

# 7 Minute Briefing: Multi-Agency Audit Transitions to Adulthood

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## What can you do now?

- Understand and work in accordance with the Transitions Toolkit.
- Ensure young people are supported to make decisions, and apply the principles enshrined in the Mental Capacity Act 2005.
- Ensure that young people's views and wishes are central to care planning, and contingencies are in place in the event of care arrangements breaking down.
- Ensure all young people known to services are referred to adult services on their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Work to achieve good outcomes with young people through application of strength based, person centred, positive risk taking and trauma informed approaches in practice.
- Be legally literate and understand the context of legal framework for 16 and 17 year olds, ensuring effective transitional risk and safeguarding arrangements are well managed.



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## Background

The following agencies were requested to take part in the audit:

- Walsall Children's Social Care
- Walsall Adult Social Care
- Schools
- Walsall Healthcare Trust
- Black Country Integrated Care Board (GPs)
- West Midlands Police
- Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (CAMHS)
- Street Teams (returns for one young person)
- Housing – whg and Green Square Accord (none known)
- Youth Justice (none known)

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## Next Steps for the Partnership

- All agencies to review their mechanisms for tracking and reviewing people in transition.
- Launch the Transition Toolkit and Guidance.
- Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Training for Children's social care workforce.
- Adult Services to consider how to meet the independent living needs of young people residing out of borough.
- Develop a Multi-Agency Training Plan.
- Person Centred Planning approach, using PCP accessible tools to support planning and review functions.
- Improve coordination when there are multiple plans for a young person, e.g. EHCP,

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## Aim of the Audit

The scope of this audit was considering young people who were either approaching or had recently had their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. The key areas of focus were:

the timeliness of the child's transition process, assessment to inform young person's transition, decision-making and management oversight, the effectiveness of plans, how professionals engaged with the family, and the coordination of multi-agency working.



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## Key Findings

### Areas for development:

- Timeliness of referral by Children's Social Care into Adult Social Care and completing the Care Act Assessment
- Legislation and Practice, in particular in relation to MCA Assessment, Best Interests Decision Making and application of COP DoLS for 16 and 17 year olds.
- Contingency and parallel planning being more effectively embedded into the multi-agency plans for young people.
- Management oversight and escalation as required when there is delay / drift.
- Ensuring a trauma informed approach to the way we work with young people and their families through the transition process.

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## Key Findings

### Areas of good practice:

- Communication and multi-agency working.
- Practitioners invested time, effort and energy into building meaningful and positive relationships with young people.
- Good partnership working between children and adult services.
- Management and IRO oversight and the transitions panel was seen to be a positive step forward.
- Practitioners at the event were all thoughtful, reflective and caring in their approach to the young people being discussed.

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## Overview

The audit comprised of six young people aged 17 – 18 and the MAA audit tool was adapted to focus on the areas relevant to this cohort. The audit panel was held virtually. On the day of the audit, for each young person considered there was a practitioner reflective discussion first, and then the practitioners met as a group with the audit panel. The audit discussion is a reflective learning exercise, and based on understanding what has worked well in multi-agency practice, what the challenges and areas of learning have been, what could we have done and do differently.

**5 of the 6 audits were considered to be requires improvement with one audit graded good.**