

Transitions Adult Social Care

February 2025

National Context

- **Rising Demand:** Increasing number of working-age adults requiring care; spending on this group has increased by over a third from 2020 to 2023.
- **Financial Pressures:** 57% of adult social care budgets nationally go to working-age adults (55% in Devon).
- **Demographic Trends:** Peak birth rate in 2012 means the number of young people with EHCPs will increase from 9,000 to 14,000 by 2030.
- **Long-Term Demand:** National spending on working-age adults projected to rise by 63-138% by 2036.
- **Higher Aspirations:** Families and young people increasingly expect pathways to independent living, employment, and inclusive opportunities.

- Parental Feedback: Concerns raised by Parent Carer Forum about delays and inconsistent transition experiences.
- **Scale of Activity:**
 - ❖ 900+ children in care (foster, residential, asylum-seeking).
 - ❖ 9,506 EHCPs in Devon; ~1,700 young people aged 16-19.
- **Transitions in Numbers:**
 - ❖ 321 referrals to Adult Social Care (ASC) in 2023/24.
 - ❖ 24% (77 young people) transitioned into ASC.
 - ❖ The majority moved to education, employment, or other pathways.

Changes in the Transitions Team

- Previous Model: The Preparing for Adulthood team had a pre-Care Act assessment and moved to the community team at 18.5 years for their Care Act transition assessment. This caused delays.
 - ❖ New Model (Late 2023): Transitions Adult Social Care (TASC) Team introduced:
 - ❖ Streamlined referrals via an established web form.
 - ❖ Dedicated team for assessments and transition planning to post 18 years.
 - ❖ Engagement starts at age 16 (instead of 17), at 14 if required.
 - ❖ Goals: Ensure improved experience, earlier intervention, prevent service gaps, and increase efficiency.
- Performance Metrics: Increased percentage of young people receiving timely Care Act assessments and having support plans in place before turning 18, positive experience from those people within the process.

Numbers in Transition

Of the 1,700 young people aged 16-19 going through transition last year, the TASC team directly supported 321 young people to transition into Adult Social Care. Of these:

- 24% (77 young people) transitioned into adult social care.
- 15% (48 young people) received information and advice.
- 10% (33 young people) opted out of further services.
- 10% (32 young people) either moved out of the area, did not respond, or had their referrals cancelled.
- 3% (9 young people) no longer required support.
- 2% (5 young people) transitioned to health-funded Continuing Healthcare.
- 1% (3 young people) moved to another local authority

Data issues at that time mean we cannot fully report the remaining individuals. Since this time, the data capturing systems and process has changed. Most people went on to full time education or employment

Positive Futures Programme

Temporary programme (2023-2025) within the Education Department.

Aims:

- Support young people aged 18-25 in education.
- Work with families and providers to prepare for independence.
- Outcomes so far:
 - 127 young people supported.
 - Better communication - reduced tribunals to zero for 5-3 year placements.
 - £2.27 million reduction in placement spending (Autumn 2024).

Future: Programme evaluation in 2025.

