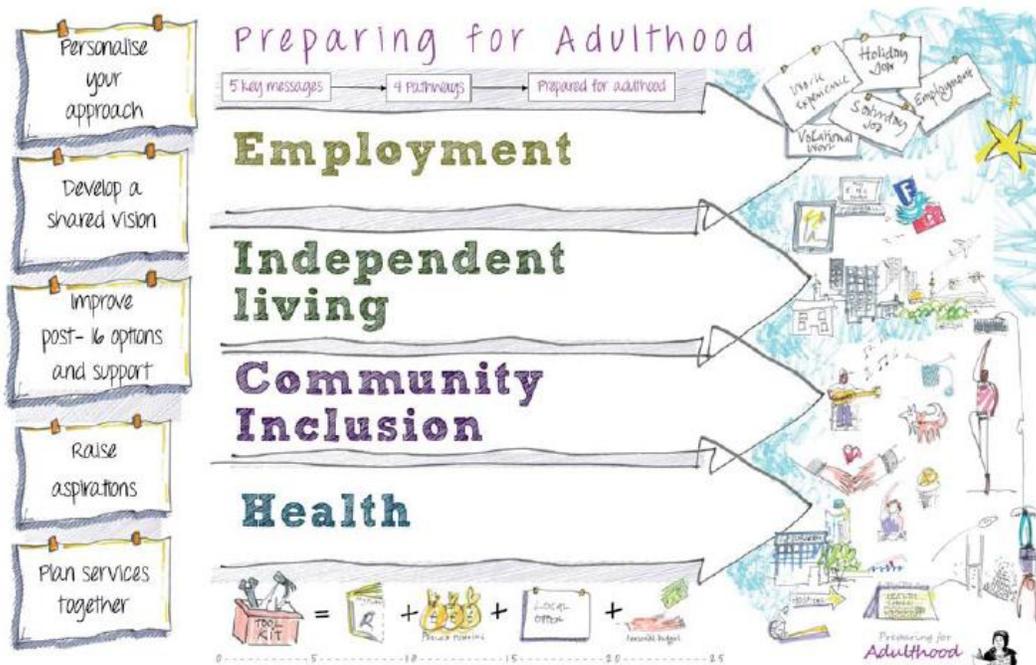


# A guide to transition for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities

We have developed this guide keeping young people and their hopes and aspirations as our key focus. To help keep this in mind as you read through the guide, this diagram may help:



## **Introduction**

For young people with learning disabilities and their families there are many changes that happen throughout the teenage years.

The level of change will depend on individual circumstances. We appreciate this can be a very confusing time for young people and their families.

This is a guide for young people and their families which informs you about services, available information and also explains what you can expect in the future.

## **What is this guide about?**

Parents and carers said that there was not enough information available early enough in the process of their children growing up. You wanted information about adult social services or other support available when your children reach the age of 18.

We have put this guide together to give young people and their families' information about the types of services that might be available as a direct response to feedback from our service users.

This information could be very important when planning for the future.

The type of support that is available to young people when they reach adulthood is changing. The changes reflect the views of people with disabilities, who want to be as independent as possible and make decisions for themselves about their own lives (with appropriate support). There is information about these changes, and what they might mean, later on in this pack.

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## 1. Planning for transition – why is it important?

Young people (and their families) who get support from children's social care are not able to use those services after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday but could be transferred to adult services for support subject to eligibility criteria.

There are two important questions during transition:

1. What will the young person do when their education ends?
2. What is going to replace the services that have been in place from children and young people's services once the young person turns 18?

The transition process can be complicated, as there are different changes that happen at different times.

### Transition and the law

There are a number of pieces of legislation and government guidance that shape the transition process. They each affect different services.

You can get more information from a booklet called '**A transition guide for all services**' published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Health. It is available to download from:  
**[www.transitioninfonet.org.uk](http://www.transitioninfonet.org.uk)**

### More information

Mencap has produced leaflets that give information about a number of topics. There are leaflets for parents and carers as well as accessible versions for people with learning disabilities.

You can also get more information from:

- **[www.mencap.org.uk](http://www.mencap.org.uk)**
- **[www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)**
- **[www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk)**
- **[www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)**
- **[www.odi.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.odi.dwp.gov.uk)**
- **[www.valuingpeoplenow.dh.gov.uk](http://www.valuingpeoplenow.dh.gov.uk)**
- **[www.teachernet.gov.uk](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk)**
- **[www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)**



continue to need, or are likely to need, short breaks in the future so they can start to plan.

## **Leaving school**

### **Year 11, age 16**

The young person and their family will have a strong team to support through to the next stage in education and they will keep up to date with options and how to access ongoing support.

At this exciting time choices will be finalised in a transition review meeting for when the young person leaves school. Future goals can be considered such as school, college, what type of job, friends and relationships, where to live and what leisure activities the young person can take part in.

For those with complex health needs between the ages of 16 and 17 a health assessment will take place to plan support for the future (this support could be ongoing). Talk to a school nurse.

Talk to a social worker from children and young people's services, school or a nurse to discuss the options as the young person begins to learn life skills to help prepare for the future. These could include how to use the bus, how to cook, how to make a cup of tea, how to keep healthy and look after themselves and to start thinking about living independently.

Information will be given regarding charging policy, benefits and benefit changes at 16 and 18, culture, personal budgets, rights and responsibilities, best interest and capacity, further education, work and training and health care.

## **Remaining in school**

If the young person is remaining at school, transition planning becomes more intense to construct an effective transition plan. The young person will continue to take a lead role in planning as they become an adult with meetings with all those who are important to them.

The transition social worker can help plan for the future and ensure that there is a correct support network in place. This could be in the form of a personal budget, with the young person having choice and control as to the type of services they will receive and who will provide these services.

A transition assessment will be completed at 17 years old; this document will prescribe what information goes into the Adult Assessment at 18 years old by adult social services.

The transition assessment will determine what will happen when services change to adult social services at 18 years old and the package of short break and direct payments changes. Also at 19 years old when a package is introduced to replace education.

Introductory visits to adult social services are arranged to ease the transition to a new service. Young people will have the chance to go on work based placements. For more information talk to a school advisor and there may even be independent living and work opportunities to consider.

### **Leaving education**

#### **Year 13 or 14, age 17+**

The young person will continue to have a leading role in planning as they leave school or college. After their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday they will receive an Adult Assessment and all the professionals involved will be sharing information to help care for them, roles and responsibilities will be understood by all, funding for packages will be confirmed, a change in social worker will be agreed and a contract and financial assessment will be completed.

The young person will start to see more of a new social worker, a lead professional from the specialist learning disabilities team as well as the transition social worker. An adult care plan will have been agreed, new packages will be up and running and this may start with some links to further education, work experience, part-time work or day activities. There will be a person centred transition review meeting after 6 weeks to make sure everything is working and there will be regular reviews in case anything changes.

### **Moving on**

#### **Year 11 and 13 – 14, age 16+**

#### **Fully supported/ supported/ independent pathway**

Some young people with complex needs may need a fully supported pathway through transition. Others may only need some support, whilst some young people just need a little bit of help to make the right decisions through transition.

### **Education**

There are many local higher education opportunities available in Warrington. There are lots of courses out there for all abilities; there are sixth form colleges, community colleges and foundation learning with work based training providers. There are also specialist colleges outside of Warrington that provide specialist support with any needs you may have. Talk to your school, Careers Adviser advisor, social worker or Jobcentre Plus, who will help you discover the variety of opportunities.

### **Employment**

The young person can also start to think about their future goals, for example what type of activities they would like to do or what type of job they would like. Work experience might give them some ideas. There are many training options which look at the work opportunities available. They may struggle to do a whole job but there may be aspects of a job that they can do. Talk to a Careers Adviser for more information; speak to the Disability Employment Advisor (DEA) at Jobcentre Plus or talk to the employment team at Warrington Disability Partnership. You can also discuss voluntary work with the

Volunteer Centre to get a taster for the work you would like to do or talk to the DEA about the opportunities to become self employed.

### **Day activities**

In addition to all of these exciting opportunities, young people may be entitled to day activities. They may also benefit from accessing building based support in a day care centre or in the activities provided by day care services, where young people will experience activities related to employment, leisure, community inclusion and independence. Young people may access continuing health care if their needs mean they need extra support with their health. A social worker will be able to help with this and give more information about the personalisation agenda and personal budgets.

