Transitional Safeguarding Practice Guidance

Practice guidance for professionals/agencies

This practice guidance has been adapted from guidance developed by Northumberland Children and Adults Safeguarding Partnership ***with thanks and acknowledgement.***

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1. Introduction

This practice guidance sets out the arrangements for young people aged 16 years and above, whose circumstances may mean that Safeguarding Adults procedures would apply when they are 18. This relates to young people who would meet the definition of an 'adult at risk' when they turn 18.

This guidance promotes robust and effective transitional arrangements, and timely referrals between Children's and Adult Services in the City of York. It recognises that harm is likely to continue post 18, and that abusers target vulnerability irrespective of age.

The purpose of this practice guidance is to:

- Provide clear referral guidance to follow in those situations where it may not be clear which Safeguarding Procedures (Adults or Children's) apply.
- Ensure effective and timely safeguarding referrals are made between Children's and Adult services.
- Develop and improve joint working practices across all services.

This practice guidance is aligned with the Care Act (2014) duties around promoting Wellbeing and Prevention. These principles are at the core of effective transitional safeguarding arrangements as they focus on identifying and addressing needs and risks at an earlier stage before a crisis point is reached. It is also in line with wider local child and adult safeguarding policies, procedures and guidance.

1.2 Information Sharing

Information sharing between services in a proportionate and timely way is key to ensuring that young people approaching 18 receive access to guidance, information and advice they will need as adults. The young person should be fully involved in decision about information sharing and consent sought where appropriate. It is important to note that transition into adulthood is a partnership and not only a social care issue. Multi agency partners need to be involved and support this work.

2. Transitional Safeguarding

Transitional Safeguarding is "an approach to safeguarding adolescents and young adults fluidly across developmental stages which builds on the best available evidence, learns from both children's and adult safeguarding practice and which prepares young people for their adult lives".[1]

Transition to adulthood can be a particularly challenging and vulnerable time for some young people. Learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) and Serious Case Reviews has highlighted how ineffective transitional planning can contribute to young adults 'slipping through the net' or facing a 'cliff edge', often with tragic consequences.[2] Recent Reviews have identified a number of common themes such as exploitation, alcohol and substance use, and no identified care and support needs under the Care Act. Please see Madeline (Croydon, 2022), Kate (Cumbria 2022), and Molly (Teeswide, 2022) for further details.

Young people experiencing, or who have experienced abuse or harm may often require ongoing support beyond the age of 18, as harm and its effects do not stop at this age. This may be because the harm continues into adulthood or because they need support to recover from the impact of harm and/or trauma. Research has demonstrated that unresolved trauma can increase risks later in adulthood. It is also evidenced that not responding to harm in early adulthood may lead to more extensive support being required later in life.

There are several reasons why a transitional safeguarding approach is needed. It is recognised that adolescents may experience a range of distinct risks and harms, which may require a distinctive safeguarding response, and this may be experienced differently by young people at different times. It is also acknowledged that Children's and Adults' safeguarding systems are conceptually and procedurally different, and are governed by different statutory frameworks, which can make the transition to adulthood difficult for young people facing ongoing risk. This can be exacerbated by the notable differences between thresholds and the eligibility criteria of Children's and

[1] Bridging the Gap: Transitional Safeguarding and the role of social work with adults. DHSC, Research in Practice, LGA, BASW, ADASS, NWG. 3 June 2021

[2] Holmes D & Smale E. (2018). *Transitional safeguarding - adolescence to adulthood: Strategic Briefing (2018)*. Dartington: Research in Practice

Adults' safeguarding. There needs to be a common culture and understanding across children's and adults, which includes the use of language.

In recent years, the complexities of safeguarding children and adults have become more challenging, with an increased focus on criminal and sexual exploitation, requiring services to adapt in how they safeguard young people and adults. Key to this is aligning safeguarding systems and services for children and adults, to ensure they are more fluid and responsive to the changing needs of adolescents and young adults. Understanding adolescence as a distinct development phase, and recognising the impact of trauma, are fundamental to supporting transitions. There is a need for close collaboration between Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards, and for very early communication with and involvement from Adults Services.

This practice guidance is based on the principles outlined in a 'transitional safeguarding and the role of social work' briefing published in June 2021. This national briefing focuses on sexual and criminal exploitation and draws upon best practice, research and knowledge from local areas, and provides key information to improve adult social work professional knowledge and skills in working with young people transitioning to adulthood.

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance[3] also sets out some overarching principles to consider when supporting young people through any transition from children's to adult's services.

2.1 Contextual Safeguarding

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding and responding to young people's experiences of significant harm outside the home and beyond their families. Contextual safeguarding needs to underpin our approach to transitional safeguarding to understand the harm young people are at risk of. Young people can be targeted within their local community, via on-line grooming and exploitation or from a different area or region. Young people from marginalised and disadvantaged communities may also be less visible due to their age and their lived experience can make it more difficult for them to ask for and access support.

