



STOCKPORT

Preparing For

Adulthood

Strategy

Draft

2025 - 2030

ONE

STOCKPORT

High Hazel
LANE Grove
MARPLE
Marple
Bridge
Romiley
Wood
BREDBURY
Le Brinnington
Reddish
the HEATONS
BRAMHALL
Great Cheshire
Moor Hulme
CALE
GREEN HEALD
GREEN
CHEADLE
GATLEY
HEATH
EDGELEY
VAVENPORT
CHADLE

Introduction

It is our ambition for Stockport to be the best place for children and young people to grow up and for our adults to live happy and healthy lives

In Stockport we are clear that everyone has the right to a good life. People shouldn't be defined or limited by their illness disability, or additional needs. People want to lead a gloriously ordinary life, defined by personalisation, choice and control. You can read more about the national programme from Social Care Futures by visiting www.socialcarefuture.org.uk

We want children and young people to be able to live in the place they call home with respect and dignity and have choices about their lives. We want to provide the best start in life and create opportunities that enable children and young people to grow up with opportunities that help them grow into their adulthood. We want to enable people to be independent, with support if needed to access their community and be in control of their care and support living a life free from abuse.

This strategy outlines how collectively social care, education and health and partners will work together to support our commitment to Preparing for Adulthood across Stockport.

Stockport Live Well

Stockport's neighbourhoods are unique. People value a sense of community, feeling safe and having pride in their local area. When people face challenges, they look for help and support locally, whether that is through family, social connections, communities or neighbourhoods. Stockport Live Well is about working in our neighbourhoods, focusing on the strengths and needs of different areas and redesigning the way we work with people in our communities to create happy and healthy lives for everyone in Stockport. It is centred on working together as partners across the borough to bring together early help and support, brilliant community spaces, and joined up health and care services to make it easier for residents and communities to help themselves, their families, and those they care for in places close to them.

Our Preparing for Adulthood programme is a key component of Stockport Live Well. The four pathways set out later in this document will enable us to ensure that young people with SEND are supported to live the lives they want to lead, equipped with the knowledge, skills and confidence to make informed choices. Stockport Live Well is also about tackling inequalities, as part of our programme we are committed to reducing health inequalities for young people with SEND.

ONE STOCKPORT ONE FUTURE

Stockport is an ambitious place undergoing a spectacular transformation. A place to work and play, with green space and lots of culture on our doorstep, with excellent connections to Greater Manchester, London and the Peak District. It is a place where residents, businesses and communities work together to make good things happen and get people the support they need.

But Stockport is not immune from the big challenges of our times. The challenges facing us are big. They will take time. That is why One Stockport: One Future looks ahead to 2040. We want to ensure that Stockport is a place that is resilient to whatever changes and opportunities will come in the future.

One Stockport: One Future is the next phase of our borough plan. It sets out how we will work together to tackle the challenges we face, so Stockport can be the best place to live happy and healthy lives, a place where anything is possible, a place that everyone, right across the Borough can be proud of. It is embedded into our Council Plan and will be delivered through our organisational and partnership strategies.

DELIVERING 5 BIG THINGS TOGETHER

To achieve our shared vision to 'make Stockport the best place to live happy and healthy lives', we must have a relentless focus on the biggest challenges facing our borough:-

- Fair and inclusive – making Stockport a great, diverse place to live, where everyone can thrive
- Climate Action Now – creating a 'green print' for Stockport so it is a climate friendly place to live, work, play and invest.

No one thing or organisation can address these challenges alone. One Stockport: One Future is a collective call to action to work together to deliver the '5 big things' we believe will transform our borough over the next 15 years to help us achieve our shared vision.

The role of the Preparing for Adulthood Strategy in delivering:

ONE STOCKPORT ONE FUTURE

Our overarching ambition for Stockport is ‘to be the best place to live happy and healthy lives’. We want to create a place where anything is possible, a place that everyone right across the borough can be proud of.

