

Adult ASN transition in EDC

1. My child received Social Work input from children's services, does this mean that they will automatically receive adult Social Work input?

No – when young people plan to transition to adult services there is an 'assessment of need' carried out to consider if the young person meets the criteria for adult services as opposed to children's services.. Within adult services the Social Work teams are the 'Joint.Learning.Disabilities.Team", the 'Mental.Health.Team" and the 'Adult.East-West.teams" (more information below).

2. What is the function of Social Work?

The purpose of the Social Work teams is to carry out statutory functions such as powers under legislation regarding child/adult protection, Adults with Incapacity, Mental Health etc. and to undertake an 'assessment of need' to put in place a support plan to meet those needs. The support plan does not require to be only formal paid services but could involve the third sector, Local Area Co-ordination team or befriending etc.

3. What are the remits of the formal social work teams?

Joint Learning Disability Team (JLDT) – There to support adults with a Learning Disability diagnosis (specifically diagnosed by qualified health professionals). This is a multidisciplinary team consisting of Social Workers, LD nurses, Psychologists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Dieticians, Psychiatrists and Speech and Language Therapists. The health staff can support your child with health problems if they cannot access mainstream health services. They can also carry out an assessment of your child's needs to determine whether they are eligible for funded hours through Self Directed Support. The team are currently only able to accept referrals for those with a critical need for input. Referrals to the JLDT should be made through Shared Services - 0141 355 2200.

Mental Health Teams – The Community.Mental.Health.Team (CMHT) is a multidisciplinary Team comprising of Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Community Psychiatric Nurses, Occupational Therapists, peer support workers and cognitive behaviour therapists. The CMHT works with adults who have severe or enduring mental health difficulties and provides medical interventions to promote positive mental health, including further referrals into the Crisis Team. There are 2 CMHT's that offer support within the East Dunbartonshire area, which are based in KHCC, Kirkintilloch (Larkfield Resource Centre) and Drumchapel (Arndale Resource Centre). Access to these services is via GP referral.

The Social.Work.Mental.Health.Team works jointly with both CMHT's and consists of Mental Health Officers, Social Workers and Social Work Assistants. The social work team provide a range of supports to individuals with severe and enduring mental illness to live independently in the community and who are in critical need of support.

The Primary.Care.Mental.Health.Team.(PCMHT).provides short term, changed based, psychological therapies for mild to moderate common mental health problems such as

depression, anxiety, mixed depression and anxiety, adjustment disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), that require only one professional. You can self-refer into this service by calling 0141 232 8204.

Adult East and West Teams – Social Work localities East and West work with people aged 18 years and over who do not fall into the other specialist Social Work teams. People get in touch through the duty system who are then screened, and more information is gathered to determine if they meet eligibility criteria. They provide statutory interventions, undertake assessments, implement support plans and use powers within legislation when required, e.g. Adults With Incapacity. The team are currently able to accept referrals for those in critical or substantial need. If you are unsure whether you would meet criteria for this provision, you can still contact the team to make an enquiry and if you are not eligible then they will signpost you to more appropriate services. Referrals should be made through Shared Services - 0141 355 2200.

4. Who are the most appropriate team to offer support to my child who has an Autism diagnosis, or who has a Learning Disability diagnosis but don't meet criteria for formal paid services?

The Local Area Co-ordinators (LAC's). They have a remit to support EDC residents who are over the age of 14 and who have a formal autism or mild learning disability diagnosis. They can support your child to work towards any goals they have and to overcome any barriers they face along the way, particularly around the time of school transition. They help with things like finding social groups, accessing local services, volunteering, further education and employment. However they do not offer close 1:1 support similar to a PA. They can also offer information-sharing and signposting to families, as well as running a monthly parent support group.

5. How are the Local Area Co-ordinators different from Social Work?

They can still get to know your family and your child's needs to help you to access services that could be helpful. They can help your child to access opportunities in the community as well as making introductions to local services that might be useful to your child and your family. However, the LACs do not carry out statutory interventions and do not have access to any funding packages such as Self Directed Support. They are also unable to offer crisis support so if your child or your family are in a critical need for intervention, then the LAC's may involve social work to provide more formal services.

6. What support is available if my child is still on the waiting list for an autism assessment when they leave school?

There are still local services which your child can access to help with their school transition and beyond. Although you would not be able to access their 1:1 support at this stage, you can still contact the LAC team for signposting to these services while

your child awaits their diagnosis and they can put you in touch with the most appropriate people. It is also worth noting that the Neurodevelopmental diagnostic team try to prioritise assessments for those who are about to reach adulthood.

