Leaving Care Team

Who are the Leaving Care Team?
The team is made up of Personal Advisers (PAs), Senior Practitioners and Intensive Support Workers.

What do we do?
The team works with young people from the age of 16 up to 25 years and supports them as they make the transition to adulthood.

The PAs work closely with the young person’s social worker up to the age of 18 years when the PA takes over as key worker. The PA co-ordinates the Team around the Care Leaver from this point up to the age of 21 years or beyond, continuing until 25 years if the young person needs further support.

The PAs will request additional support from Intensive Support Workers if the young person needs this. The Intensive Support Workers offer a high level of support which includes evenings and weekends. This is often needed for young people who are moving into their own flat, and may be living alone for the first time in the community.

The rainbow shows how support is focused during these years.
Guide:

The Team around the Care Leaver involves close working with our partner agencies, many of who spend a number of days per week based within the team. These agencies include: Education – dedicated Education and Careers Advice Worker for care leavers, benefits advisers, Stockport Homes link worker, Pure Insight workers including care leaver engagement worker, health workers including mental health practitioner.

16-18 years:
The PA works closely with the locality children’s social worker and takes on support tasks such as education support, to develop a positive relationship with the young person. The aim is for the transition from social worker to PA at 18 years to be as smooth as possible. At 18 years the PA becomes the key worker and takes over co-ordination of the pathway plan.

18-21 years:
The PA’s support is at its most intensive when the young person is 18-20 years, especially where the young person is moving into independent living and is getting used to a lot of new responsibilities. From 20 years onwards, the PA starts to step back a bit, with a focus on building the young person’s community support networks and ensuring the young person has the skills to access services independently.

21-25 years:
Support is offered to all care leavers up to the age of 25 years, this may be one off advice and signposting, or a fuller assessment of needs and an agreed pathway plan. For some young people this will focus on their continuing educational program. For others it may be for emotional support or help with particular issues such as health or housing. The PA offers a gradually reducing support service, with signposting to community services being key. This ensures the young person has the knowledge and confidence to access services independently by the age of 25 years.

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