The strategy describes what we will do to ensure that people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are supported to live a Gloriously Ordinary Life. We are committed to co production with people, this will help us to ensure that Stockport:

- Maximises independence for young people with SEND, aligned to good jobs and homes
- Ensures that we are working to the outcomes that matter to young people, their families/ carers, so that they feel that Stockport is the best place to grow up
- Reduces inequalities by removing barriers to health care for young people with SEND, aligned to Best Health and Care.
- Enables young people with SEND to be active in their communities in a way which they want to, aligned to thriving neighbourhoods
- Maximises independence and accessibility of transport for young people with SEND, aligned to Clean, Green Transport.

This strategy supports and works alongside other strategies across Stockport that support SEND, Childrens Social Care and Adult Social Care. Please see appendix A for further details

1

Good Jobs and Homes



2

The Best Place to Grow Up



3

Best Health and Care



4

Thriving Neighbourhoods



5

Clean, Green Transport



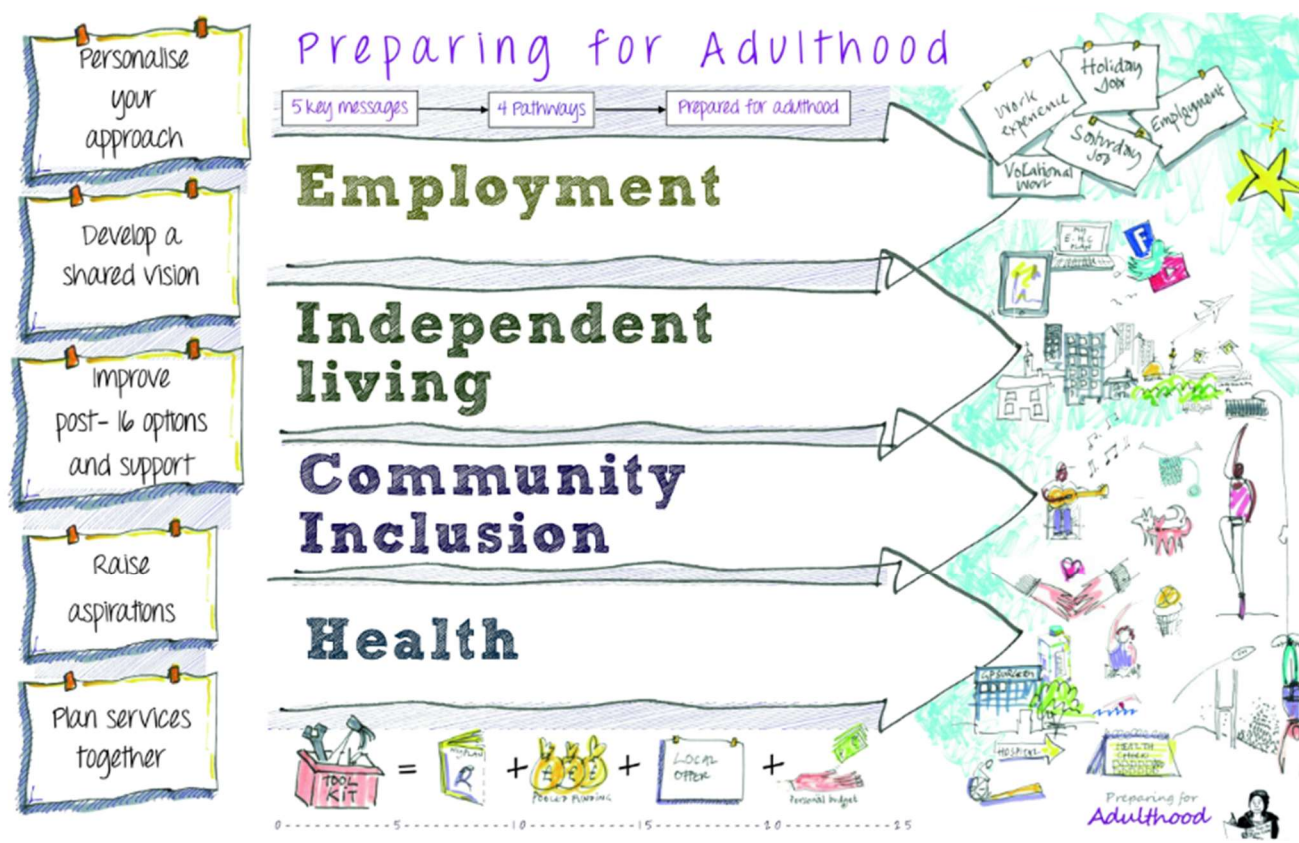
Preparing for Adulthood

Growing up is an amazing, empowering and sometimes challenging journey where young people and their families get to explore opportunities and make meaningful choices. When dreaming about the future and aiming high, it's important to start planning early. Speaking with friends, family, school, and professionals can provide valuable insights and support for young people. Having a voice and being heard is essential, as it helps young people to live their lives the way they want, leading to a fulfilling and vibrant adulthood.

