

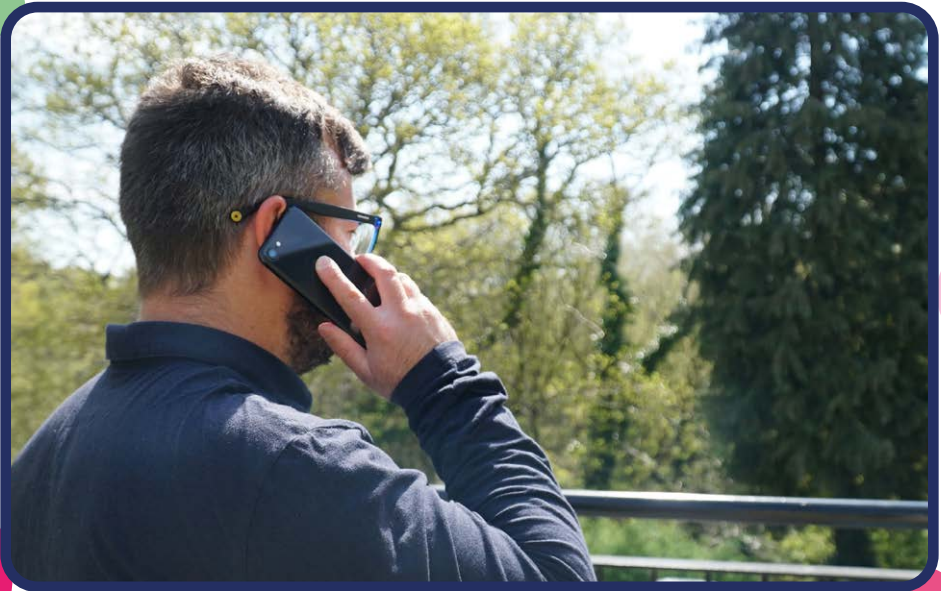
ADVICE TEAM



Dorset's Disability Charity

# The Transitions Checklist

*Making difficult situations easier*



Charity no. 282197

**The transition from children's to adult's services is a scary time for any family, and we'll be with you throughout to make sure you know what you need to be doing to make sure your child continues to receive the right support.**

Here we will go through the different milestones and what needs to be considered at each point in time.

## **16th Birthday**

Your child is now regarded as an adult for DWP and benefit purposes, and will be assumed to be able to manage their benefit applications and reviews independently. Consider whether applying to be their appointee for benefit purposes is necessary, and if so, your local Jobcentre Plus or relevant benefit office can help start the application.

As an appointee you will be able to manage benefit payments, reviews and speak to DWP on their behalf.

## **After the 16th Birthday**

If your child is receiving DLA, the DWP will ask them to apply for Personal Independence Payments (PIP). This application focuses on the person's ability to look after their personal care, engage with others, and go out on their own. It is paid in two components, one for daily living and one for mobility. Each component is paid either the standard or enhanced rate.

The application process:

- ✓ Initial claim and short telephone interview
- ✓ Complete application form
- ✓ Consultation (case specific)
- ✓ Decision
- ✓ Appeal if necessary

If you are your child's appointee you will be able to manage all of these stages on their behalf. The PIP new claims telephone number is **0800 917 2222**.

## **From 16th Birthday or upon leaving full time education**

It's time to apply for Universal Credit, which can be done online through the government's website. During the process, the DWP should raise that your child is unable to work due to their disability (if they do not, you must raise it). You will then receive a limited capability for work form to complete and return.

If you claim Universal Credit, then your Child Benefit and Child Tax Credits will stop.

## **16th - 17th Birthday**

Parental responsibility ends when your child turns 18 and one day, from this point forward they are expected to be able to make their own financial and welfare decisions.

If you need to make decisions on their behalf, you must apply to the Court of Protection to be appointed as their legal deputy.

At this point, consider if a deputyship is necessary and start the application process. It's a long process and ideally you need it in place when your child turns 18. Consider your child's income now and in the future, and any potential inheritance and whether a financial deputyship is necessary, or whether an appointeeship for DWP benefits is all that is needed. It is advisable to seek advice before starting the process.

A deputyship order gives you the same rights as you have before your child turns 18. The Court of Protection telephone number is **0300 456 4600**.

## **18th Birthday**

Parental rights end and you no longer have legal authority to make decisions on behalf of your adult son or daughter. If you are not a deputy under the Court of Protection, professionals will make 'best interest decisions' about your child in consultation with you.

If your child has mental capacity to make their own decisions, but needs help to do so, or another person to speak on their behalf, they can appoint attorneys under a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) to act for them when needed.

And finally, social care from the local authority Children's Services will end and Adult Social Care Services will take over.

While this can be an incredibly stressful time for families, we are happy to discuss any of the above transitions with you and can help with PIP claims, limited capability for work forms under Universal Credit, and Lasting Power of Attorney applications, and can refer you to a solicitor for advice on Deputyship applications.



# ADVICE TEAM

*"Absolutely hassle free service. Therefore a pleasure."*

*"I was taken through my claim with professionalism and got the best result possible, minimising my stress."*

**During 2021-22, we were successful in 95% of appeals, making sure everyone is due the support they deserve.**



**Dorset's Disability Charity**

## **DIVERSE ABILITIES**

Advice Team, Central Office,  
Langside Avenue, Poole, Dorset  
BH12 5BN

**0300 330 5514**

**[www.diverseabilities.org.uk](http://www.diverseabilities.org.uk)**