### **Supported living**

The young person may decide that they want to live independently. They need to start to think about:

1. Where I would like to live?
2. Who I would like to live with?
3. How will I pay for it?
4. What support will I need?

Your social worker or housing services will be able to help you with this and tell you more about tenancies, supported living, residential/ nursing care, shared accommodation and assistive technology. If you do not have a social worker and would like more advice or information contact the **access social care team** on: **01925 44239**.

## **Transition of young people with disabilities from children and young people's services to adult social services**

This is a summary of what happens during transition, when it should happen and who should help, this should be used in conjunction with the transition pathway information in the pack.

**Insert transition diagram**

### **3. Transition processes**

#### **The year 9 review**

For most young people who have a statement of special educational needs, the transition process will begin at about age 14 with a meeting that is usually held at school. This meeting is called a year 9 review, or year 9 transition review.

The school will arrange this meeting and the most important people at the meeting will be the young person and their family, but there are other people who might be invited. Others who might also take part are adult social services and health services. This could be a school nurse or a paediatrician, a speech and language therapist or an occupational therapist – whoever is already involved with the young person.

The purpose of the year 9 review is to check the young person's statement and to start a new document called a transition plan. The transition plan tells everyone who might be involved with the young person what the plans are for their future.

It is only the start of the process. Nothing will be decided about a young person's future at such an early stage, but the end of compulsory education is only at the end of year 11. There will be a lot of important decisions to think about and made in the future, and things change.

The transition plan is an important document and will change in time to reflect any changes in circumstances or ideas. They could include ideas about further education, training, going to work, options about daytime support and options about where to live.

#### **Transition plans – what next?**

Following the year 9 review, the school will organise annual reviews in year 10 and year 11. You will discuss and update the transition plan at these school reviews. If your child stays on at school after year 11, there will be reviews every year at which you can discuss and update the transition plan again.

In the time leading up to leaving school there are many different people that you and your child can talk to about planning for the future. Family and friends are the most important people, but there are other organisations such as school, adult social services, health services and Careers Adviser who can also help with the plans.

The Transition Plan should be based on, and draw together, information from all those individuals involved in the young person's education and care so that it plans coherently for the young person's transition from childhood to adult life.

The plan for your child will need to focus on their needs, wishes, desires and hopes for the future. There are different ways of developing plans. Sometimes these are called 'person centred plans'.

## **Person centred approaches**

Reviews should be 'person centred' and the people involved can help the young person to think about life and how to improve it. This is very important if they are facing a big change in their life, like moving house, leaving school or moving services.

This means that it is vital that everyone who works in social care services, people who use services and their families have an understanding of how they can contribute to person centred planning.

It creates a comprehensive portrait of who the person is and what they want to do with their life. It brings together all of the people who are important to the person including family, friends, neighbours, support workers and other professionals involved in their lives.

This website is for families who want to lead person centred planning with the person they care about: [www.familiesleadingplanning.co.uk](http://www.familiesleadingplanning.co.uk) and this website is for people who want to stay in charge of their own plans: [www.handsoffmyplan.co.uk](http://www.handsoffmyplan.co.uk)

[www.helensandersonassociates.co.uk](http://www.helensandersonassociates.co.uk) is a valuable resource for young people and families that would like to know more about person centred thinking.

The focus of the review is on outcomes, the things that are most important for a young person to achieve in their life.

## **Who provides support?**

As young people approach adulthood, there are a number of important changes in the services that will be provided for them. Generally young people who have used children and young people's services will start to use adult social services from their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

In the transition to adulthood the main agencies that are likely to be involved in providing support will be children's services, education, adult social services, health services and a Careers Adviser.

## **Community teams**

### **Services for children**

If you need support before your child reaches 18, you will need to contact the council's access social care team, on: **01925 444239**. When you contact them directly, through school or your GP, there will be an assessment of needs and an agreement about how those needs might best be met. This agreement will take into account the support that is already available to you, but it may also include more specialist support from the children with disabilities team.

The children with disabilities team and the inclusion team aim to support disabled young people and their families in their lives. They assess a young person's needs for direct payments or support services.

They work with children, their parents or carers and other agencies. The team provides services to meet assessed needs. Services include care at home, short breaks (or respite), support to use community facilities and play schemes.

If your child is 16 and has been in care, they may be entitled to support from the leaving care team when they leave care. Your current social worker will be able to tell you whether this applies to your child. To find out more contact the **access social care team** on **01925 444239**.

## **Assessments**

In children and young people's services social workers, inclusion practitioners or special educational needs caseworkers will carry out a number of assessments when a need has been identified in a young person's education, welfare, development, safety or disability. Parents can initiate an assessment by request or assessment can be initiated through a referral. The assessments, where possible, are done in a comfortable environment like a home or family centre. Not all assessments apply to everyone but some may be required to find out information that is needed about your child.

## **Statutory assessment**

A statutory assessment takes place when a child or young person has significant special educational needs and it is necessary to determine both the level of need and the support required for the child to make progress within a school setting. This may lead to the writing of a statement of special educational need.

## **Common Assessment Framework (CAF) assessment**

The CAF is a single standard assessment of a child or young person's needs.

## **Initial assessment**

An initial assessment is a chance for a social worker to get to know you and your child better. They can help decide with you how best to help your child and family. You can discuss how you manage, what worries you, your child's health, development and school or nursery. The care plan will say what is needed and how it will be delivered. We will continue to look at what you are receiving to see if it is still appropriate, if not it can be changed.

## **Core assessment**

A core assessment usually starts at the point at which the initial assessment ends and is carried out to clarify and identify the needs of the child by gathering information to gain a greater understanding of a child's circumstances. It is a multi-agency assessment, incorporating the specialist knowledge of all the professionals working with a child and their family.

## **Access social care team and adult social services**

When someone reaches the age of 18, they legally become an adult and have the right to have an assessment of their needs from adult social services. If you have a children's social worker, they can refer you to adult social services. If you do not have a children's social worker, you can make the referral yourself. Telephone: **01925 444239**.

Adult social services cannot provide services before someone reaches age 18, but they can become involved and start the assessment process earlier than that. After the referral is made, a social worker (sometimes also called a care manager) will contact you and arrange to meet to do an assessment.

This assessment will say what your child's needs are and what improvements or changes they would like to see in their life (sometimes called outcomes). Once they know your child's needs, the social worker will be able to explain whether a service will be offered. If a service is offered they will then develop a plan to meet those needs. Alternatively the young person can choose to have a personal budget and create their own support plan with help from family and friends, or the social worker, or a support broker, if required. Sometimes needs can be met by family, but sometimes you might need some additional help or support.

The government has given guidelines to councils called Fair Access to Care Services. These guidelines will be used to let you know whether a service can be offered. For more information, ask your social worker, or visit the council's website at: **[www.mylifemyway.co.uk](http://www.mylifemyway.co.uk)**

## **Assessments**

## **Transition Assessment / Adult Assessment**

In Warrington a transition assessment can take place before the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday for people who may benefit from receiving adult social care services. This helps when filling in the full Adult Assessment after the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. The assessment looks at personal needs and support but carefully considers risk to independence. During the assessment information will be given about the services that both social care and other organisations could provide.

## **Occupational therapy assessment**

Occupational therapists work with people who have a physical impairment, a medical condition and/or a learning disability. They enable people who have difficulties with practical everyday tasks to live as independently as possible - at home, in employment or in education.

An occupational therapist has specialist knowledge and can help adapt to changes in everyday life and to overcome practical problems.

If you have a disabled child, you can arrange to have an assessment of their health and social care needs through children and young people's services, a GP or a consultant (if you have one).

## **Continuing healthcare assessment**

NHS continuing healthcare is a professional care package given to meet the physical needs of adults with a disability or illness over an extended period of time. This is funded by the NHS and is free of charge to the person receiving the care. A national framework has been developed to provide guidance about what types of healthcare needs qualify for NHS continuing healthcare to ensure that consistent decisions are made.

## **After an assessment**

When the assessment has been completed and services put in place, it is very likely that the social worker who did the assessment will no longer be involved when the services are running smoothly. Adult social services do not usually have a social worker involved if there is no ongoing work, as long as services are in place.

## **How to access social care services**

Contact the access social care team for both adult social services and children and

young people's social services on: **01925 444293** (type talk available) or email:  
**[asc@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:asc@warrington.gov.uk)**

## 4. Benefits and money

### Department of Work and Pensions benefits - getting the right benefits

It is very important for a young person to get all the right benefits. This section is a very brief guide to the different benefits that a young person might be able to claim from their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. Contact the access social care team on: **01925 444239** or the Citizens Advice Bureau as soon as possible to get advice (contact details can be found at the end of this section). Alternatively contact your social worker or inclusion practitioner family support. You can also find more information about benefits on **[www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)**.