[3] Transition from children's to adults' services for young people using health or social care services. NICE guideline (NG43) 24 February 2016

It is also essential that contextual safeguarding is informed by an understanding of ethnicity, culture, diversity, equality and inclusion. Young people's experiences of harm are shaped by their cultural identities, community contexts and lived experiences of discrimination, racism and social exclusion. Structural inequalities can increase vulnerability and create additional barriers to being seen, heard and safeguarded. Practitioners must adopt culturally responsive and anti-discriminatory practice, recognising the impact of bias and systemic disadvantage, to ensure safeguarding responses are equitable, accessible and inclusive for all young people, particularly those from minoritised and marginalised backgrounds.

Gaining trust from the young person, proactive engagement, offering a sense of non-judgement and safety, and collating information between agencies is key to effective contextual safeguarding responses. This includes a recognition that the assessment of, and intervention in these spaces is a critical part of safeguarding practices.

The City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership has a Contextual Safeguarding Strategy which builds on the previous Adolescent Strategy. It sets out the Partnership's collective vision and provides a shared understanding of how we, as multi-agency partners work together to improve outcomes for children and young people where they may be experiencing abuse and exploitation outside the home (Working Together, 2023) [4] .

2.2 Trauma informed approach

It is important to understand the impact of previous experiences of trauma and abuse, which will vary depending on the individual, however, may lead to a need for support.

A flexible and holistic approach needs to be offered to young adults who may have experienced trauma and be at risk of harm, using the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal, and professional curiosity. It should be recognised that it may take significant time and effort to create relationships which enable the young person to engage. To build these relationships young people need to be offered the following principles of trauma-informed support: safety, choice, collaboration, trust, empowerment.

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) is a person-centred, rights-based approach that puts the individual at the heart of safeguarding, recognising them as the expert in their own life while ensuring safety is maintained alongside personal autonomy. It focuses

[4] Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6849a7b67cba25f610c7db3f/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_2023_-_statutory_guidance.pdf

on empowering people to define their own outcomes and be actively involved in decisions throughout the safeguarding process.

3. Key legislation

3.1 Care Act (2014)

The Care Act outlines the eligibility criteria which defines whether an adult has care and support needs, which can include practical, financial, and emotional support. It also emphasises the importance of preventing and delaying need as well as reducing needs that already exist. A key focus is the importance of effective interventions at the right time.

In accordance with the Care Act, local authorities have a legal duty to undertake a safeguarding enquiry (or cause others to do so) when an adult aged 18:

a) has needs for care and support (whether or not those needs are being met); and
b) is experiencing abuse or at risk of abuse or neglect; and
c) as a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect, or risk of it

The Statutory Guidance also states that people "should not limit their view of what constitutes abuse or neglect, as they can take many forms and the circumstances of the individual case should always be considered". Abuse could be physical, financial, emotional, sexual or neglect. It also includes domestic abuse, organisational abuse, modern slavery, discriminatory and self-neglect.

Under Safeguarding Adult Procedures, an adult requiring a safeguarding response does not need to meet the adult social care eligibility threshold. Those who self-fund their care and those receiving individual budgets or direct payments, also have the right to be safeguarded/protected under the Safeguarding Adult Procedures.

3.2 Mental Capacity Act

The Mental Capacity Act (2005) applies to all people aged 16 and over who are unable to make some, or all decisions themselves. If there are concerns in relation to a young person's mental capacity from age 16 onwards, then a mental capacity assessment should be undertaken. All staff working with people over 16 have a legal duty to have regard to the Mental Capacity Act code of practice.

In accordance with the Mental Capacity Act, a person must be presumed to have capacity unless proved otherwise and should not be treated as incapable of making a decision unless all practicable steps have been taken to help them. An "unwise decision" is not indicative of a lack of capacity.

It is important to recognise that mental capacity can be affected by a number of factors, including previous trauma, the abusive situation the person is in, and by any threats or coercion.

A mental capacity assessment must be carried out whenever:

a. There are doubts about the ability of any person from the age of 16 to make a particular decision at a particular time; and

b. There is a belief that the reason the person may be unable to make their own decision is because of, an impairment of, or a disturbance in the functioning of the mind or brain.

In accordance with the Act, mental capacity is both, decision and time specific. This means that the principles of the Act must be applied each time a decision needs to be made. Where there is a concern about mental capacity, this must be recorded.

Capacity and consent also need to be considered in the context of control and coercion, which is central to all forms of exploitation.

If a young person is assessed as lacking capacity, then decisions can be made on their behalf using the principle that the decision made must be in the young person's Best Interests as set out in the Act, using the least restrictive option.

When a person is assessed as lacking capacity under the Mental Capacity Act (2005), parents, carers and wider advocacy are central to informing and supporting decisions that are made in the person's best interests. Practitioners must take reasonable steps to consult with those who know the person well, including family members, informal carers and others involved in their welfare, to understand the person's past and present wishes, feelings, beliefs and values. Where the individual has substantial difficulty in being fully involved in all aspects of safeguarding and do not have an appropriate family member or friend who is able and willing to support them and/or represent them independent advocacy must be arranged.

Executive functioning may also need to be considered within the assessment: executive functioning and self-regulation skills are the mental processes that help us to plan, focus attention, remember instructions, and juggle several tasks successfully. An example of this, is a person saying they understand a decision, they appear to understand but repeatedly do not execute their stated intentions.

