



Relationships and emotional health and well-being

Transition Social Worker

Wandsworth London
Borough Council

November 2022

As part of a programme of support to vulnerable care leavers the Transition Social Worker helps care leavers access adult social care support.

Why? It was recognised that referrals to adult services for Care Act assessments were inconsistent and young people were not being properly supported to engage with services.

What?

- LB Wandsworth leaving care service have appointed a full time social worker to undertake Care Act assessments with older children in care and care leavers.
- The post is funded by the leaving care team but supervised jointly by the service managers from leaving care and adult services.
- The transition worker supports the allocated Personal Advisor, working with the young person to undertake the Care Act assessment and present it to the relevant panels. They will remain involved until the young person has settled into the new arrangement – which can take up to 12 months.
- They mainly work with young people who have Autistic Spectrum Disorder or mental health issues. They are also able to undertake Mental Capacity Act assessments
- The transition worker gives greater consistency to the assessments and ensured the difficulties and challenges of leaving care are appropriately presented in any assessment.
- For young people who do not meet adult service criteria the worker is able to support them and the PA to access additional support through the Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) (if it is in place)
- Having a transition social worker has meant that the leaving care service has oversight of the young person pathway plan and support arrangements.
- Having this specialist post in the team has helped to skill up the Personal Advisors through their formal and informal guidance.

Impact They work with about 25-27 young people at a time and have supported over 60 young people since coming into post. It has led to a greater consistency in the assessment, with more young people receiving appropriate support.

TYPICAL PROGRAMME OF SUPPORT WITH A YOUNG PERSON

1. Getting to know the young person and undertaking the Care Act assessment
2. Presenting to adult care panels.
3. Working with adult services commissioner to identify the appropriate resources
4. Support the young person to access the service.
5. Remaining involved until the first review – when the care package goes to ‘annual review’ or until the young person has settled