Your child might be able to claim one or more of the following benefits in their own right:

- 1 Employment Support Allowance
- 2 Disability living allowance
- 3 Community care grants
- 4 Working tax credit
- 5 Bursary Scheme
- 6 Additional Learner Support Funding
- 7

Filling in application forms for benefits can be difficult. The Citizen's Advice Bureau can help (contact details at the end of this section). They can also give specific advice about which benefits are available. Getting some benefits can affect whether you get other benefits, the welfare rights service can advise you about this.

### Employment Support Allowance

Anyone over 16 who has an illness or disability affecting their ability to work may be eligible for ESA. There are two types of ESA – contribution based and income related but the latter is more relevant to young people who have not paid sufficient National Insurance contributions. Income related ESA depends on the person's income and savings and is payable to young people not in school or equivalent education, nor in full time advanced education (what counts as full time varies for 'further education' and 'higher education' and for the type of tuition – seek advice from the course provider). However young people receiving DLA while at school or in full time advanced education may also be eligible for income related ESA. People claiming ESA have to undergo a detailed 'Work Capability Assessment' to see if they qualify, unless they are terminally ill or receiving chemotherapy. People refused ESA have the right to challenge that decision at the First-tier Tribunal (Social Entitlement) where many refusals have been overturned.

**Note:** *Claiming ESA may have an effect on family finances for young people still living with parents or carers, so a 'better off' calculation may be needed to work out the most advantageous arrangements*

To claim this benefit, contact your local Jobcentre Plus on: **0845 604 3719**, and ask for Warrington Jobcentre Plus.

### **Disability living allowance**

This benefit is paid to people who are disabled or who have health problems. It is paid in two parts, often called 'components'.

- 1 Care component – if you need support to take care of yourself, or if you need someone to help you avoid danger.
- 2 Mobility component – if you need support to get around, or to help you travel safely.

Young people may be able to get one or both parts. There are different amounts of payment depending on how much support is needed. You can get more information by calling the disability living allowance enquiry line on **0800 882200**.

**Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)** – This is payable to disabled young people aged 18 and over who are found to have 'capability for work' (they may have been refused ESA because of this) and who are looking for a job and don't have enough money to live on. Young people are unlikely to qualify for contribution based JSA because they have not been working long enough. Income related JSA is payable to young people who are not working (or are working less than 16 hours a week) and who have limited income or savings. People claiming JSA have to attend an interview at the Jobcentre and sign a 'Jobseeker's agreement' setting out the steps they will take to find work or training.

**Note:** *Young people aged 16–17 won't usually qualify for JSA unless they can show 'severe hardship', for example as a result of their disability or because their parents/carers are unable to support them.*

### **Community care grants**

These can be paid to people who are getting income support to help with some types of expenses. There is also money that can be claimed to help a young person to move into their own home. You can apply for community care grants through your local Jobcentre Plus.

Tel: **0845 604 3719** and ask for Warrington Jobcentre Plus

### **Working tax credit**

**Working Tax Credit (WTC)** – Young people aged 16 and over who are working at least 16 hours a week may be entitled to WTC if they have a physical or mental disability that puts them at a disadvantage in getting a job. They must also satisfy a ‘qualifying benefit’ test, either by getting DLA, or by having received ESA or a similar benefit before starting work. HM Revenue and Customs have produced a ‘Disability Helpsheet’ to explain the conditions needed to qualify for WTC. The level of WTC will depend on their income and the degree of disability, determining whether they qualify for the disability component or severe disability component of WTC.

**Note:** *Most means-tested benefits are being replaced by a new Universal Credit. This will apply to all new claims from October 2013, with people on existing means-tested benefits being moved onto the new Universal Credit at some point between 2014 and 2017.*

More information can be found at: [www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk)

## **Bursary Scheme**

This funding consists of a payment of £1200 and a discretionary fund. It replaces the Education Maintenance Allowance and aims to help the most vulnerable 16-19 year olds in full time education, namely:

- young people in care,
- care leavers,
- those in receipt of Income Support and
- those in receipt of both Disability Living Allowance and Employment Support allowance

## **Additional Learner Support Funding**

Additional learner support funding (non-means tested) is allocated to FE colleges and independent providers for support of students with learning difficulties and disabilities as a whole.

- In England, FE colleges receive funding for Additional Learning Support from the Education Funding Agency and the Skills Funding Agency which funds adult learners over 19 to 25 if they have a LDA.
- In Wales the Additional Learning Support funding comes from the department of the Minister for Education and Skills which is part of the Welsh Assembly.
- Private colleges in England and Wales do not receive such funding but have a duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled students under the Equality Act 2010.
- Most FE providers will have a range of student support services which should be set out in their prospectuses and on their websites.

The types of Additional support provided in general FE colleges or sixth form colleges are:

- specialist teaching for students with specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia
- sign language interpreters
- materials in accessible formats
- specialist equipment (which will remain the property of the college; charities may provide grants for students to purchase their own items).

### ***Residential specialist colleges (England and Wales)***

If a young person's LDA has identified that their needs cannot be met in a local college, they may receive funding to attend a residential specialist college which are for disabled students only. Before 'out of county' funding is unlocked for such a specialist college, the LDA assessor will have to provide evidence that local provision is not possible (by, for example, obtaining letters from local colleges stating that they are unable to meet the young person's educational needs). If a young person has significant care needs, social services may fund those social care support services that are needed whilst he or she is in the placement (the funding being provided under s2(1)(c) Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970).

### **Support Services for Disabled Students**

As with FE providers, HE providers have a range of student support services covering all aspects of student life which should be set out in their prospectuses and on their websites. Most will have a service specifically supporting disabled students and will encourage students to declare their disability so that the necessary support can be put in place in time for the start of the student's course.

Under the Equality Act 2010 HE providers are under a duty to make reasonable adjustments for their prospective, existing and in some cases former, disabled students.

### **Financial support**

There is a wide variety of financial support available to higher education students including: student grants, student loans, bursaries, scholarships and awards and access to learning funds.

In addition, Disabled Students Allowances ('DSAs') provide funds to students to help pay for the additional costs they incur in studying as a result of their disability, mental-health condition or learning difficulty. The DSAs help students buy equipment, pay for support workers and other disability related study items.

### **Personal banking**

Personal banking and having a current account is where a young person can deposit, put money in the bank, or withdraw, take money out, on a day-to-day basis. Money can be deposited in the bank with cash, coins and notes, by a cheque or electronically over the internet. Money can be withdrawn from the account by taking it out of a cash point, by buying goods using a debit card, by writing a cheque or by transferring money out of the account.

Almost anyone can open a current account; only people with a poor credit history might struggle due to none payment of outstanding bills and loans.

Current accounts are available in all the main high street banks, many of the building societies and most of the internet banks.

### **Supporting people**

Supporting people grants are funded by the government and help to support vulnerable people to live more independently. It gives people the choice to receive support in their own home or helps them to access accommodation where support is available on site.

If you would like to know more tel: **01925 443998**.

### **Blue badge scheme**

The blue badge scheme is for people with severe mobility problems and enables badge holders to park close to where they need to go. The blue badge scheme only applies to on-street parking and badge holders may park on single or double yellow lines for up to three hours, except where there is a ban on loading or unloading. Badge holders may also park for free at on-street parking meters and pay-and-display machines.

For more information tel: **01925 443322** or drop in to Contact Warrington on Horsemarket Street. You can also find out more information and download an application on our website: **[www.warrington.gov.uk](http://www.warrington.gov.uk)**

### **Charging policy for adult social services**

In some cases adult social services will be free of charge, however some people may be asked to make a contribution towards the cost for non-residential services that have been agreed as part of a 'package of care' or some transport services. The amount you will contribute will be determined by a financial assessment that will take into account the services you receive and how much income or capital savings you have. Capital that can be assessed are such things as savings, cash, ISA's, stocks and shares, unit trusts etc. It also includes the value of any investment properties. Any monies held by another party on your behalf are also taken into consideration. The value of the main home is

not included in any assessment. However the value of any other property owned or part owned by the service user will be regarded as capital.

For more detailed information about the charging policy for non-residential care services please telephone Warrington Borough Council on: **01925 444017** or visit our website to obtain a copy of the full policy: **[www.mylifemyway.co.uk](http://www.mylifemyway.co.uk)**

## **Personal budgets**

A personal budget is money that is available from the council to meet your social care needs.

Most people who are eligible for social care services are entitled to a personal budget to meet their support needs. The council has a system in place to make sure that services are accessed fairly and that people in the greatest need get support. This is in line with the government's Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) policy.