The Mental Capacity Act and the Care Act work together to promote the empowerment, safety and wellbeing of adults with care and support needs. Both pieces of legislation should enable individuals to maintain their independence and exercise as much control as possible over their lives and any care and support they receive including any support provided relating to safeguarding. More information can be found in the City of York Safeguarding Adults Board website regarding the Mental Capacity Act and Care Act https://wynyy-cityofyork.trixonline.co.uk/contents/contents#safeguarding-adults-core-procedures

3.3 Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)

This statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) outlines the duties and responsibilities of organisations and agencies involved in work related to children. It details what must and should be done to support, protect, and promote the welfare of all children and young people under 18 in England.

This guidance plays a key role in implementing the Government's strategy as set out in Stable homes, built on love (2023)[5], reaffirming the commitment to ensuring every child grows up in a safe, stable, and loving home.

Key points in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) addresses the importance of supporting young people as they transition from childhood to adulthood.

Effective safeguarding during this period depends on coordinated collaboration between multiple agencies, including children's services, adult social care, health, and education providers. It stresses the need for individualised planning, where each young person's unique circumstances and risks are carefully assessed and addressed through tailored support plans. Young people should be actively involved in the planning and decision-making processes to ensure their views and preferences are respected. It also underlines the importance of regularly reviewing these support plans to adapt to any changes in the young person's needs and maintain effective safeguarding throughout the transition.

3.4 Children Act (1989, 2004)

[5] https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/childrens-social-care-stable-homes-built-on-love

The current child protection system in England is grounded in the Children Act (1989)[6]. The Children Act 1989 sets out core principles:

- the concept of parental responsibility
- the requirement that a child's welfare is the court's paramount consideration in decisions about their upbringing
- Children should be cared for within their families, unless intervention in family life is necessary to protect their welfare.

The Act places a general duty on local authorities, under section 17, to promote and safeguard the welfare of children in need by providing services appropriate to their needs.

The Children Act (2004)[7], was designed to strengthen the 1989 Act, largely in response to the tragic death of Victoria Climbié, which revealed serious failings in the safeguarding system. It introduced the following core principles which the act serves to ensure:

- Children living in the UK are healthy
- Children in the UK are given the freedom they need to be happy and enjoy their lives
- Children in the UK spend time in safe and protected environments
- Children living in the UK are provided with the tools they need to succeed in life
- Children living in the UK are raised in environments that are as economically stable as possible

The Children Act (1989, 2004) provide the statutory framework for safeguarding children and young people, ensuring their welfare is the primary consideration. In the context of transitional safeguarding, this framework guides the identification of children in need, the assessment of risk of significant harm, and the requirement for multi-agency working. They support interventions that prioritise the child's best interests, promote continuity of care, and balance family support with protective action where necessary. These principles underpin the safe transition of young people from children's to adult services, ensuring that risks and vulnerabilities are identified early, care and safeguarding plans are coordinated across services, and young people continue to receive appropriate support and protection as they move into adulthood.

[6] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/contents

[7] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31

3.5 Mental Health Act (1983, 2007)

The Mental Health Act (1983)[8] (MHA) is the primary legislation governing the assessment, treatment and rights of people with mental health disorders. It sets out the legal framework for detaining and treating individuals without their consent where they are considered to pose a risk to themselves or others.

The Mental Health Act (2007)[9] amends the 1983 act and brought in the following changes:

- how mental disorder is defined
- the professionals who have specific roles within the Act
- additional rights for patients to displace their Nearest Relative
- how treatment is defined, and when it can be given
- the introduction of Supervised Community Treatment (SCT) and Community Treatment Orders (CTOs)
- a new right for patients to have an advocate
- some changes about how Mental Health Review Tribunals operate.

Transitional safeguarding focuses on supporting young people at risk of harm outside the home, and those with mental health needs may face increased risks of exploitation, neglect, or self-harm. The Mental Health Act (1983, 2007) ensures that individuals who pose a risk to themselves or others can receive timely assessment and care, while also safeguarding their rights.

4. Making Safeguarding Personal

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) is a person-centred and rights-based approach to safeguarding adults, which is incorporated in the Care Act guidance. It is a strengths-based approach, which recognises the person has rights to live their life, which need to be balanced with their right to, and need for safety. It is based on the person being supported, as the expert in their own life, and also emphasises the importance of empowerment and partnership working alongside the adult.

The aim of Making Safeguarding Personal is to ensure that safeguarding support is person-led, focused on and defined by the outcomes the person would like to achieve. A person experiencing abuse or neglect may have difficult decisions to make and as such may need time to consider the risks involved and outcomes they want. Therefore,

[8] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1983/20/contents
[9] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2007/12/contents

identifying risks and making options clear and understandable is central to empowering and safeguarding adults.
In practical terms it is about putting the person at the centre of the safeguarding enquiry and ensuring a personalised approach that gives them the opportunity to say what they want to happen at all stages of the safeguarding process. This is a key principle to be adopted across the Transitional Safeguarding pathway.

5. Preparation for Adulthood Pathway - Young People Transitioning from Children's to Adult Social Care

This Transitional Safeguarding practice guidance sits within City of York Council's wider Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) pathway. The Preparation for Adulthood pathway describes what should happen, and when, to support young people as they move towards adult life and independence.

The guidance supports professionals working with young people whose needs and risks may continue into adulthood, ensuring planning does not change suddenly at 18. Instead, safeguarding, support planning and preparation for adulthood are considered together so that young people experience continuity and stability.