We have worked with the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTI) to adapt the widely recognised four NDTI pathways into specific aims/objectives and actions owned across Stockport to enable children and young people grow up into adults having the best opportunities, are as independent as possible with fulfilling lives.

The SEND Code of Practice emphasises a personalised approach to all aspects of support, raising aspirations for a fulfilling adult life, improving post-16 options and support that lead to employment, independent living, good health, friends, relationships, and community inclusion. It also stresses the importance of ensuring young people, particularly those with SEND, have access to meaningful employment and activity opportunities. This equips them with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to make informed choices about their lives. It also supports community inclusion and ensures health needs are identified early and met through coordinated, person-centred planning.

Figure one below provides a visual of the [four NDTI pathways](#):



These 4 pathways will become our focus in Stockport to drive developments across services focusing on opportunities for children and young people in these pathways. This commitment across all pathways will ensure we:

- Develop a shared vision of improved life chances for young people, families and all key partners
- Personalise our approach - develop a personalised approach to all aspects of support using person centred practices, personal budgets and building communities.
- Raise aspirations - for a fulfilling adult life, by sharing clear information about what has already worked for others
- Improve post-16 options and support - develop further post-16 options and support that lead to employment, independent living, good health, friends, relationships and community inclusion
- Throughout the strategy embed our Stockport SEND outcomes Framework, as these outcomes have been set by young people in Stockport.

This strategy is designed for individuals aged 14 to 25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who are growing up. We recognise that this agenda begins before age 14 and should maintain a positive and ambitious focus throughout childhood. This strategy is also for parent, carers and professionals supporting children/young people and encouraging them to look at the various options and choices the young person can make as they grow up into adults. To promote accessibility, we have also developed an easy read version of the strategy.

Co-production and working with people is at the heart of Stockport's approach to growing up into adulthood, ensuring that young people with additional needs and their families are actively involved in shaping the support they receive. This collaborative ethos not only improves outcomes but also builds trust, resilience and aspiration among young people and their families and/or carers as they prepare for adulthood. The ambitions of the Stockport Live Well programme and the principles in the Stockport co-production charter are key to supporting this approach.

This Preparing for Adulthood strategy outlines a framework aimed at supporting young people in achieving their outcomes and growing up into adult life. By raising aspirations and creating opportunities for a gloriously ordinary life.

The strategy will support us to develop an action plan supported by experts by their experience, young people, their families and carers to deliver change and support developments across Stockport. This will be supported by alignment with the Strategic Frameworks and Supporting Documents.

The Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) Strategy has been developed to complement and strengthen the delivery of Stockport's wider strategic priorities. It does not stand in isolation but is embedded within, and supports, a cohesive system of local plans, policies, and statutory frameworks that collectively shape how we enable young people to thrive into adulthood. This agenda will support young people across Stockport and will link with existing areas of development that support all young people.

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The PfA Strategy will work alongside and contribute to the delivery of key strategies and frameworks, ensuring a coordinated and person-centred approach across education, health, and social care. This alignment promotes consistent outcomes, shared accountability, and a seamless experience for young people and their families as they prepare for adult life. Appendix A provides a list of the key strategies, legislation, and policies that underpin and support the delivery of this strategy.

Priorities

Each of the 4 pathways will support specific actions across services to create the opportunities that young people and their family carers can use to support their future planning.

This will be advice, information and guidance at the right time which works towards raising aspirations for a gloriously ordinary life that focuses on independence into adulthood

Pathway 1: Employment

We want a strong emphasis on enabling young people, particularly those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to access meaningful employment and meaningful activity opportunities.

The employment pathway is one of the 4 key pathways designed to start early, from age 14, into adulthood, to ensure young people are supported to explore aspirations, develop skills and access real world opportunities.