A personal budget allows you to have more control over the way your support and care is organised. It can help you to have greater choice and more say about who supports you, what they do and when they do it.

There are 3 different options you can choose from:

- You can organise your support yourself and pay for it using a direct payment (cash personal budget). This is an agreed amount of money paid to you by the council to meet the needs identified in your support plan. You can also opt for a cash lump sum for an item that you and your social care worker have agreed is necessary for you.
- You can choose to have the council organise your support. We call this a virtual personal budget.
- You can have a mixture of the types of payment described above.
- Sometimes an agreement can be made for a service provider to manage your personal budget, as long as they spend it in a flexible way to meet your needs. You remain in control of how the money is spent. This is called an individual service fund.

For more information about buying your own care and support contact your social care worker, the access social care team on: **01925 444239** or visit our website: **[www.mylifemyway.co.uk](http://www.mylifemyway.co.uk)**

## **More information**

Benefits are rapidly changing, to find out the most up to date details contact the Citizen's Advice Bureau on: **01925 246994** or visit them at: The Gateway, 89 Sankey

Street, Warrington, WA1 1SR (check for opening times)

## 5. Housing and support

Finding somewhere to live should include information about:

- finding accommodation - including information about different housing options such as social housing, housing association accommodation, private renting, shared housing and shared ownership;
- how to apply for accommodation, and where to get financial and other support (such as a personal assistant, assistive technology or modifications to a home) and more detailed advice on accommodation;
- advice, for people eligible for social care or health support, about what support is available to help them personally, for example in managing their personal budget or recruiting a personal assistant; and
- opportunities and support to learn the skills needed to live in supported, semi supported or independent accommodation.

### Options about where to live

#### Living at home or independent living options

Many young people want to remain living at home with their parents and family. There is a variety of different support and services that might be available for them. For example, you might be used to having respite or short term breaks. These are also available from adult social services. Some people might prefer to stay at home and have support without their usual carers. You can discuss this with adult social services.

After leaving full time education, some people think about being more independent and living away from home. There are different options available:

#### Residential accommodation

The responsibilities of social services authorities to provide residential accommodation to disabled adults and others are dealt with primarily under Part 3 of the the NAA 1948, in particular section 21.<sup>141</sup> The key provisions are summarised below:

- **Section 21 NAA 1948:** local authorities must provide accommodation to individuals age 18 or over who by reason of age, illness, disability or other circumstances are in need of care and attention. This applies to people who are ordinarily resident in the local authority's area and other persons who are in urgent need of residential accommodation. Usually the accommodation will be provided in a care home, but other accommodation, such as ordinary housing can also be provided.
- **Additional provisions:** Accommodation can be provided to individuals receiving aftercare services under section 117 of the Mental Health Act 1983 – note this provision

can apply to individuals of any age. Where local authorities are providing workshops under section 29 NAA 1948 to disabled people aged 18, they can also provide hostel accommodation.

## **Supported housing**

There are various accommodation arrangements that might be applicable to a young disabled person wishing to live independently. Two significant (non-care home) arrangements are:

### **Adult placements or shared lives schemes**

Adult placements or 'shared lives schemes' are frequently likened to fostering arrangements. They involve a provider (often, but not always, a local authority) placing a vulnerable and disabled adult in the care (and frequently the home) of an approved adult placement carer. Most commonly the disabled person has learning disabilities but the scheme is not limited in this respect and can provide for people with physical disabilities, mental health issues, or drug/alcohol problems. The purpose of such an arrangement is to enable the person to live as independently and to have as normal a life in the community as is possible. Placements may be long term or as a transitional arrangement. Before any placement the disabled person must have been assessed under the community care legislation and the placement must be deemed an appropriate care plan to meet the person's assessed needs. Disabled people in an adult placement can be charged for their accommodation in the normal way – and apply for housing benefit to help with such costs. Their care support services are subject to the standard charging rules applying to all non-domiciliary care services.

## **Tenancy**

**Chooseahome** is a choice based lettings system managed by Golden Gates Housing. Their own housing stock is advertised in this way and also properties which are owned by other housing associations including Arena, Frontis, etc. The available properties are advertised in the Warrington Guardian each week. Clients can register via the website [www.gght.org.uk](http://www.gght.org.uk), over the telephone on **0800 252627** or in person at Bank House on Sankey Street.

Privately rented accommodation is obviously more expensive than accommodation with a registered social landlord but gives greater choice on area and is a quicker option. One drawback is the fact that the tenant will only ever have an assured short hold tenancy and could therefore have tenancies terminated with 2 months' notice at any time.

## Supported living

Supported living is a generic term that has come to describe arrangements whereby a local authority secures a package of care together with accommodation (which is not a residential care home) for a disabled, elderly or ill person. However, because of the way the arrangements are made (the delivery of care being separated at an organisational level, from the provision of accommodation), the accommodation is not deemed to be a registered care home and so does not have to be registered as such under the relevant legislation. Because of this, the disabled person in such a supported living arrangement can benefit from a variety of funding streams (depending upon the particular scheme) including enhanced rates of housing benefits, 'supporting peoples' monies and various other social security payments. While the goal is to maximise user independence, 'supported living' packages do necessarily promote independent living. There are concerns that supported living may result in less security and an inferior support package.

Disabled people in supported living schemes can be charged for their care support in the normal way – i.e. subject to the standard charging rules applying to all non-domiciliary care services. Guidance has been issued ( jointly with the Department of Health) concerning charges for such schemes.

There are a number of supported accommodation providers in the Warrington area, some of which we use and they offer low to medium level support. If the support required is more intensive or specialised then it may be worth approaching adult social services.

If the young person is less than 25 years of age they can access supported accommodation at Verve Place (self-contained flat with support) or Grange Avenue, which is operated by Stepping Stone and provides accommodation to young people with complex needs.

The housing options team are located at 86 Sankey Street, Warrington, WA1 1WP. For general enquiries tel: **01925 442676** or email: **housingadvice@warrington.gov.uk**. Alternatively contact your social worker or the access social care team on: **01925 444239**.

## Residential/nursing care

There are a number of different care homes in the Warrington area offering many different types of services. Some offer full-time nursing care, others support people with a specific disability or medical need. An important consideration when you are choosing a care home is whether you need one that offers nursing as well as personal care. Speak to a social worker to find out more.

Care homes, sometimes called residential homes, can be an option if you can no longer

manage in your own home. Services you should expect at a care home include: meals and accommodation; help with personal care like bathing and dressing; staff available 24 hours a day; physical and emotional care and care through short illnesses. If you have a disability or illness that means you need nursing care on a frequent basis then a home with nursing care might be more appropriate. You can find details of the registered residential and nursing homes on the Care Quality Commission website: [www.cqc.org.uk](http://www.cqc.org.uk) or by telephoning their national contact centre: **03000 616161**.

### **Shared accommodation**

Shared housing can offer a range of services to help you live independently, with the added security of having someone to call on in emergencies. Plus they can offer specialised facilities and specially trained staff to provide support. Shared housing schemes are usually run by the council. Different council housing offices and housing associations have their own eligibility criteria. This should include a general assessment of your needs. There is sometimes a waiting list for shared housing.

### **Assistive technology**

Assistive technology is any device or system designed to improve the independence of people who require care and support. It can play an important part in helping people to keep safe at home and to stay living at home for longer. It can also provide important reassurance and support to carers.

There are many different types of assistive technology but some include automatic and remote monitoring to manage the risks associated with independent living, for example pendant alarms and monitors that detect movements or falls.

To find out more about any of the accommodation types or assistive technology please contact a social worker on: **01925 444239**.

## 6. Education and employment

The local offer must identify training opportunities, apprenticeships, traineeships and Supported Internships available to young people in the area to provide a smooth transition from education into employment. This should include information about additional support available to young people – for example via the Department for Work and Pensions’ Access to Work fund – such as teaching and learning support, job coaching in the workplace, and provision of specialist equipment.

Local authorities must include information on how young people can apply for these opportunities or make clear in their local offer where this information can be found. The information should include any entry requirements, including age limits and educational attainment.

Many young people have said they have aspirations to be employed after education. This section of the guide will give some help in making the right decision about getting a job or accessing education or training.

### Careers Advice

The local Careers Service offers a service for all 13 to 19 year olds or up to age 25 if a young person has a learning difficulty or disability and had a statement of special educational need at school.

They can provide expert guidance, advice and support to help young people make important decisions about their life, education and career choices. They can also offer support and advice about things like jobs, learning, health, money and housing.