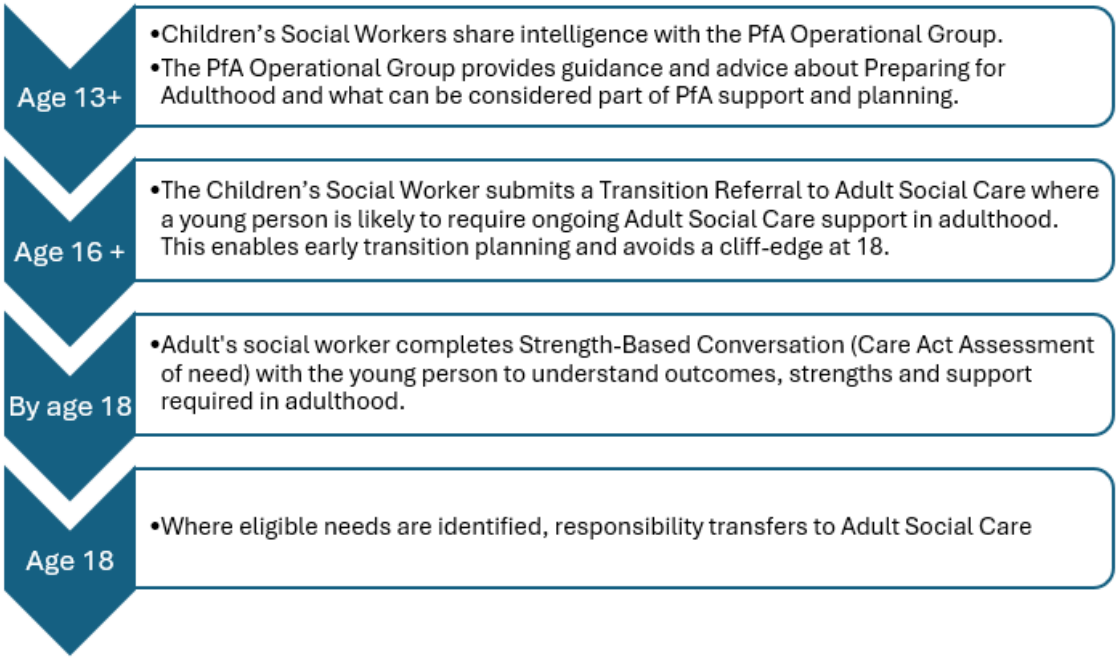
York's Preparation for Adulthood vision is that children and young people are supported to develop independence, skills and wellbeing as they move safely into adulthood. This guidance contributes to that vision by helping services work together early, share information and plan ahead with young people and those important to them, so the transition into adulthood feels planned and coordinated rather than a handover between services.

Preparation for Adulthood pathway

City of York Council have developed a Things to consider for adulthood and Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) Guide which outlines what should happen and when for children aged 13 to 25 in regards to preparing for adulthood. You can also access the Preparing for Adulthood Guide for Parents and Carers which outlines the planning process to support transition from adolescence into adulthood for young people in care, with learning difficulties, disabilities, additional needs, or mental health needs.

York's Vision for Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) outlines our vision for how children and young people are supported to develop independence, skills, and wellbeing as they move safely into adulthood.

Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) Pathway – High-Level Overview



The image is a timeline flowchart that outlines the transition process from Children's Social Care to Adult Social Care. It uses blue arrow-shaped blocks pointing downward to represent key ages and milestones.

The design uses blue arrow shapes on the left for the ages ("Age 13+," "Age 16+," "By Age 18," and "Age 18"), with corresponding text boxes on the right describing the activities that occur at each stage.

At age 13+:

- Children's Social Workers share intelligence with the PfA Operational Group.
- The Preparation for Adulthood Operational Group provides guidance and advice about Preparing for Adulthood and what can be considered part of PfA support and planning.

At age 16+:

- The Children's Social Worker submits a Transition Referral to Adult Social Care where a young person is likely to require ongoing Adult Social Care support in adulthood. This enables early transition planning and avoids a cliff-edge at 18.

By Age 18:

- Adult's social worker completes Strength-Based Conversation (Care Act Assessment of need) with the young person to understand outcomes, strengths and support required in adulthood.

At Age 18:

- Where eligible needs are identified, responsibility transfers to Adult Social Care

6. Protocol

If there are significant immediate concerns about the safety of a child or young person (aged under 18), you should contact the police on 999.

If you believe the situation is urgent but does not require the police, please contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub on 01904 551900 to discuss your concerns.

For non-urgent concerns, referral to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub should take place by completing a referral form which can be found here; City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership.

Children's Social Care can work with young people under a number of frameworks;

- Early Help (Underpinned by the Supporting Families Programme)[10]

[10] Please note, Early Help is a collaborative approach, and not just one service. It relies on local agencies working together effectively to support children and families; this includes identifying what support might be needed, and then working together to provide that support.

- Assessment
- Child in Need – section 17
- Child Protection – section 47
- Children in Our Care
- Families First Partnership Programme

The City of York Safeguarding Children Partnership has developed a Guidance on the Continuum of Need that sets out which levels of intervention may be needed to support children and their families, while ensuring children are protected from abuse or neglect.

