



Northamptonshire Local Offer

Quick Guide:

Northamptonshire Adult Social Services (NASS): 18-25 Disabilities Team

• What Is the 18-25 Disabilities Team?

The 18-25 Disabilities Team is a department within Northamptonshire Adult Social Services (NASS). It is made up of social workers and other social care professionals.

The team work closely with colleagues in **Children's Services**, such as the Disabled Children's Team (DCT), the Looked-After Children's (LAC) Team, schools, the SEND Support Service (SSS), Leaving Care Services, and the Education, Health and Care (EHC) Team.

• Who Is the 18-25 Disabilities Team For?

The team supports young people aged between 18 and 25 years who are eligible for social care support. The young adult's primary support need will be due to a learning disability or a physical disability. The team use the **Care Act 2014** to decide eligibility.

• What Do the 18-25 Disabilities Team Do?

The team will meet with the young person, and where relevant, their family or carers to gather information about the young person. This includes the young person's strengths as well as those areas where they may have needs. Once the assessment has been completed, if the young person is eligible for adult social care support once they are 18, the worker will work in conjunction with the young person and their carers to put together a support plan. This process will commence prior to the young person's 18th birthday to ensure that support is in place when the young person reaches 18.

The support plans could cover areas such as:

- Learning to be as independent as possible
- Identifying goals and aspirations for the future
- Developing skills to undertake voluntary or paid work
- Arranging future living and support arrangements
- Ensuring good health and wellbeing
- Managing money
- Becoming a part of the community

The 18-25 Disabilities Team will also ensure that any carer's needs are taken into account. Carers will be informed of their right to a **Carer's Assessment**.



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- **What If a Young Person Has an Education, Health & Care (EHC) Plan?**

Most EHC Plans finish when a young person turns 18. **However**, if the young person stays in full-time education, their EHC Plan could potentially stay in place until the age of 25.

Young people who might be eligible for **Adult Social Care** services will go through the same assessment and process whether they have an EHC Plan or not. In cases where the young person does still has an EHC Plan (post-18), the new **care and support plan** will replace the 'care' element of their existing EHC Plan.

- **Preparing for Adulthood (PfA)**

EHC Plans are reviewed once a year. The **Annual Review** at Year 9 (and every review after that) will focus on person-centred **Preparing For Adulthood outcomes**. These outcomes will be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound (SMART). They will cover: **Employment and Higher Education, Independent Living, Good Health, and Friends, Relationships, and Community Inclusion**. 'Preparing for Adulthood' is not directly connected to the work of the 18-25 Disabilities Team, although there might be some crossover (in terms of outcomes) if an EHC Plan is maintained beyond the age of 18.

- **Legislation**

EHC Plans are provided under the **Children and Families Act 2014**. If a young person (aged 18+) has an EHC Plan and transfers into Adult Social Care, the care elements of the EHC plan will start being provided under the **Care Act 2014** instead.

- **How Are Young People Referred to the 18-25 Disabilities Team?**

- **If the Young Person Is Already Known to Children's Social Care Services:**

The children's worker will make a referral to the Moving into Adulthood Panel (MIAP) on or around the young person's 16th birthday (although referrals can be made sooner or later than the person's 16th birthday) The MIAP is the adult social care referral panel, and is made up of various professionals including the 18-25 Disabilities Team, the Adult Social Care Mental Health Team, Children's Services representatives, and health colleagues representing both learning disability and mental health.

- **If the Young Person Is Not Known to Children's Social Care Services:**

Parents/Carers or schools can refer young people, who have a learning disability or physical disability and are not known to children's social services, via the Adult Social Care Customer Service Centre.

- **How Can I Contact the 18-25 Disabilities Team?**

The 18-25 Disabilities Team is a department within Northamptonshire Adult Social Services (NASS). General enquiries can be directed to NASS via email adultcarenc@northamptonshire.gov.uk or telephone **0300 126 1000** (Monday to Friday, 8am-6pm).



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