A website is available with a lot of information about the support and advice they offer: [www.connexions-cw.co.uk](http://www.connexions-cw.co.uk)

### Education options

#### Staying on at school

Fox Wood and Green Lane schools are the special schools in Warrington. Only Fox Wood offers an option for post-16 education. Many young people at Fox Wood stay at school until they are 19 years old.

If your child is at a school outside Warrington, you might want to consider if that school has post-16 education. You may also be asked to consider a school closer to home if there is post-16 provision in the current school.

## **Going to a local college**

Most further education colleges offer courses for people who have learning disabilities. Some colleges offer specialist courses that your child might like. Most schools have links with local colleges and there may be opportunities for young people to spend some time at the link college.

Priestley College and Warrington Collegiate offer a lot of courses and supports learners with learning difficulties and disabilities, including those with high support needs. Support is available at break and lunchtimes if necessary.

## **Student learning support centre**

In order to make sure that students have everything they need to succeed, there are learning facilitators to assist with studies with one-to-one, group support and in many other ways. There are also study skills that give students the opportunity to gain extra help with Maths and English, if needed.

There is also extra support for young people with disabilities, accessible buildings and additional support and staff that can cater for your specific requirements.

The college welcomes visits from parents/carers and learners who want to find out more. If you want to talk to someone about further education and the support on offer, contact:

Priestley college **01925 633591**  
or email Marigold Roy: **m.roy@priestley.ac.uk**

Warrington Collegiate **01925 494494**  
or email Pat Greenwood: **pgreenwood@warrington.ac.uk**

## **Specialist colleges**

If the needs of a young person cannot be met locally then there are some specialist colleges that cater for specific needs, you can get more information from Claire Perrins or Cassandra Meza on: **01925 442832** or email: **cperrins@warrington.gov.uk** or **cmeza@warrington.gov.uk**

## **Employment options and other training opportunities**

Employment is a real option for some young people. The world of work is very different from school. There are training providers that offer young people the opportunity to work towards getting a job. As well as offering training in work skills, they can also help young people to improve life skills such as reading, writing, maths and IT. They can also help to arrange work experience in local firms. Careers Advisers can help young people and their families look at all available options and choices.

## **Next Step**

Next Step Northwest is the local adult careers information and advice service. They offer free face-to-face help and support on learning and work to adults aged 18+ who live or work in the North West.

If you would like to know more about Next Step please tel: **0151 944 6170**

## **YMCA training**

YMCA training is a national training company who have a centre in Warrington. Through foundation learning, young people can achieve qualifications in a personalised learning programme that aims to inspire the development of skills and to transform lives.

YMCA training can provide bespoke support for learners with difficulties and disabilities to aid their development. For further information about YMCA training go to the website: **[www.ymcatraining.org.uk](http://www.ymcatraining.org.uk)** or contact the office on: **01925 571499**.

YMCA training can also give more information about other forms of training for employment.

## **Learn direct**

Learn direct currently work with learners aged 19 and over. They offer on-line courses in subjects such as Maths and English, IT, Customer Service and Retail. To find out more tel: **01925 594 060**

## **Apprenticeships**

Apprenticeships are open to all people aged over 16 and not in full time education. There are three different levels of apprenticeship:

- Intermediate, Advanced and Higher (England)
- Foundation Apprenticeships, Apprenticeships and Higher Apprenticeships (Wales)

These levels of apprenticeship combine a work based qualification such as an NVQ, key transferable skills and a Technical certificate. Learning providers focus on knowledge and key transferable skills while the employer offers practical on-site training.

Applications for apprenticeships are made through the National Apprenticeship Service, which is housed in the Skills Funding Agency and is responsible for apprenticeships from start to finish (England) and through Careers Wales in Wales.

The National Apprenticeship Service is under a duty to work with local authorities to do everything reasonable to find someone an Apprenticeship. Apprentices are paid a salary by their employer. In addition, the National Apprenticeship Service will pay a percentage of an apprentice's training costs which varies depending on their age.

The Chief Executive of Skills Funding, who manages the National Apprenticeship Service, has the following duties:

- to ensure an apprenticeship place is available to all suitably qualified young people aged 16-18 who want one
- to secure suitable apprenticeship provision for young people aged 19 or over but under 25 and leaving care or subject to an LDA (local authorities will be responsible for their education and training (see paragraph 3.25 above).

## **Traineeships**

### **Supported Internship**

Supported internships are part of the new study programmes for post 16 vocational education which started in September 2013. The goal is to enable a young person to move into paid employment and the Government's wish is that the employers involved will make job offers to those interns who have met the required standard.

### **Jobcentre Plus**

The disability employment advisors in Warrington Jobcentre Plus see people with a range of disabilities and long term health conditions. Customers usually need advice and support at varying levels according to need. Referrals are received from a variety of outside agencies/partners such as a Careers Adviser, Warrington Disability Partnership and Warrington Borough Council supported employment team. Young people showing an interest in working can have a tailored interview to do the initial assessment with an advisor.

Jobcentre Plus, Nolan House, 10 Mersey Street, Warrington, WA1 2BL

Tel: **0845 604 3719**

Web: **[www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)**

**[www.businesslink.gov.uk](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk)**  
**[www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk)**

## **Provider led pathways to work**

Pathways to work offers extra support to people who are claiming employment support allowance, incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance, or income support because of incapacity, in order to help them into work. The initial interview is with Jobcentre Plus and you will then be referred to the training provider for the work focused interviews.

## **Choices**

Cheshire and Warrington is one of 3 'choices' districts. This means that there are two pathways providers and the customer can choose which provider they wish to be referred to.

The training providers covering Cheshire and Warrington are TNG and In-Training.

- **[www.TNG.uk.com](http://www.TNG.uk.com)**
- **[www.intraining.co.uk](http://www.intraining.co.uk)**

## **Supported employment and work training**

The supported employment service is an initiative for people with a learning disability, which supports them to enter the employment market. The benefits to the individual are immense and can be life changing.

A social worker has to refer an individual to the initiative. For further information please contact the work placement officer or job coach on tel: **01925 815586** or email: **[lhughestaylor@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:lhughestaylor@warrington.gov.uk)**

## **Access to work**

Run by Jobcentre Plus, this currently provides advice and support to employers and to disabled people (16 or over and not on certain benefits), who are unemployed and about to start a job/work trial; employed; self-employed; starting a business through the New Enterprise Allowance; and starting a work trial/work experience under the Youth Contract. A disabled employee can apply for a grant to help pay for any extra employment costs which arise as a result of their disability. These include:

- support workers
- specialist equipment

- adaptations to premises
- travel to work where public transport is not practical
- awareness training for fellow employees

It does not matter whether an employee works part or full time or is on a permanent or temporary contract. The amount of the approved support paid by the Access to Work fund depends on how long an employee has been in work, the type of support needed and whether there is any business benefit. The aim is to process applications as quickly as possible. Employers can help their employee's application by providing them with all the required employment information without delay. An employee's needs will be assessed by an assessor who may visit the employee in the workplace. The employer then arranges the agreed support and/or buys the specialist equipment and recoups the money from the Access to Work fund. An employer will continue to have duties towards a disabled employee under the Equality Act 2010 even if the employee is eligible for Access to Work funding. Indeed, the funding received through the Access to Work scheme might mean that the employer is required to make certain adjustments which, without the funding, it would not have done because the costs of making such adjustments would have been too high and therefore unreasonable because of cost.

## Helping Young People on Supported Internships or Traineeships benefit from Access to Work for the work placement element of their programme

Is the young person eligible for support from the Access to Work programme?

Is the young person about to start the in-work element of a supported internship, or traineeship with a disability or health condition, that affects their ability to do a job or means they have to pay extra work-related costs.

Yes

Is the young person over 16 years old and living in England?

No

Yes

Does the young person need support:

- at work; or
- travelling to and from work?

No

Yes

If the young person might benefit from Access to Work support, please complete the attached stencil and send it to [atwosu.london@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:atwosu.london@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

Please ensure Access to Work funding has been approved before you incur costs. You can apply up to a month before the work placement starts. An Access to Work adviser will contact the young person or their representative within 24 hours. If you do not have access to email, please use the postal address at the end of the stencil.

The young person is not eligible for Access to Work.

An Access to Work grant can help pay for travel (when young people are unable to use public transport) and workplace support workers, including job coaches. Young people will not have to pay any money back and it won't affect their other benefits.

You can find more information about Access to Work on the GOV.UK website at <https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work>. There are some exceptions. Young people might not qualify for Access to Work if they already receive certain benefits. See <https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work/eligibility> for more information.