Further details can be found here; https://yorkcs.trixonline.co.uk/

If the young person is subject to any of the above processes and is aged 17.5 years or over, and the young person will be allocated a worker to support them in adulthood, then they should be invited to the relevant meeting, i.e. Child in Need Meeting, Core Group Meeting, Child in Care Review, etc. The relevant team will attend or identify an alternative Adult Social Care representative to attend any future meetings, up to the age of 18, to consider the transition process from Children's social care to Adult Social Care.

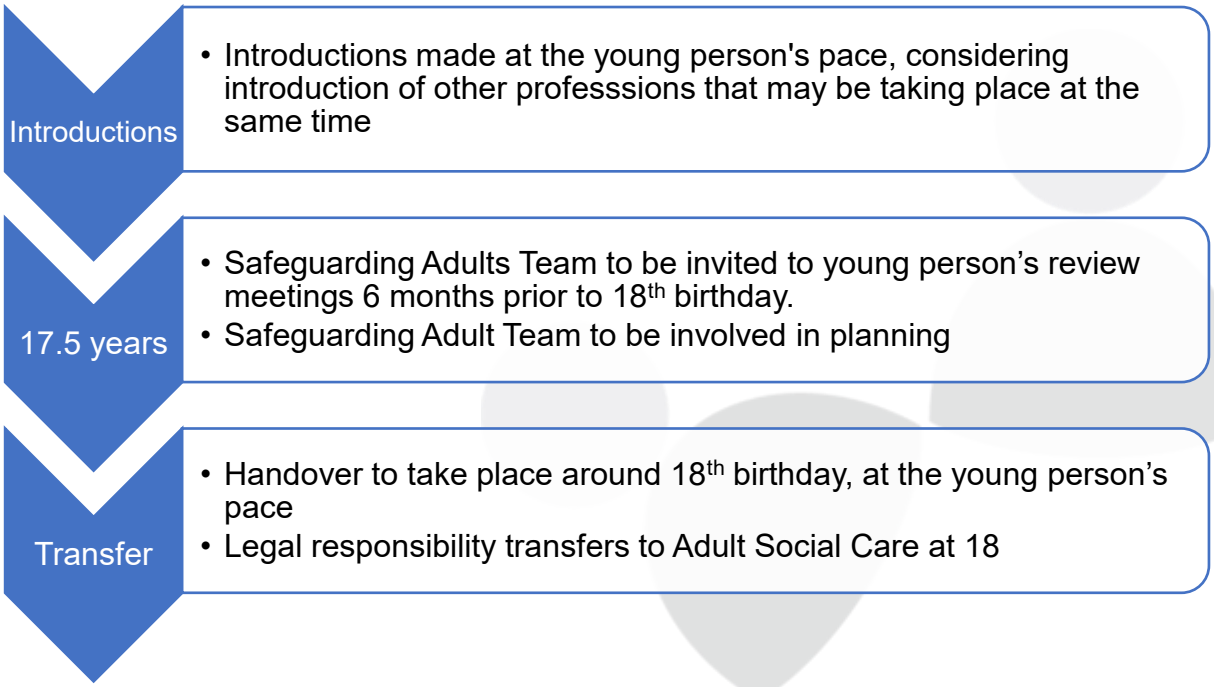
- The Local Authority (LA) Safeguarding Adults Team Manager has the responsibility to make the decision to implement the Safeguarding Adults procedures or not, once the young person reaches 18. If this is proposed at a meeting held under Safeguarding Children's procedures, then the Safeguarding Adults Team Manager must have attended and agreed with this proposal.

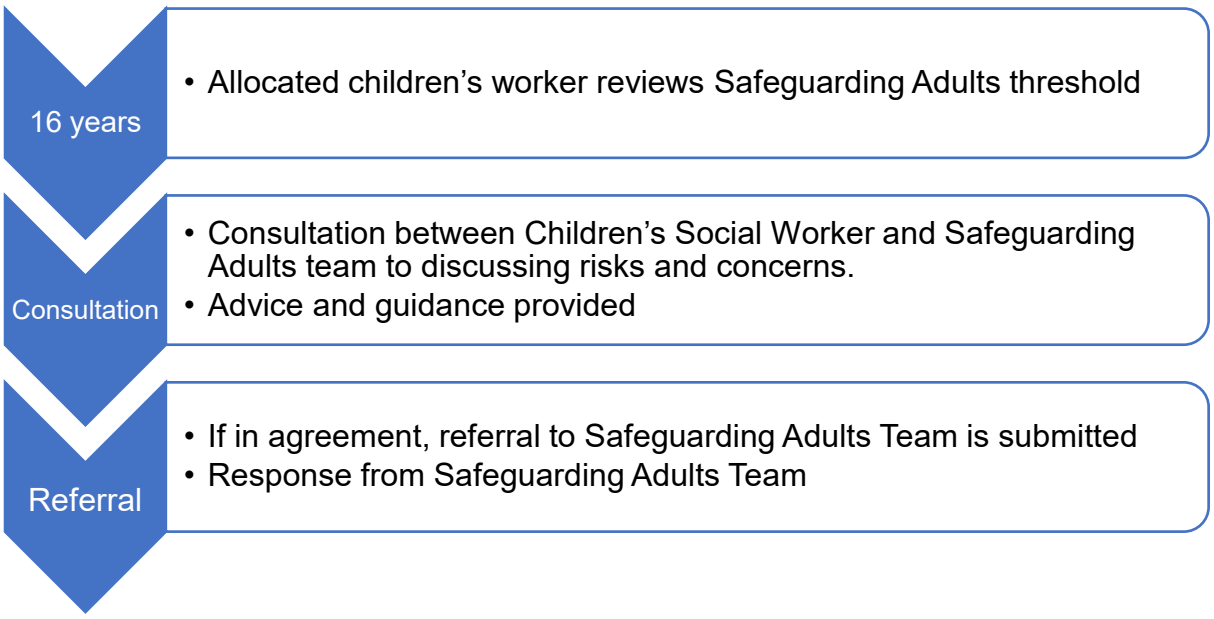
- A Safeguarding Adults (Section 42) Enquiry will be the forum for collaboration and early joint working to share information, from the age of 18. This will be coordinated by the Local Authority Safeguarding Adults team and overseen by the Team Manager or Senior Practitioner. It will be essential that services who are working with (or that did work with) the young person attend this initial Safeguarding Adults meeting/discussion. Consideration will need to be given to how the young person will be involved in the meeting or discussion, and whether they will need any support, which would include advocacy.

