



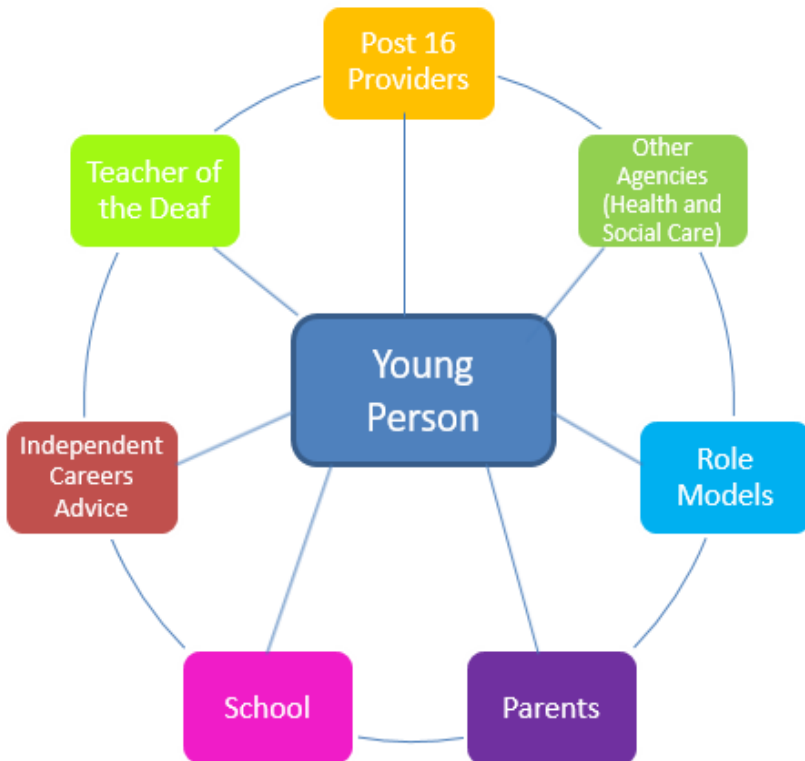
Transition

Information for Parents/Guardians

What is Transition?

Transition is a planned process to address the medical, psychological, educational and vocational needs of young people. Transition services help to prepare your child for the future and offer support as they move towards adulthood and independence. Within Audiology, Transition focuses on hearing and communication needs.

Who is involved in Transition?



Why is Transition Important?

Transition is important to help young people achieve their goals for the future; this may include staying at school for 6th form, college, further education or employment. Transition also aims to prepare young people for the increase in responsibility and autonomy associated with becoming an adult and promotes their independence.

Under the paediatric Audiology service, it is likely that your child will have seen the same, designated audiologist for the majority of their appointments. Between the ages of 16 to 25 (depending on individual circumstances) your child will be expected to attend the adult audiology service, where they could see many different audiologists. It is important that their move into the adult service runs smoothly.

The Transition Service

This is a service that is in-between the paediatric Audiology service and the adult service.

The transitional service allows your child to gain hearing aid support, whilst learning to gain more responsibility for their hearing aid/s. It also allows them to gain some access to the adult hearing aid service during this time.

As your child gets older, the additional services available to them, both within and outside of the audiology department may change, and it is important that they become familiar with these in preparation for their move into the adult service. During their transitional period, they may also have questions regarding educational, social or occupational support, and this can be discussed within their appointments as well. If needed, it may be possible for their audiologist to liaise with these external services to provide a smoother transition in education and/or employment.

During the transitional period, your child will have more opportunity to gain more choice and control over their hearing aid care. For example, in the adult service they will receive less frequent appointments, they will need to organise their appointments, your child will need to ensure their hearing aids are cleaned and serviced regularly and they will need to

ensure they collect their batteries regularly. In the paediatric service appointment letters, reports and information have been directed more towards you, however in the adult service these are written for your child.

The transitional service will aim to break these barriers and differences between the paediatric and adult services, whilst maintaining some regular support.

What happens next?

Each year your child will attend Paediatric Audiology to review their hearing and hearing aids. From year 7 onwards we will start to discuss and provide information (according to your child's individual needs) about transition from the Paediatric Audiology service to, eventually, the Adult audiology service.

There is a planned series of information documents that we will provide to your child over the next few years regarding transition. The information provided will cover topics to help inform your child about their hearing loss, communication tactics, their hearing aids, equipment available, what is transition and support available for them moving forward into further education and/or employment.

When your child reaches Year 10 they will have their last appointment with Paediatric Audiology and will be transferred to the Transition service who will help prepare your child to move into the adult hearing aid service.

Where can I find more information about Transition?

- National Deaf Children's Society
<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/documents-and-resources>

Reference: Successful transitions to adulthood for deaf young people in England.
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Chime provides NHS Audiology Services for NHS Devon - Mid, East and Exeter areas. From 1st May 2011 the existing audiology department including staff and equipment transferred to Chime - the new Social Enterprise Company. Chime is located at the RD&E Foundation Trust (but is separately managed).