Contact the regional access to work centre to check whether you can get help on: **0141 950 5327** or email: [atwosu.glasgow@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:atwosu.glasgow@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk)

Alternatively, ask the disability employment adviser at Jobcentre Plus about access to work.

**Support offered by charities**

Many charities such as Scope, Mencap and Shaw Trust offer employment services.

### **Help for the self-employed**

If a young person wants to pursue the self-employed route, they may be eligible for the Government's Enterprise Allowance. Under this scheme the Government gives extra help to unemployed people who want to start their own business if they are on Jobseekers Allowance and are aged 18 and over. Those on the scheme will receive help from a volunteer business mentor who will help them to develop their business plan and provide support and guidance in the first months of trading. Financial support will be available once a claimant can show that they have a viable business plan with potential for future growth.

### **More information**

The Department for Education website has a lot of information about education policy. There are links to other resources and areas of information for parents.

- [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)

Support through education, training and employment for people with disabilities

- [www.skill.org.uk](http://www.skill.org.uk)

Information, advice and guidance on education, training and apprenticeships

- [www.wayahead.uk.com](http://www.wayahead.uk.com) click on Warrington
- [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)
- [www.warrington.gov.uk/14\\_19education](http://www.warrington.gov.uk/14_19education)
- [www.connexions-cw.co.uk/](http://www.connexions-cw.co.uk/)
- [www.nextstep.direct.gov.uk](http://www.nextstep.direct.gov.uk)

- [Access to work on gov.uk website](http://www.access-to-work.gov.uk)

The association of national specialist colleges has information about specialist and residential colleges

- [www.natspec.org.uk](http://www.natspec.org.uk)

## 7. Getting around

### Bus services in Warrington

The bus interchange is the main bus station in Warrington and is completely accessible. It is located in Horsemarket Street, Warrington, WA1 1TF.

Timetable leaflets for all services are available from the travel and visitor information centre at the bus interchange. You can also find the timetables on their website: [www.warringtonboroughtransport.co.uk](http://www.warringtonboroughtransport.co.uk)

### Bus passes

Warrington Borough Transport weekly saver tickets can be purchased from their office in the bus interchange, they cannot be bought online. You can find further details of all types of passes available on their website: [www.warringtonboroughtransport.co.uk](http://www.warringtonboroughtransport.co.uk)

Warrington Borough Transport student passes can be purchased at Warrington Collegiate.

### Fobs and orange wallets

Audio fobs allow you to hear information about the next buses due at a particular bus stop. You have to press a button on the fob whilst standing near to the electronic display and you will be able to hear the message.

If you have any special needs that a bus driver should be aware of you can get an orange wallet. You can show this at the bus stop to the bus driver to show them that you need special assistance.

You can get audio fobs or orange wallets by telephoning **01925 443100** and the passenger transport section will arrange for you to collect them at New Town House reception.

### Dial a ride

The council supports the local dial-a-ride service provided by Warrington Community Transport. This service is provided for people who cannot use conventional local bus services because of mobility problems.

Warrington Community Transport can be contacted on: **01925 419988**.

## Licensed and accessible taxis

There are two types of taxis used in Warrington – one of which you must pre-order, this is a private hire vehicle. A typical private hire vehicle looks like a normal family car. You can ask for a vehicle that is accessible for wheelchair users or people with poor mobility. It will always have ‘plates’ on the front and back to tell you that it is a properly licensed vehicle.

The others are those which you can stop in the street or catch from a taxi rank in places like the train stations, bus interchange (bus station) or parked in specially marked places on streets in the town centre. A typical taxi which operates from the streets looks like a traditional London black cab. You can ask for a vehicle that is accessible for wheelchair users or people with poor mobility. They will also have ‘plates’ on the front and the back to tell you that it is a properly licensed taxi.

A good way of finding a local private hire operator is to contact the council taxi licensing team on: **01925 442517**.

## Trains and stations

Warrington Bank Quay railway station is on Parker Street, Warrington, WA1 1LW. Find more information at **[www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/wbq](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/wbq)**

Warrington Central railway station is on Winwick Street, Warrington, WA2 7TT. Find more information at **[www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/wac](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/wac)**

Information on routes and tickets can be found on the website [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

## On the move in Warrington

‘On the move in Warrington’ is a travel training project supporting individuals to develop their confidence, skills, knowledge and experience in the area of independent travel. The project is run by the Warrington Speak Up group. For more information please contact the Warrington Speak Up office on: **01925 246888**.

## Contacts

If you want to find out more about the different types of public and private transport available within the passenger transport unit, would like details of taxi operators or accessible/ non-accessible vehicles, please tel: **01925 442629** or email: **[prudge@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:prudge@warrington.gov.uk)** or **[jrobinson@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:jrobinson@warrington.gov.uk)**

## **Changing place**

Warrington's Golden Square shopping mall has an accessible family room that can be used as a changing facility. It is located at the bottom of the escalators near Debenhams. There are also lifts that access the ground floor. There are assisted changing rooms at the bus station and Walton Gardens that have hoists and changing tables to assist in changing someone with limited mobility.

## **8. Rights, responsibilities and the law**

### **Fair Access to Care Services (FACS)**

Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) is how every council decides whether an adult is eligible for their help and support. It ensures money is spent on those with the greatest need and those people whose independence is seriously affected.

Fair Access to Care Services is divided into four bands:

- 1 Low
- 2 Moderate
- 3 Substantial
- 4 Critical

The substantial, moderate and low bands describe the amount of need and how these needs affect a person's independence. The critical band describes situations when a person's independence is most at risk. In these situations there are vital needs, which must be met if a person is to live safely and independently. To find out more contact the access social care team on: **01925 444239**.

### **Mental Capacity Act (MCA)**

Having mental capacity means being able to make your own decision about something.

The Mental Capacity Act is a law about decision making and how to support and protect people who cannot make their own decisions, perhaps due to mental health problems, dementia, brain injuries and learning difficulties.

It also lets people plan ahead for a time when they may be unable to make their own decisions about some things.

### **Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA)**

This is someone who speaks up for people who lack capacity and have no family or friends to speak for them. They help when important decisions have to be made by the NHS or local authorities. Decisions can be about things like moving to a hospital or care home. They may become involved in other types of decisions as well.

The IMCA service provider for Warrington, Halton, St Helens and Knowsley is:

Together for Mental Wellbeing

Tel: **01744 451531** or email: **hkwsimca@together-uk.org**

For up to date information about the Mental Capacity Act and mental capacity advocacy contact the mental capacity act co-ordinator on: **01925 444080**.

You can get further information about the Mental Capacity Act on the Office of the Public Guardian website: **[www.publicguardian.gov.uk](http://www.publicguardian.gov.uk)**

Alternatively visit the Warrington Borough Council website:  
**[www.warrington.gov.uk/MCA](http://www.warrington.gov.uk/MCA)**

## **Valuing people and valuing people now**

Valuing people said that services, people with learning disabilities and their families and carers should work together to make sure that:

- 1 people's rights as individuals are respected;
- 2 people enjoy as much independence as possible;
- 3 people are supported to make choices and decisions about the things that matter to them;
- 4 people are included in the life of the community and have access to the same opportunities as everyone else.

The aim of valuing people is to improve the lives of people with learning disabilities. It says that services, families and carers should work together.

Valuing people now states what the government wants to happen by 2012 for people with learning disabilities and aims to help them to live good and full lives. It does not change valuing people but provides more information. It is based on the belief that people with learning disabilities are people first. They have the right to lead their lives like everyone else, with the same opportunities and responsibilities.

More information on valuing people and valuing people now is available at  
**[www.valuingpeoplenow.dh.gov.uk](http://www.valuingpeoplenow.dh.gov.uk)**

## **Valuing employment now: real jobs for people with learning disabilities**

Valuing employment now is about making sure that people with learning disabilities get the support they need to get and keep a paid job. It has been written because it is known that people with learning disabilities want to work, but very often do not get the support they need. By 2025 the government wants more people with learning disabilities to have a job. More information on valuing employment now is available at:  
**[www.valuingpeoplenow.dh.gov.uk](http://www.valuingpeoplenow.dh.gov.uk)**

## **Warrington learning disabilities partnership board**

The learning disability partnership board in Warrington has five main themes that are the focus of a lot of work in the coming months and years. These are:

- 1 Health and wellbeing
- 2 Housing transport and access
- 3 Employment and training support
- 4 Partnership involvement
- 5 Transitions

There are many people and organisations on the partnership board. They work together to make sure that people with learning disabilities are getting the best services and also:

- 1 Make sure that valuing people, valuing people now and valuing employment happen
- 2 Check that the right services and support are available and that they are working
- 3 Share information about what's working and not working for people with learning difficulties, their families and carers
- 4 Listen to and act on ideas from self advocates, carers and organisations that provide support
- 5 Make good decisions that help people's lives to get better
- 6 Try to make sure that people with learning difficulties get the same chances to use the services everyone else does
- 7 Support people with learning difficulties to speak up, become more independent and be more in control of their lives

If you want more information on the partnership board or to join, please contact the partnership co-ordinator on: **01925 815586**

## **9. Advocacy and support**

At certain times, it may be difficult for young people to speak up with points of view or concerns. Your child may also find it difficult to say what they want to say. In this situation, an advocate can support you or your child on an individual basis. This is called advocacy.

