**

A blue badge allows you to park in a disabled bay.

You automatically qualify for a Blue Badge if you are aged 3 or over and you are receipt of certain benefits.

Apply for or renew a Blue Badge - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

**Priority services register**

**What is it?**

A free support service to help people in vulnerable situations. Energy suppliers and network operators offer it. Each keeps their own register of people with a disability living in a particular area. If there are supply or breakdown issues, the people who are registered will be high priority.

**How to get on the register**

Contact your energy supplier or network operator and request to be included on the register.

**Financial protection**

A person may not be able to manage their money including making financial decisions. There money has to be protected.

**Appointeeship**

A young person may need an Appointee if they:

* Do not have mental capacity to manage their finances.
* Are vulnerable to exploitation – e.g., would give all their money to other people.

The parent/carer/council can apply to become an appointee. They will be responsible for managing the benefits of that young person. It does not have to be 'for life'. Another trusted person can take on the role. The young person may regain the mental capacity to manage their own finances.

**Citizen’s Card**

This is the identification needed for opening bank accounts and claiming benefits

 [Apply for a UK ID card Online - CitizenCard](https://www.citizencard.com/apply-for-a-uk-id-card-online?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIxPvqu4O8gQMVkdLtCh0TwQE8EAAYASAAEgJUVfD_BwE)

### Health support

* Finding your GP in Warrington

GPs - NHS Warrington CCG - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

* **Learning Disability Register**

What is it?

A register kept by the gp surgery. It is a list of people who have a learning disability. The register then alerts the doctor to put in place the appropriate support. This might mean:

* Extra help to make an appointment.
* Longer appointments, quieter waiting rooms, appointments at certain times of the day
* Information in accessible format
* Support to successfully access health interventions such as immunisations, screening, blood tests, etc.

**How to register?**

Contact your GP surgery and tell them that you or a family member has a learning disability.

**Annual Health Checks**

Once registered a young person from age 14 years will be able to have a free Annual Health Check. A person does not have to be ill to receive this health check.

The doctor will take a closer look at the young person is doing and make sure that they are healthy.

For more information about what happens at an Annual Health Check, why it is important and what support you can get visit the Mencap website and watch the video:

<https://www.mencap.org.uk/advice-and-support/health/dont-miss-out/dont-miss-out->annual-health-checks

<https://happyoksad.warrington.gov.uk>