Employment

Our Commitment

- To be aspirational and promote a gloriously ordinary life that includes employment as a core outcome
- To ensure young people with SEND have access to a broad range of flexible, responsive employment pathways
- To ensure young people with SEND are confident and have employability skills
- To embed employment, and/or further education/training planning into Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and annual reviews from Year 9 onwards
- Create work placement opportunities, supported internships, and voluntary opportunities that lead to employment
- Support the use of technology and digital enabled care to support all areas of employment and being work ready

We will

- Strengthen partnerships with local employers, education providers and the voluntary sector to create supported internships, work placements and apprenticeships through our already established SEND employment group
- Provide tailored careers advice and guidance that reflects individual strengths interests and communication needs
- Promote inclusive recruitment practices and support employers to offer sustainable roles for young people with additional needs
- Support a future workforce that is diverse to strengthen our local economy
- Deliver events that bring together services, employers, education providers, families and communities to raise awareness and aspirations for paid work
- Update promotional materials and guides to reflect current post 16 options, including supported internships and vocational pathways
- Develop a mentoring network designed to support people with connecting them to people with the relevant work skills and experience in their interested field

Pathway 2: Independent living

Supporting independent living is a key priority in Stockport's Preparing for Adulthood strategy. From age 14, we aim to equip young people with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to make informed choices about where and how they live into adult

life. This includes embedding independent living goals into Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP), offering early access to life skills development such as budgeting and travel training, and ensuring families are aware of the full range of housing and support options.

Through co-produced resources, strengthened partnerships with housing providers, and alignment with the borough's Supported and Specialist Housing Strategy, we are committed to enabling inclusive, community-based living that reflects the aspirations of young people and their families.

This pathway is grounded in Stockport's commitment to co-production, ensuring that young people and their families are active partners in planning for the future. It is supported by a multi-agency operational group and aligns with broader strategies such as the Learning Disability Strategy and the Supported Housing Strategy and Improvement Programme.

Our commitment

- To empower young people to make informed choices about where and how they live
- To promote independence, confidence, and practical life skills from a young age



**Independent
living**

- To ensure young people and their families understand the full range of housing and support options available to them
- To develop accommodation that flexibly meets a wide range of individual circumstances

We will

- Embed independent living goals into Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) from Year 9 onwards following focussed discussions
- Provide early access to life skills development, including budgeting, cooking, travel training, and tenancy awareness
- Strengthen partnerships with housing providers, social landlords, and supported living services to increase availability and diversity of housing options
- Use technology and digital care solutions to develop independent living skills, SMART houses that promote independence
- Deliver co-produced workshops and resources to help young people and families explore independent living options
- Expand access to supported internships and community-based learning that build practical independence
- Align with the borough's Supported and Specialist Housing Strategy (2025–2035), which aims to reduce reliance on residential care and promote inclusive, community-based living
- Use the Preparing for Adulthood Operational Group to monitor progress and ensure that young people's voices shape service delivery and housing development priorities

Pathway 3: Community Inclusion

Community inclusion is a vital element of Stockport's Preparing for Adulthood strategy, recognising that a fulfilling adult life includes meaningful relationships, social participation, and a sense of belonging. We aim to support all our

children and young people—particularly those with SEND—to connect with their communities, develop friendships, and access inclusive opportunities that reflect their interests and aspirations as early as possible. Through co-production, partnership with the VCFSE sector, and a focus on reducing barriers to participation, we are committed to creating welcoming environments where all young people are seen, valued, and supported to thrive.



**Community
Inclusion**

Our commitment

- To ensure young people with additional needs are supported to develop friendships, build relationships, and feel connected to their communities

- To promote a sense of belonging and inclusion by reducing social isolation and increasing participation in community life
- To create inclusive environments where young people are seen, valued, and supported to contribute meaningfully
- To teach young people about rights, responsibilities, and how they contribute to society
- Provide advice, guidance, and information that promotes self-determination and independence