Advocacy is about supporting people to make their views known to other people. Everybody has the right to use advocacy, whatever their level of ability or need, they have the right to have their views listened to and taken notice of, and to be treated with respect. The advocacy services in Warrington are:

### **National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) – looked after children and young people**

NYAS is a charity working for children and young people and provides trained and supported Independent Visitors to children and young people who are eligible and for whom it's in their best 'interest'.

If you are not sure who you need to speak with please contact the head office on: **0151 649 8700** or email: **main@nyas.net**

### **Warrington Speak Up group – adults with disabilities**

Warrington Speak Up is actively promoting and supporting self advocacy for the benefit of people with learning difficulties in Warrington. The core activity of the group is to strengthen the voice of people with learning difficulties to speak up, make informed decisions, participate and contribute meaningfully within their local communities and to take more control of their lives.

The group meets weekly on Tuesdays from 9.30am to 12.30pm, monthly on Wednesday evenings 6pm to 8.30pm and at various other times during the week for specific project work and advocacy support.

Warrington Speak Up has their own office and meeting room at the Gateway, 89 Sankey Street, Warrington. Contact the project managers on: **01925 246 888**

### **Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA)**

This is someone who speaks up for people who lack capacity and have no family or friends to speak for them. They help when important decisions have to be made by the NHS or local authorities. Decisions can be about things like moving to a hospital or care

home. They may become involved in other types of decisions as well.

The IMCA service provider for Warrington, Halton, St Helens and Knowsley is:

Together for Mental Wellbeing

- Tel: **01744 451531**
- Email: **hkwsimca@together-uk.org**

## **Support for people with a sight and hearing loss**

If you are blind, visually impaired, D/deaf or have a hearing loss there are people that can advise and support you or a young person if it is ever needed. To learn more, speak to the access social care team on **01925 444 239** or contact the following organisations.

The Royal National Institute for Blind People (RNIB) support blind and partially sighted people and offer a wide range of services.

- Tel: **0303 123 9999**
- Web: **www.rnib.org.uk**

The Warrington and Widnes Blind Society support both children and adults with visual impairments.

- Tel: **01925 632700**
- Email: **warringtonblind@museumst.fsnet.co.uk**

The Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) support people with hearing loss and offer a wide range of services.

- Tel: **0808 808 0123**
- Web: **www.rnid.org.uk**

The Deafness Support Network (DSN) is a Warrington based organisation that supports people with a hearing loss.

- Tel: **01925 634640**
- Web: **www.dsnonline.co.uk**

The National Deaf Children's Society is a national organisation that supports young people with a hearing impairment.

- Tel: **0808 800 8880**
- Web: **www.ndcs.org.uk**

## **Carers centre**

A carer is someone who without payment helps and supports a relative, child, neighbour

or friend who because of illness, disability, frailty or addiction is unable to manage alone.

The carers centre provides a focal point for the carers of Warrington. They offer information, support, social and training activities, a quarterly newsletter and a free helpline.

You can register with the carers centre to receive their newsletter and information updates. You will be under no obligation to attend the events run by the centre, unless you choose to do so. Their drop-in facility is Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am till 2pm and all are welcome. They are affiliated to the Princess Royal Trust for Carers.

If you would like to know more contact the carers centre on: **01925 644212**.

### **Young carers**

The carers centre also operate the young and caring project, this provides advice and support to young people under the age of 19 who provide a caring role.

Services include 1-to-1 mentoring, counselling, activities/days out, information giving, family support through signposting, emotional support, consultation with young carers and group work.

If you would like to know more contact the young and caring project on: **01925 248466**.

### **Other advocacy agencies**

- Mencap - **[www.mencap.org.uk](http://www.mencap.org.uk)**
- Values in action - **[www.viauk.org](http://www.viauk.org)**
- Citizen advocacy information and training - **[www.citizenadvocacy.org.uk](http://www.citizenadvocacy.org.uk)**
- British Institute of Learning Disabilities - **[www.bild.org.uk](http://www.bild.org.uk)**

## **10. Health**

### **Health services**

The move from children's to adult health teams will depend on your circumstances and your child's particular health needs. Your child's doctor or GP is usually the first point of contact for health services. A young person's GP should stay the same as they move into adulthood. Someone who decides to go to residential college may need to register with a GP close to the college.

### **Medical consultants**

A young person may have a consultant, for example a paediatrician, who is the main health professional. The young person might be referred to an adult services consultant when they reach the age of 18. You may want to discuss with the consultant what will happen in your own situation.

### **School health services**

Young people who attend special schools may have access to a range of health professionals through school. These can include physiotherapists, speech and language therapists and occupational therapists. When a young person leaves school, it may be necessary to have a referral made to adult health services in order to continue with any therapy as appropriate.

### **Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)**

If your child gets support from CAMHS, you may want to discuss with them whether there will be a need to make a referral to adult mental health services.

### **Community learning disability nursing services**

Some young people get support from the community learning disability nursing service. There is an adult learning disability nursing service. If your child attends Fox Wood School, the adult service will contact you in the final school year to see if you or your child would like to have a health action plan.

The community nursing team is one part of the adult learning disability service run by the 5 Boroughs Partnership Trust on behalf of Warrington Borough Council. There are other specialist services that are part of the same team, including psychology, speech and language therapy and occupational therapy. The service also has access to a

consultant psychiatrist.

## **Continuing healthcare assessment**

NHS continuing healthcare is a professional care package given to meet the physical or mental health needs of adults with a disability or illness over an extended period of time. This is funded by the NHS and is free of charge to the person receiving the care. A national framework has been developed to provide guidance to the NHS about what types of healthcare needs qualify for NHS continuing healthcare to ensure that consistent decisions are made.

Primary care trusts manage local health services and are required to carry out the assessment for NHS continuing healthcare. The assessment should be carried out if the physical or mental health of the looked after person deteriorates significantly and before any decision is made by the NHS to make a registered nursing care contribution, when a person goes into a care setting that provides nursing care.

The assessments should be organised to give the person you look after, yourself and/or family members enough advice and information to allow you to participate in informed decisions about the future care of the person you look after. The person being assessed should be informed in writing of the decision and how to ask for a review if they are dissatisfied.

If NHS continuing healthcare is provided at the home of the looked after person, local social services may still have responsibilities to provide some services for the carer and the looked after person. It is possible to receive 'mixed' packages of care, where some services come from the NHS and some from social services. Where local social services provides the care services, they will usually do a financial assessment to decide whether the looked after person must make any financial contribution.

To find out more contact the continuing health care staff on: **01925 843820** or visit **[www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)**

## **Health action plans**

Valuing people introduced health action plans to coordinate all the health support for someone with a learning disability. Each plan takes the information from a health care plan and translates it into a health action plan that says what current health needs are and sets out what needs to be done to help that person stay healthy in future. In Warrington, the health action plan is usually done by a learning disability community nurse. If you would like to know more about health action plans contact and speak to your child's school health advisor.

## **Health Awareness Raising Project (HARP)**

Health Awareness Raising Project (HARP) is a group run by the specialist learning disabilities team and is for adults with disabilities. The group aims to help people with disabilities to chat about healthy life styles and feeling good, your bodies, keeping healthy, feelings and friendships. The group is the perfect place for chatting and listening and is a safe and private place to chat and have fun with men's and women's groups.

Small groups are held locally, in the mornings or afternoon, once a week for 12 weeks. If you would like to know more or to take part or know anyone else who would, contact the specialist learning disabilities team on: **01744 457278**

## **Access all areas**

The access all areas team can offer specialist advice and support on accessing primary care services, where to go for advice and information, annual health checks for people with complex needs, a point of referral to the specialist learning disabilities team and complex care management for patients with multiple disabilities or complex health needs.