Early Help can be provided by one agency, or with a multi-agency response.

- From this point onwards, Safeguarding Adult's procedures will continue as per the multi-agency policy and procedures.

6.1 Transitional Safeguarding process:





This image is a flowchart titled "6.1 Transitional Safeguarding process", which outlines the steps involved when transferring safeguarding responsibilities from Children's Social Care to Adult Social Care as a young person approaches adulthood.

The flowchart is structured vertically, with blue downward-pointing arrows on the left indicating each stage, and text boxes on the right describing key actions.

The design visually represents a step-by-step safeguarding transition process.

Here's a detailed description of each stage:

16 years:

- The allocated children's worker reviews the Safeguarding Adults threshold.

Consultation:

- Consultation takes place between the Children's Social Worker and the Safeguarding Adults team to discuss risks and concerns.
- Advice and guidance are provided.

Referral:

- If agreed upon, a referral is made to the Safeguarding Adults Team.
- The Safeguarding Adults Team provides a response.

Introductions:

- Introductions are made at the young person's pace, considering the introduction of other professionals who may be becoming involved at the same time.

17.5 years:

- The Safeguarding Adults Team is invited to the young person's review meetings six months before their 18th birthday.
- The Safeguarding Adults Team becomes involved in planning.

Transfer:

- The handover takes place around the young person's 18th birthday, at their own pace.
- Legal responsibility transfers to Adult Social Care at age 18.

7. Further guidance

- In accordance with the Care Act (2014) where someone is aged 18 years and over and a safeguarding concern is raised, this must be dealt with as a matter of law under Safeguarding Adults procedures. For example, where a 19-year-old receiving a service from a children's/young people's service is identified as being at risk of harm. A Safeguarding Adults referral must be raised, and multi-agency procedures followed. It would not be appropriate for this to be dealt with under Safeguarding Children procedures.

- The process outlined above sets out good practice guidelines to ensure timely referral and involvement from Adult Services. However, it is important to note that learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews, Serious Case Reviews and research has highlighted the inflexibility of current Children's and Adult safeguarding systems, and the markedly different approaches and thresholds for access to services. Therefore, there may be a need to apply some discretion and adapt our systems and responses depending upon the needs and circumstances of the young person. The key to this is early communication and negotiation between Children's and Adult Services to ensure young people receive a flexible and coordinated response to their needs and avoid experiencing a "cliff-edge" support.

- Where a young person is at risk of or is being exploited, transition planning should start as soon as possible. This is particularly important for young people who may have limited eligibility for adult services or may face other challenges such as moving from one Local Authority area to another. Consideration should be given as to how information should be shared effectively with other relevant professionals to ensure the young person experiences a seamless transition that supports them to reduce their risk of exploitation.

- Joint working, including joint visits between Children's and Adult Social Care should commence prior to the young person's 18th birthday, to reduce the risk of disengagement. It is recognised that some young people may decline further interventions once they turn 18.

8. Other Multi-Agency processes and forums

8.1 Young people who may pose a risk to others

Where there is a concern about a young person who is aged 17 years and above posing a risk to others, information should be shared appropriately with professionals and agencies who may work with the young person when they reach adulthood. Multi-agency forums where these issues may be discussed include:

- Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) considers offenders assessed as posing a high or very high risk of causing serious harm and where the risk posed requires management at a senior level through a multi-agency collaboration.
- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference considers high risks victims of domestic violence and includes perpetrators aged 16 and over.
- Channel Procedures – Channel is a process to identify a person who would benefit from early intervention and support away from the threat of radicalisation. The focus is on identifying those at risk, assessing the nature and extent of the risks, and identifying the most appropriate support plan. This includes children and adults.
- Safeguarding Adults or Children's procedures. Where the risk posed is to other children or adults at risk. This includes where the child or adult may pose a risk to themselves e.g., self-neglect and self-harm.

