

# Safe systems, pathways and transitions

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Susan Ashmore  
Assistant Director- Ashford and Canterbury  
Lead for Transitions

# L's Story - What Worked Well, an example of a good Transition

L has an Autistic Spectrum Condition and was assessed under the Care Act at age 17 years and 8 months

My voice was listened to

Networks around L to support them

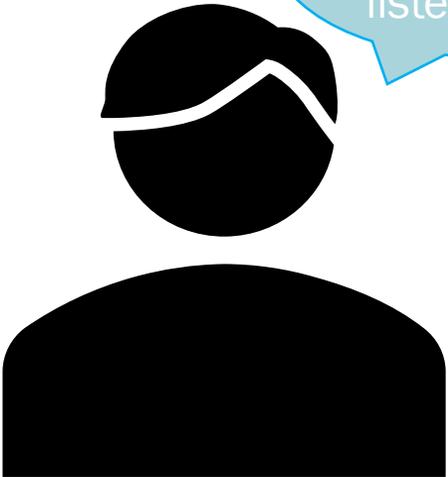
Joined up working between different support services

L is now receiving services through adult social care with provision placement and Direct Payments.

Education Health and Care Plan in place

Good communication and Change Support

Coordination to support L's onward journey and transition



L was always involved and informed, providing feedback

Adult social worker attended all key meetings

Visits and communication methods based on L's needs

Early transition planning is important in helping to prevent a gap in service. It considers the young person's well-being and what care and support they will need. Predominantly, young people come through directly from the children's and young person's service into adult social care.

There are currently three transition pathways in Kent County Council (KCC):

- Children in Care
- Strengthening Independence Service (previously Lifespan Pathway and Disabled Children and Young Person's Service) 0 -25
- Children Leaving Care (18+ services)

Historically, the process has been confusing due to the multiple entry points, and often resulted in delays in a smooth and well managed transition, a lack of preparedness for the young person, and often left parents/care givers feeling disenfranchised.

Implementing a strategic approach to an integrated, whole-family, patient-led, asset-based health and social care service, can help to address some of the challenges children and families face at a time of transition.

Needs-led and outcome-based systems help to reduce unnecessary and unwanted change. Families should feel seen, heard and enabled to ask for help and to feel confident to help themselves.

The system should have a clear understanding of the local communities and demographics and needs to build a workforce and offer which meets the diverse needs of the population. Growing neighbourhood and place-based solutions and innovations outside of (but connected to) specialist services will target populations who are seldom engaged.

We aim to build a system where a family is met with understanding and empathy when they tell their story, and we respond with a coordinated solution which addresses their needs.

# What Are We Doing?

Making a  
difference  
every day

- Robust joint working ahead of the point of transition to ensure lean decision making
- A streamlined, agreed referral process to support smooth transition
- Staff are fully trained in their legal responsibilities and share training
- Joint visits between workers, working closely with health teams around the family
- Working with commissioning to transcend health and social care for joined up, single access provision

Adult Social Care and Health (ASCH) budgets for the expected costs of transition when calculating its demographic pressure. The basis of this calculation is a combination of prior experience and known transition costs.

The potential costs in 2023/2024 from the transition pathways are as follows;

- Children in Care/Leaving Care – 46 people in Residential or Supported Living settings turning 18 in 2023/2024 who may require a service, potential cost to ASCH of £2.6m
- Strengthening Independence Service – 122 young people turning 26 in 2023/2024, potential cost to ASCH of £4.1m

The cost of transition forms part of the overall demographic pressure and is offset by those who leave adult social care services.

Cost comparisons between packages of care are often unhelpful due to the impact of age, current market pressures and change in practice. Packages of care for young people who are transitioning to adult social care, may therefore appear expensive in comparison to the average weekly costs for adult social care.

- Transitions panel with stakeholders from children's and adult social care
- Adult social care and children and young people services joint audit of the Strengthening Independence Service, and transition points
- Establish shared protocols and strengthen a collaborative approach
- Development of a future planning tool (Power BI) to track young people
- Linking in with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities workstream within the Strategic Reset Programme