Everyone has the right to high quality health care and the access all areas team can assist in this or help when you have a complaint about a service.

If you would like to know more tel: **01925 843872** or email: **lynne.wood@warrington-pct.nhs.uk** or **cath.walmsley@warrington-pct.nhs.uk**

## 11. Friends and relationships

All young people want and need good friends and happy relationships. We all need to know where to go for good information, advice, guidance and support.

The youth advice shop offers a free and confidential sexual health service for young people aged between 11 to 19 years who want growing up and relationship advice. They are based at the Gateway, 89 Sankey Street, Warrington and satellite clinics at various locations in the town.

- Tel: **01925 644202**
- Web: **www.waryas.co.uk**

The sexual health team offer advice and support with contraception and sexual health issues. The team provide appointment clinics and drop-in sessions at various locations through the town. The sexual health team are based at Garven Place Clinic, Garven Place, Warrington, WA1 1GP. Appointments can be made through the central booking line.

- Tel: **01925 644202**.

Girls group is a personal development project for young women aged 11-19. It is run by Warrington youth club and the NSPCC in partnership. The group provides a safe, relaxed environment within which young women aged 11-19 can socialise, talk about issues that concern them, develop confidence, self-esteem and gain a sense of identity.

- Tel: **01925 581226** or **581213**

## 12. What to do for fun and support in Warrington

- leisure and social activities, including opportunities for influencing local decision making;
- how young people can access mainstream community facilities and local youth services (for example, access to staff with expertise in supporting young people with different needs);
- volunteering opportunities and the support available to access them;
- care support available to help young people access social opportunities (e.g. a personal assistant or assistive technology) and develop friendships, and how to apply for that support; and
- support in using the internet and social media to find information and develop and maintain friendships, including where they can go for guidance on using the internet safely and how to protect themselves against cyber-bullying and exploitation.

There is a lot for young people to do around Warrington. Find out more by contacting some of the organisations below.

### Families Information Service

The Families Information Service operates a directory of services for Warrington. The purpose of the directory is to provide up-to-date information to help children, young people, parents, carers, and local practitioners to be aware of and to have access to local services in and around Warrington.

- Tel: **01925 443131**
- Email: **[fis@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:fis@warrington.gov.uk)**
- Web: **[www.warrington.gov.uk](http://www.warrington.gov.uk)**

### Parent Partnership – Warrington and Halton

Parent partnership provide support and guidance to parents of children and young people with additional educational needs from 0 – 19.

They can offer support and guidance in statutory assessments and statementing procedures, annual reviews and meetings, changing schools and making the transition from school and college to the adult world.

- Tel: **01925 442978**
- Email: **[whparentpartnership@warrington.gov.uk](mailto:whparentpartnership@warrington.gov.uk)**
- Web: **[www.warringtonandhaltonparentpartnership.co.uk](http://www.warringtonandhaltonparentpartnership.co.uk)**

## **Parent and carer forum**

The parent and carer forum want to be the voice of disabled children and their families in Warrington. Their aim is to raise issues and make sure they are listened to and acted upon. They are working to support and connect families in Warrington – both newly diagnosed and existing.

Warrington parents and carers forum is the result of parent participation in the government's 'Aiming High for Disabled Children' initiative and the Parent Chairs of this group are also involved at a strategic level with Warrington Council's Children and Young People Services. To find out more contact them on: **07581 302172** or email: **warrpac@googlemail.com**

## **Parent channel**

Parentchannel.tv is a new website that gives free, on-demand advice to parents and carers of 5-19 year olds, providing realistic and practical advice.

There are 97 online films on topics ranging from everyday to hard hitting: bullying, sex, stress, depression, family life, peer pressure and many more.

- Web: **www.parentchannel.tv**

## **Parr Hall**

Parr Hall is Warrington's leading theatre venue which holds a wide variety of live entertainment.

You can find out what you could go to see by contacting the box office on: **01925 442345** or on the website: **www.pyramidparrhall.co.uk**

## **Pyramid**

The Pyramid holds lots of classes and workshops where you can have fun, meet new friends and learn new skills. Whatever your age or experience, there is something for you!

Most classes cost just £4 (£3.50 for concessions), and even less if you guarantee your place with a full term ticket, available for all classes.

You can find out what you could go to see by contacting the box office on: **01925**

**442345** or on the website: **[www.pyramidparrhall.co.uk](http://www.pyramidparrhall.co.uk)**

## **Leisure centres**

Leisure Warrington have a choice of 5 fitness suites, 7 swimming pools, and a lots of fitness classes for all levels.

Regular exercise helps to reduce stress, lowers the risks of lots of long-term illnesses such as heart disease and stroke, helps you sleep better and will even make you feel great and provides an opportunity to socialise and meet new people.

For further details of what is on offer visit your nearest centre.

- Broomfields leisure centre, tel: **01925 268768**
- Birchwood leisure and tennis complex, tel: **01925 458130**
- Fordton leisure centre, tel: **01925 572504**
- Great Sankey leisure centre, tel: **01925 724411**
- Woolston leisure centre, tel: **01925 813939**

There are also many other gym and fitness centres around Warrington that offer similar services.

## **Carers centre**

The carers centre provides a focal point for the carers of Warrington. A carer is someone who without payment helps and supports a relative, child, neighbour or friend who because of illness, disability, frailty or addiction is unable to manage alone. The carers centre offers a voice for carers to enable them to influence any decisions about care offered in our area. They also offer social activities and carers have the opportunity to join other carers for a short break.

If you would like to know more contact the carers centre on: **01925 644212.**

## **Young carers**

Like the carers centre there is a young and caring project that provides advice and support to young people under the age of 19 providing a caring role to someone like a relative, sibling, neighbour or friend who because of illness, disability, frailty or addiction is unable to manage alone, there are also opportunities for young carers to join other young people in social activities.

If you would like to know more contact the young and caring project on: **01925 248466.**

## **Buddy Up project**

Warrington youth club offers a bespoke befriending service called Buddy Up for disabled young people from across Warrington. This service provides disabled children and young people with access to a 'buddy'. The buddies are either young volunteers aged 15 to 19 who have completed a training course or adult volunteers.

If you would like more information about this project please contact the senior manager on **01925 581226** or the **Buddy Up Co-ordinator** on **01925 581203**.

## Words explained

### Understanding the jargon

There are many words and phrases used by professionals and members of staff who work with people with learning disabilities. The following is a list of some of the words and phrases that you might come across and a brief explanation about what they mean.

**Processes** – this is the way in which things get done

**Community teams** – are the groups of people that can help you

**Assessments** – are the way in which professionals find things out about a child and their family

**National framework** – are the guidelines for how services should be delivered

**Modernisation** – is making the services we receive suitable to for people today and moving away from traditional, dated services

**Personalisation** – is the way services are changing to put service user in charge of their own funds for services

**Further education** – is education beyond school such as colleges, work based providers or specialist colleges

**Counselling** – is a way that you can be helped to deal with things and make decisions

**Consultation** – is the chance for you to discuss something with a trained professional or when a professional wants to discuss something with you

**PCT** - Primary Care Trust, this is part of the health service

**CAMHS** - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

**CDC** - Child Development Centre brings together a range of different health services to disabled children and their families

**CIN** - Child in Need: a term used within children's social care services

**CIC** - Children in Care

**CLD** - Complex Learning Disabilities

**Code of practice** - This is a guide for schools and Local Education Authorities about the assessment of children and young people with special educational needs and the

assistance that can be given

**DfE** - Department for Education

**DLA** - Disability Living Allowance

**DP** - Direct Payments

**DPA** - Disabled Persons Act

**FACS** - Fair Access to Care Services, guidelines about levels of need when adult social services carry out an assessment

**FE** - Further Education, usually means from 16 years and upwards (often at college)

**GP** - General Practitioner or family doctor

**HAP** - Health Action Plan

**IEP** - Individual Education Plan, usually developed at school.

**LA** - Local Authority, also known as the council

**LD** - Learning Disability

**LDD** - Learning Difficulties and Disabilities, a term sometimes used in children's services

**MLD** - Moderate Learning Difficulties/Mild Learning Disability

**OT** - Occupational Therapist or Therapy

**PA** - Personal Assistants can be employed to support people with social care needs through direct payments

**PCP** - Person Centred Planning or Person Centred Plan

**PMLD** - Profound Multiple Learning Difficulties, a category of statement of educational need

**SEN** - Special Educational Needs

**SENCo** - Special Educational Needs Coordinator, a designated person in school.

**Statement** - a document that sets out the specific educational needs of a child and the assistance that will be provided to that child whilst at school