8.2 Child Exploitation Disruption Meeting (CEDM)

The monthly Child Exploitation Disruption Meeting (CEDM) is a multi-agency meeting which is responsible for discussing and sharing information regarding wider contextual safeguarding issues that relate to Child Exploitation in York. For example, places, spaces, perpetrators and person of concerns within the city of York. The meeting is responsible for taking forward multi-agency actions in response to disruption activity in regard to child exploitation.

8.3 Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Meeting (CERAM)

The Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Panel Meeting has been developed as part of the overarching Partnership Contextual Safeguarding Strategy and in line with children at risk of, or experiencing, harm outside the home (Working Together, 2023).

The Child Exploitation Risk Assessment Panel Meeting (CERAM) is a multi-agency decision making panel which is responsible for the following:

- review of exploitation assessments of children and young people that have been completed by either Police or Children's Social Care, taking into account multi-agency information
- determine and agree whether a child or young person is deemed at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation or Child Criminal Exploitation and where applicable agree as a multi-agency partnership a risk status or adopted (high, medium or low)
- where a child or young person has been given a risk status or adopted by the Panel; this will be reviewed on a multi-agency basis regularly until the risk has been reduced
- York and Scarborough Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust (YSTHFT),Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) who support people of all ages with Mental Health and Learning Disabilities and the City of York Healthy Child Service receive a monthly notification that includes an up-to-date list of all high, medium, removed or change of status to low risk, and out of area cases. A flag is then put on the child or young person's health record that states they have been assessed as at risk of Child Exploitation.
- all other agencies who attend the meeting ensure that children's records are updated to reflect the discussions/actions/agreed risk status.

9. Transitional Safeguarding good practice model

- Shared culture, vision, language, understanding of roles and responsibilities
- Prevention, person centred approach, focus on outcomes
- Professional Curiosity, Making Safeguarding Personal, family approach, strength based, trauma informed
- Clear understanding and application of the Mental Capacity Act and Mental Health Act for 16+
- Explore non-engagement and repeated patterns
- Recognise impact of trauma and adverse experiences

- Legal literacy to ensure all legal options are explored
- Collaborative and multi-agency risk assessment/planning and team around the person
- Timely and appropriate information sharing
- Multi-agency training and learning from serious cases
- Understanding communication and language of young person

10. Further information

- Further information about Safeguarding Adults can be found in the Joint Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Policy and procedures.

- This is a collaborative practice guidance which outlines the transition arrangements supported and overseen by the City of York Safeguarding Adults Board and Safeguarding Children Partnership. This should be read in conjunction with any specific practice guidance and procedures relevant to the circumstances.

Reading:

- 'Bridging the Gap: Transitional Safeguarding and the role of social work with adults. Department of Health and Social Care, Research in Practice, Local Government Association, British Association of Social Workers, British Association of Social Workers, National Working Group. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/990426/dhsc_transitional_safeguarding_report_bridging_the_gap_web.pdf
- Families First Partnership programme (The Families First Partnership Programme is an emerging initiative led by the UK Government to transform children's social care through earlier, more joined-up family help, multi-agency child protection and family group decision-making reforms. It is currently being implemented locally in York as part of efforts to improve support for families and children by strengthening early intervention and collaboration between safeguarding partners.) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/families-first-partnership-programme
- Holmes, D. and Smale, E. (2018) 'Mind the Gap: Transitional Safeguarding – Adolescence to Adulthood.' https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/all/publications/2018/august/transitional-safeguarding-adolescence-to-adulthood-strategic-briefing-2018

- Local Government Association 'Making Safeguarding Personal toolkit' https://www.local.gov.uk/msp-toolkit
- Local Government Association 'Transitional Safeguarding Resources' https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/partners-care-and-health/safeguarding-resources/transitional-safeguarding-resources
- NICE guidelines 'Transition from children's to adults' services for young people using health or social care services' https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng43/chapter/recommendations
- Transitional Safeguarding 7-minute briefing – City of York Safeguarding Adults Board https://www.safeguardingadultsyork.org.uk/downloads/file/27/7-minute-briefing-transitional-safeguarding
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6849a7b67cba25f610c7db3f/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_2023_-_statutory_guidance.pdf

11. Support for Children & Adults in York

11.1 Children's Social Care and City of York Council

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)	The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub triages all contacts to Children's Social Care and Targeted Family Support at an early help level. Practitioners from Social Care, Early Help, Police and Health (which includes a direct link to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) are co-located in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and come together twice daily to screen contacts.
Referral and Assessment	Three teams working on a duty rota, who are allocated children via the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub. Primary role is to assess the immediate need and put in place support and deliver interventions either under Section 17 Child in Need or Section 47 Child Protection. Social workers will work with families up until first court hearing, initial child protection conference, 12 weeks under child in need plan or step across to Early Help.
Safeguarding and Child Protection	Safeguarding Interventions service supports children who are subject to longer term interventions through Child in Need, Child Protection, pre-proceedings and care proceedings, working to ensure timely and proportionate statutory responses with the child's voice and permanence at the heart of the decision making.
Exploitation	The City of York has Children's Social Care has a specialist Children Missing and Exploitation Team. The aim of the team is to identify children most at risk of exploitation in the city and provide support and intervention to reduce the risk of harm/exploitation, with a strong ethos of direct work and engagement with young people, their families and working within their networks. The team work closely, alongside Police, Health, Education, Youth Justice Service colleagues and the community safeguarding partnership.
Housing Options	Our Housing Options Team provide advice if you are homeless of threatened with homelessness. You can **contact the Housing Options Team** by telephone between 9.30am and 12.00pm or between 2.00pm and 5.00pm Monday to Friday. A duty worker will discuss your circumstances with you to enable them to decide what further action is required.

