

ROLE OF THE CONNEXIONS PERSONAL ADVISER (LEAVING CARE)

Introduction

Together with Nottinghamshire County Council's Social Care and Health's Education, Employment & Training Advisers, the Connexions Personal Adviser (Leaving Care) will provide a support service to young people leaving care in Nottinghamshire.

The focus of this support will be to ensure that the maximum numbers of care leavers are engaged in Education, Training or Employment (EET). Priority will be given to those young people in the age group 16-19 who require the maximum support. However, most will be 18 or over reflecting the fact that most Looked After Children remain in care past their sixteenth birthday.

These priorities reflect the cross cutting target shared by Connexions Nottinghamshire and Nottinghamshire County Council Social Services. The key target being the proportion of 19-year-old care leavers engaged in employment, education and training.

Identification of Looked After Young People

Connexions Nottinghamshire has an Information Sharing Agreement with the Social Care & Health Division of Children and Young People's Services for the exchange of information between the two services including Care Leavers.

Connexions Nottinghamshire Minimum Service for Looked After Young People

The appropriate Connexions Personal Adviser will be allocated and make contact with the looked after young person and will ensure at least three contacts each school year, including at least one face-to-face interview.

The Connexions Personal Adviser will complete an APIR (Assessment, Planning, Implementation and Review) Profile for every looked after young person starting at 13 / 14 years of age or contribute to their Common Assessment Framework (CAF) profile, if one is in place.

The young person will be placed in the Priority One Group and all details of contacts will be recorded on the Connexions Database.

Referral of Care Leavers to the Social Care and Health's Education, Employment & Training Advisers / Connexions Personal Adviser (Leaving Care)

Referrals by the Looked After Team to Aftercare should be made when the young person reaches 15 ½ years of age in order to prioritise the needs of those young people planning to leave care. The Connexions Personal Adviser (Leaving Care)/ Social Care and Health's Education, Employment & Training Advisers should be involved with the Pathway Plan process once they have left care. This involvement will form the basis of a needs assessment to determine which young people will require additional support following their departure from care, from the Connexions Personal Adviser (Leaving Care) or the Social Care and Health's Education, Employment & Training Advisers.

Leaving Care

To ensure a well managed and informed transition prior to leaving care (or as soon as possible afterwards) the Leaving Care Review meeting will be held involving the young person, the Reviewing Officer; their current Social Worker, an Aftercare Worker; their Connexions Personal Adviser and the Connexions Personal Adviser (Leaving Care)/ Social Care and Health's Education, Employment & Training Adviser. It is crucial that the Young Person is at the centre of this transition process.

Following this meeting the Connexions Personal Adviser role will transfer to the Connexions Personal Adviser (Looked After)/ Social Care and Health's Education, Employment & Training Advisers at the Leaving Care Review.

Following this transfer of roles, the Connexions Personal Adviser (Leaving Care) or the Social Care and Health's Education, Employment & Training Advisers will be responsible for ensuring that the young person's Connexions team is kept regularly up to date with the young person's current status (i.e. whether or not in Education, Employment or Training).

The Connexions Personal Adviser (Leaving Care) will update the Connexions Client Database themselves for the young people that they are working with.

Role of the Connexions Personal Adviser (Leaving Care)

Age	Action
12 plus	NCC Social Care and Health to provide information quarterly to Connexions Nottinghamshire of looked after young people
13 plus	Looked after young people allocated Connexions Personal Adviser to provide on-going support
15 plus	Pathway Plan drawn up – Connexions Personal Adviser (Leaving Care) or Social Care and Health's Education, Employment & Training Advisers involved together with the young person's Social Worker
16 plus	Young person leaves care. Tripartite meeting takes place involving young person; Connexions Personal Adviser; Connexions Personal Adviser (Leaving Care or Social Care and Health's Education, Employment & Training Advisers
	Connexions Personal Adviser (Leaving Care) or Social Care and Health's Education, Employment & Training Advisers take on the role of the Connexions Personal Adviser where maximum support is required