7. What's the difference between 'Learning Difficulties' and 'Learning Disability'?
Learning Difficulties do not affect intellect, but instead are difficulties with certain tasks (ie. Dyslexia is a difficulty with reading and writing and Dyscalculia is a difficulty using numbers). A Learning Disability is reduced intellectual ability, diagnosed when a person has an IQ of 70 or less. The Joint Learning Disability Team (JLDT) can only consider referrals for those who have a diagnosed Learning Disability.

8. My child presents as having a Learning Disability however they have a different diagnosis (i.e. Downs Syndrome, Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder or a Chromosomal difference – could they still access the JLDT social work service?
No – the person needs to have a clearly stated diagnosis of a Learning Disability to be able to access this Social Work support from the JLDT, however you may be eligible for support from other Social Work teams if they meet their eligibility criteria. If you are unsure whether your child would meet the criteria for having a Learning Disability then you should discuss this with your child's school, or your GP.

9. How can my child be assessed to determine whether they have a Learning Disability?
If your child is still in school, then you should discuss this with the school first who should be able to put you in touch with appropriate teams to pursue this. It is also possible to speak with your GP to request a Learning Disability assessment.

10. If my child has a sole autism diagnosis, or has learning difficulties does this mean that they will automatically qualify for social work support?
Not necessarily – There is not an autism-specific social work department so if your child has a sole autism diagnosis, their support should be provided by the LAC team instead of social work. If your child has a Learning Difficulty (ie. Dyslexia or Dyscalculia) and is of school transition age, you can contact the LAC team for signposting to support services such as literacy and numeracy groups. Eligibility for Social Work services is based on risk, so if your child is at any considerable risk then they then might meet criteria for Social Work intervention.

11. What support is available for those who have a sole ADHD diagnosis?
There is currently limited provision for adults who have an ADHD diagnosis locally, with no ADHD-specific services. However, you can contact the LAC team for signposting to local services which can help with goals i.e. Skills Development Scotland for further

study or Enable or the Lennox Partnership for employment. The LACs can also provide you with information about some ADHD support groups that exist in Glasgow for those who are able to travel.

12. Can my child access adult Day Services?

Adult Day Services in East Dunbartonshire consist of a building based team (at the Allander Resource Centre) and a community based team known as Outlook. Some people have a mix of support from both teams. Which team provides the support is based on the needs and outcomes of the individual. Both teams support people with moderate to severe Learning Disabilities though most people with a moderate Learning Disability are supported in the community. These are funded services which are paid via Self Directed Support packages which are allocated through Social Work – your adult social worker is responsible for facilitating any provision from Day Services. There may still be a charge to attend which will be assessed by social work, and will be based on your annual income. If your child is not eligible for Social Work support then they will not be able to access these services. There is also a privately-run day service for those with an ASN (16+) called Empower which you can either fund through your social work SDS budget, or you could choose to pay for privately.

13. Can my child access Self Directed Support funding for a PA?

Self-Directed Support can be accessed following an assessment conducted by Social Work. Take Ctrl are a local organisation who can offer support if you already have SDS funding arranged, you can contact them at – 0141 776 2219. If you are not eligible for Social Work support then you will not be able to access SDS funding, similar to accessing Day Services. However it is possible to get a PA if you self-fund this.

14. Who can help me to make sure me/my child is on the correct benefits?

Citizen's Advice Bureau offer an Income Maximisation Service which can help you to ensure you are on the right benefits. You can arrange a meeting with them by: Calling - 0141 775 3220 or Emailing - bureau@eastdunbartoncab.casonline.org.uk

15. What support is available in EDC to carers?

Carers Link are a local organisation dedicated to supporting those who have a caring responsibility. Their website is: www.carerslink.org.uk or you can arrange a meeting with them by: Calling - 0800 975 2131 or Emailing - enquiry@carerslink.org.uk

16. Who should I speak to if I have any further questions about the transition process for my child with an ASN, or supports available to them afterwards?

The LAC's are happy to offer signposting to local opportunities and can offer guidance on appropriate service provision. There are also a range of events across EDC throughout the year where you can meet local services, and there is information on the EDC website.

Contacts

Local Area Co-ordinators: LACs@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

Social Work Advice and Response team (under 18's): 0141 777 3000

Social Work Shared Services (over 18): 0141 355 2200