

Salford City Council

**AGREEMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
PATHWAY PLANING FOR ELIGIBLE AND
RELEVANT YOUNG PEOPLE RECEIVING A
SERVICE FROM THE CHILDREN WITH
DISABILITIES TEAM AND NEXT STEP**

Updated April 2020

The current position.

1. Staff require clarity and direction in their roles and responsibility in the development of the Pathway Plan.
2. The Leaving Care legislation clearly identifies the Pathway Plan requirement.
3. The Caerphilly Case and subsequent Munby Judgment has raised questions about pathway plan consistency and quality.
4. Agreed need to build upon an introduction of case monitoring and pathway planning.
5. Staff unclear how to judge if the pathway plans are comprehensive enough and represent a 'good' Pathway Plan.

Criteria Definition

A Pathway Plan should be completed for each young person, defined as 'eligible' by the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and for those young people who are 'relevant' who do not already have one.

A definition of 'eligible' and 'relevant' is described as:

Eligible

An eligible child is one who is aged 16 or 17, has been looked after by the local authority for a period of 13 weeks since the age of 14 and remains looked after. The 13 weeks need not to have been continuous and could be made up of a series of shorter periods during which the child was looked after.

Relevant

A relevant child is one who is previously an eligible child but is no longer looked after and is under the age of 18 years.

Protocol Proposal

1. Case identified by Next Step Practice Manager as a child looked after who will require a Pathway Plan before their 16+3 months birthday.
2. Next Step Practice Manager will request a written case summary from the Salford Children with Disabilities Team worker, (signed by their Practice Manager) before the young person turns 16.
3. Next Step Practice Manager and Salford Children with a Disability Team worker will organize a meeting for case discussion. Also invited will be the Pathway Advisor and a Salford Children with Disabilities Team Practice Manager.
4. During the meeting a date will be set between the workers to be introduced to the family. Agreement will be reached between the Next Step and Salford Children with Disabilities Team worker as to who is taking the lead on statutory requirements and day to day management of the case.

A Management decision will be made on carefirst by the Next Step Manager identifying the lead professional.

5. The Next Step worker will complete the Pathway Plan with assistance from the Salford Children with Disabilities Team worker.

6. Once the Pathway Plan is completed this will be sent to the Salford Children with Disabilities Team worker for perusal.
7. If a further meeting is required this will be discussed and involve advice from both Next Step and Salford Children with Disabilities Team practice managers.
8. The Pathway Plan will require the young person, their carer and significant others signature.
9. Once completed a Pathway Plan copy will be kept within Documentum and replace the care plan.
10. At statutory reviews the Pathway Plan is the document to be presented by the workers.
11. The Pathway Plan is to be reviewed as a minimum within a 6-month period and is ongoing, accounting for changes such a change of placement etc.

Each completed Pathway Plan remains on their electronic file and scanned in as an individual record.

12. At 16 the young person will be referred (if not already) to the adult transition panel by the Salford Children with Disabilities Team worker for assessment /allocation.
13. For those meeting the adult service criteria, at 18 the Salford Children with Disabilities Team involvement will cease. Any files/paperwork are to be brought to the final statutory review. This meeting is to be arranged by the Salford Children with Disabilities Team worker and include the Pathway Advisor and an Adult Service representative.
14. The electronic files are to be audited and authorized by a Salford Children with Disabilities Team Practice Manager before closure.

Signatures

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Salford Children with Disabilities Team Service Manager

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Next Step Service Manager

Date