	We offer advice and information if you're at risk of homelessness because you're: • being asked to leave by family or friends • break up of a relationship • domestic violence/domestic abuse We work closely with Children Services to help young people aged 16 / 17 who are threatened with or actually homeless. We also have a Joint Housing Protocol for Young People moving on from being looked after.

11.2 Support Services

St Giles Trust SOS+ NY	Our approach uses trained professionals to equip children and young people to think critically, assess risk and make better life choices making them more resilient to the risks of becoming involved in gangs, exploitation and violence. SOS+ puts trained staff with lived experience at the heart of the solution. The service is for children and young people aged 10 – 25 years at risk of exploitation or frequently missing from home. The service offers prevention and awareness raising across education settings, parent and carer information sessions, professionals and teacher training, intensive mentoring for those most at risk, support for victims of exploitation and support with the impacts of crime and to rebuild resilience from the harms experienced. CONTACT US: northyorkshireSOSplus@stgilestrust.org.uk

12. Glossary of terms

Adult at risk	A person aged 18 or over who is in need of care and support, regardless of whether they are receiving this, and because of those needs are unable to protect themselves against abuse or neglect.
Adolescence	A transitional stage of physical and psychological development that generally occurs during the period from puberty to legal adulthood. Adolescence is usually associated with the teenage years, but its physical, psychological or cultural expressions may begin earlier and end later.
Adult Safeguarding	Protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.
Advocacy	Support for people who have difficultly expressing their concerns and the outcomes they want during the safeguarding process.
Best interests	The Mental Capacity Act 2005 states that if a person lacks mental capacity to make a particular decision, then whoever is making that decision or taking any action on that person's behalf must do so in the person's best interest.
Care and support needs	The support a person needs to achieve key outcomes in their daily life as relating to wellbeing, quality of life and safety. The Care Act introduced a national eligibility threshold for adults with care and support needs which consists of three criteria, all of which must be met for a person's needs to be eligible.
Consent	Voluntary and continuing permission of the person to an intervention based on an adequate knowledge of the purpose, nature, likely effects and risks of that intervention, including the likelihood of its success and any alternatives to it.
Section 42 Enquiry	Action taken or instigated by the local authority in response to a concern that an adult with needs for care and support may be at risk of or experiencing abuse or neglect and due to those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves. An enquiry could range from a conversation with the adult, or if they lack capacity, or have substantial difficulty in understanding the enquiry their representative or advocate, right through to a much more formal multi-agency plan or course of action. This is referred to as a Section 42 enquiry.
Making Safeguarding Personal	Describes a person-centred and rights-based approach to adult safeguarding, which is incorporated into the Care Act 2014 guidance. It is a strengths-based approach, in which the person is understood to have rights to live their life, which need to be balanced with their right to / need for safety. It locates the person being supported as the expert in their own life and emphasises

	the importance of empowerment and partnership working alongside the adult
Mental Capacity	Refers to a person's ability to make their own choices and decisions. Under the Mental Capacity Act 2005, someone's capacity is judged according to the specific decision to be made, so a person may have sufficient capacity to make some decisions but not others.
Professional Curiosity	Refers to the capacity and communication skill to explore and understand what is happening rather than making assumptions or accepting things at face value, to seek reasons and explanations for actions or behaviour.
Relational safeguarding	Refers to person-centred and trauma-informed practice which recognises that meaningful relationships are an important aspect of any therapeutic support. It requires a capacity building and empowering approach, so that young people are supported to build resilience and exercise positive control in their lives.
Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)	Each local authority must have a Safeguarding Adults Board to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adults at risk. Safeguarding Adults Boards will oversee and lead adult safeguarding and will be interested in all matters that contribute to the prevention of abuse and neglect.
Safeguarding Adults Review	A statutory review undertaken by the Local Safeguarding Adults Board when an individual with care and support needs dies or suffers serious harm as a result of abuse or neglect and there is a concern that the local authority and partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult. The process aims to identify learning to improve future practice and partnership working.
Strength Based Approach	Promotes a person-centred working and 'no decision about me without me'. It recognises people as experts in their own lives focusing support on achieving the outcomes identified by the adult and using their strengths, skills and assets to achieve these
Wellbeing	The Care Act 2014 creates a legal duty to promote a person's wellbeing. This applies to several areas of life including personal dignity; physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing; protection from abuse and neglect; control by the individual over their day-to-day life; participation in work, education, training or recreation; social and economic wellbeing; domestic, family and personal domains; suitability of living accommodation and an individual's contribution to society. There is no hierarchy in the areas of wellbeing listed as all are seen as equally important.
Welfare	The Children Act (1989,2004) bases a legal duty on the principle that a child's welfare is paramount. This means that in all

	decisions concerning a child's upbringing, care, or protection, the child's safety, wellbeing and developmental needs must take precedence over other considerations. The Acts place statutory duties on parents, local authorities, and other agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, provide support to those in need, and intervene when a child is at risk of significant harm.