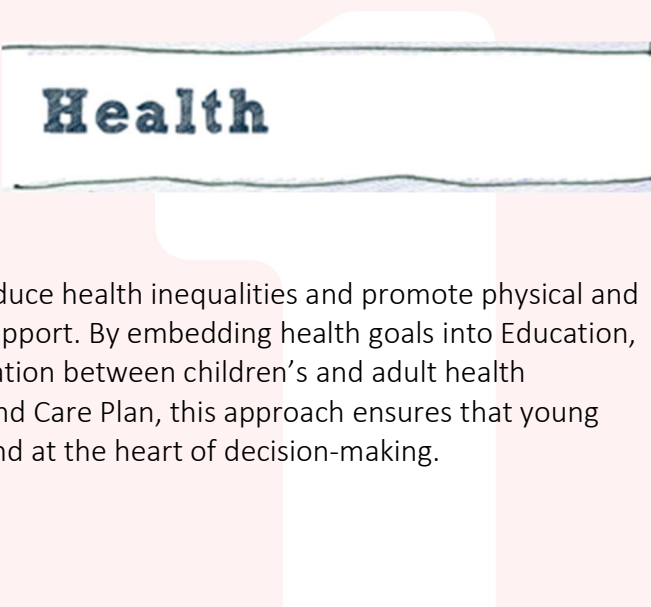
We will

- Embed community inclusion goals into EHCPs. With a particular focus on planning from Year 9 onwards
- Encourage participation in extracurricular school activities to build confidence and social networks
- Strengthen partnerships with the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector to co-design inclusive opportunities
- Ensure young people and families are aware of local groups, activities, and accessible spaces that support social participation
- Create communities that are diverse and inclusive where our children/young people with additional needs are seen, heard and valued
- Deliver co-produced workshops and events that promote social connection and community engagement
- Expand access to inclusive leisure, arts, and cultural activities through the Local Offer and community directories
- Work with community leaders and service providers to improve accessibility and reduce barriers to participation, including transport and communication support
- Use the PfA Operational Group and SEND Priority Group to monitor progress and ensure young people's voices shape inclusive community development

Pathway 4: Health

The Health Pathway sets out a clear and ambitious vision to ensure that young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Stockport are supported to lead healthy, fulfilling lives as they grow up into adults.

A focus on early identification, this pathway aims to reduce health inequalities and promote physical and emotional wellbeing through coordinated, proactive support. By embedding health goals into Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), strengthening collaboration between children's and adult health services, and aligning with the borough's One Health and Care Plan, this approach ensures that young people and their families are empowered, informed, and at the heart of decision-making.



Health

The Health Pathway sets out a clear and ambitious vision to ensure that young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Stockport are supported to lead healthy, fulfilling lives as they transition into adulthood.

By embedding these aims and actions into everyday practice, the Health Pathway ensures that young people with SEND are not only supported through growing up but are also empowered to take ownership of their health and wellbeing. Through strong partnerships, early intervention, and a shared commitment to inclusive, person-centred care, we can create a future where every young person in Stockport has the opportunity to thrive—physically, emotionally, and socially.

Our commitment

- To enable young people to understand how to be as healthy as possible as they go into their adult life, both physically and emotionally including self-care and accessing health services
- To ensure health needs are identified early and met through coordinated, person-centred planning
- To reduce health inequalities for young people with SEND as they move into adulthood
- To promote healthy lifestyles through access to universal services for all residents

We will

- Embed health and wellbeing goals into EHCPs and transition planning from Year 9 onwards
- Strengthen joint working between children's and adult health services to ensure continuity of care
- Promote access to annual health checks, health action plans, and preventative services for young people with learning disabilities and autism
- Ensure smooth transition from children's health services to adult health services
- Align with the borough's One Health and Care Plan, which sets out a shared vision for integrated health and social care across Stockport
- Deliver co-produced health workshops and resources to help young people and families understand their health rights and responsibilities
- Ensure recovery plans are in place for services who have longer than national average wait time
- Work with GPs, community health teams, and schools to ensure early identification of health needs and timely referrals
- Use public health initiatives to target groups and individuals that experience the biggest health inequalities
- Ensure access to universal services that focus on providing reasonable adjustments
- Provide mental health support and strategies for coping with change

- Use the PfA Operational Group and SEND Priority Group to monitor progress, share data, and ensure young people's voices shape health service development

Transitional Safeguarding: A Shared Responsibility

Recognising the unique challenges faced by young people as they progress towards adulthood, our approach to transitional safeguarding is built around proactive, coordinated support during this pivotal stage.

By strengthening collaboration between services and embedding safeguarding into all aspects of planning and provision, we help ensure that young people are safeguarded, empowered, and resilient as they make the transition to adult life. This shared responsibility forms a solid foundation for safeguarding, supporting each individual's journey towards greater independence and wellbeing.

Our Commitment

- To ensure young people are safeguarded through developmentally appropriate, person-centred approaches that extend beyond the age of 18
- To embed Transitional Safeguarding as a core principle across children's and adult services, recognising safeguarding as a shared responsibility
- To reduce the risk of harm and promote resilience during the transition to adulthood, particularly for those with complex needs or vulnerabilities

We will

- Develop a shared understanding of Transitional Safeguarding across all services, informed by best practice models
- Embed safeguarding planning into Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and transition pathways from age 14 onwards
- Strengthen multi-agency collaboration and data-sharing to ensure continuity of support and timely responses to risk

- Ensure safeguarding responses are trauma-informed, proportionate, and shaped by the voices of young people and their families
- Establish joint children's and adult service protocols to manage risks and prevent gaps at age 18
- Deliver joint training across children's and adult services to build confidence and consistency in Transitional Safeguarding practice
- Use co-produced, person-centred planning tools that prioritise young people's voices and rights
- Involve adult social care in complex safeguarding to track ongoing vulnerabilities
- Align Transitional Safeguarding with borough-wide strategies including the SEND Strategy, One Health and Care Plan, the Learning Disability Strategy and the Complex Safeguarding Strategy
- Leverage the Preparing for Adulthood Operational Group and the Complex Safeguarding Group to oversee progress and ensure that transitional safeguarding is effectively integrated throughout all pathways

Delivery

This strategy is overseen by the Preparing for adulthood subgroup of the Stockport SEND Board. The priorities outlined in this plan will be delivered through our co-produced action plan. We will report on progress to the SEND Board bi-monthly.

Appendix A

Appendix A provides a list of our key strategies, legislation and policies supporting the delivery of the Preparing for Adulthood strategy.

One Stockport One Future	One Future Plan - One Stockport
Council Plan 2024 -2027	The Stockport Council Plan - Stockport Council
One Health & Care Plan 2024-29	1a One Stockport Locality Delivery plan 2025 - 2026.pptx
One Stockport Locality Delivery Plan 2025-26	< link to be added once available>
Autism Strategy	Our autism strategy - Stockport Council
Children and Young People Plan (2024-2027)	Children and Young People Plan (2024-2027)
Sufficiency Strategy for Children in Care 2024-2027	Stockport Children in Care Sufficiency Strategy 2024 to 2027
ASC Prevention Strategy	Delivering Early Help and Prevention Strategy 2025 to 2030 - Stockport Council
Learning Disability Strategy	One Stockport Learning Disability Strategy 2025 to 2030 - Stockport Council
SEND Strategy and Local Offer	Our SEND strategy - Stockport Council SEND Local Offer - Stockport Council
All Age Autism Strategy	Our autism strategy - Stockport Council
Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy	Mental Health Strategy 2023-2030.pdf
Think Carer Strategy	Think Carer Strategy 2024 to 2029 - Stockport Council
Technology Enabled Care Strategy	Technology Enabled Care (TEC) Strategy 2025 to 2030 - Stockport Council
Age Friendly Action Plan	<Link to be added once available>
Children and Families Act 2014	• Emphasises person-centred planning and outcomes-focused support. • Requires transition planning to begin by Year 9 (age 13–14). • Promotes joint working across education, health, and social care. • Focuses on four PfA outcomes: employment, independent living, community participation, and health.
Care Act 2014	• Local authorities must carry out transition assessments for young people likely to need adult care services. • Ensures continuity of care—there should be no gap in services when a young person turns 18. • Promotes choice, control, and independence in adult life.
SEND Code of Practice (2015)	• Preparing for adulthood should start early, ideally before Year 9. • All professionals working with young people with SEND should have high aspirations and support them to achieve their goals. • Planning should be person-centred, involving the young person and their family. • Local authorities must ensure strategic planning and joint commissioning to support transitions



For further advice and guidance, please contact;

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