Reaching for Independence

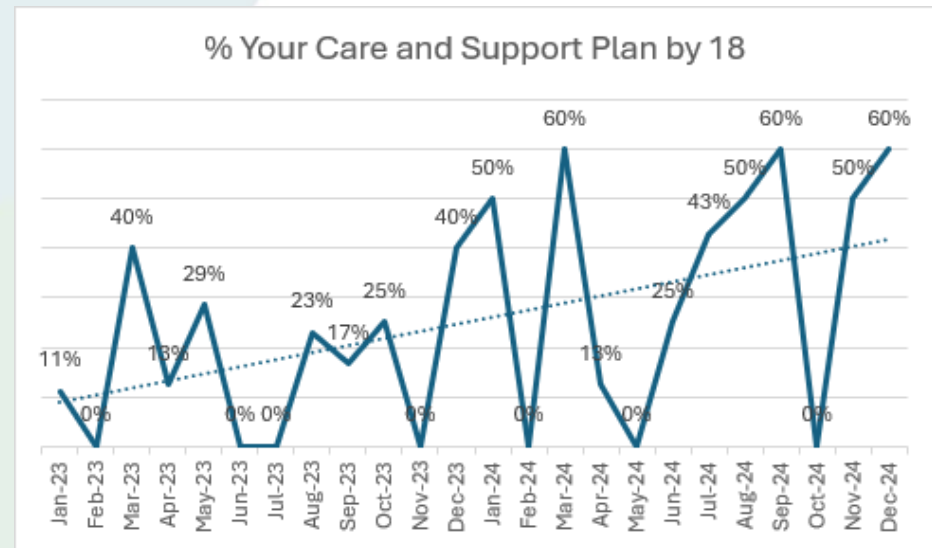
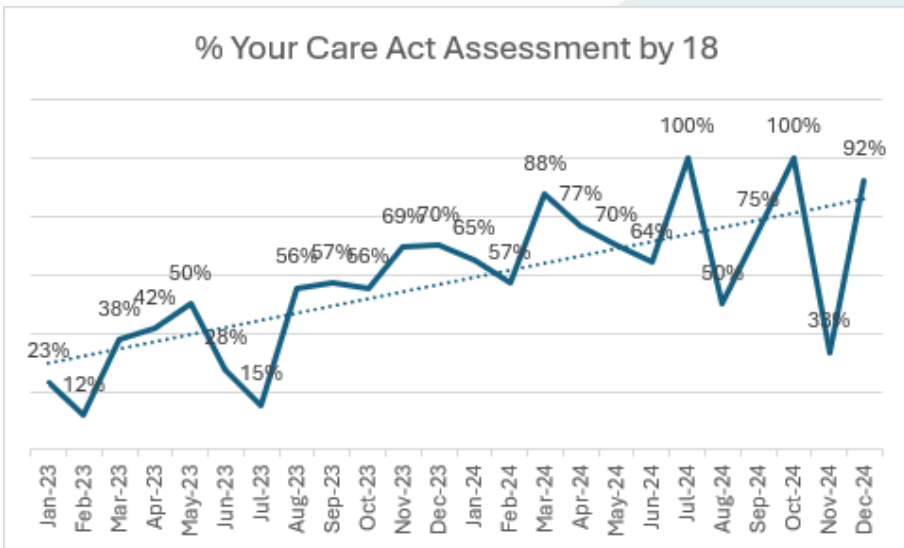
- Short-term intervention service for young people aged 17½+.
- Modelled after adult social care reablement services.
- Key Outcome (2023/24):
 - 128 young people supported.
 - 70% (90) did not require ongoing ASC services post-18.
- Demonstrates success in building independence.

16-17 Practice & Planning Forum

- Joint initiative between children's and adults' services.
- Identifies and supports young people at risk, including:
 - Self-harm and high-risk behaviours.
 - History of aggression or property damage.
 - Out-of-county placements.
- Outcomes:
 - Early risk identification and intervention.
 - Better coordination with housing providers.
 - Smoother transition process.

Performance Metrics

Trendlines indicate improvements for all KPIs, most notably the percentage having their Your Care Act Assessment by 18.



Proxy Indicators:

- Reduced recharges between children’s and adults’ services (from 15-16 cases to just 1 in Sept 2024).
- Fewer ASC contributions required in tribunal cases.

Qualitative Feedback

Direct Quotes

'I was listened to, and now I can go to South Devon College thanks to the support I received.'

“Meeting my social worker made a huge difference; they really understood me.’

'When our daughter spoke to us last night, she said she was 'living her best life.' You made us very happy.'

'Our social worker was proactive, and we felt the process went really well.'

'The social worker was excellent—knowledgeable, personable, and genuinely advocated for the young person.'

'I was dreading the transition, but you made it painless.'

A huge thank you to all at Devon Social Services, especially our Social Worker. She has been so wonderful and helpful and needs recognition for demonstrating Compassion and Empowerment.

'For care leavers without strong family support, transition periods should be longer.'

We both wanted to say a huge thank you for your professionalism in dealing with W's transition. It's not an easy thing to go through, but your help and patience has been much appreciated.

We've always had excellent experiences with the TASC team. We felt understood and our needs adjusted for.

From Parents:

- The worker was lovely, listened to P's history, our concerns for the future and made a few suggestions. A couple of weeks later we received a report, and I have to say it was the most detailed and accurate one we've had in a long time.
- Thank you for everything you have done to get processes underway to support E going forward into her adult life. We are really grateful for your flexible approach and your incredibly helpful guidance.
- The Social Worker went above and beyond for the young person and had an excellent understanding of his care needs and a real understanding of the impact of his difficulties and what this means with regards to the services he requires.
- My son was extremely happy, as he felt as if he was listened to, and the worker was very helpful. She made a referral to the Reaching for Independence team, who helped with travel training. He is now able to achieve his goals by going to [Name] Devon College.
- I just wanted to say thanks so much for your help over the last year, I'm not sure how we would have survived without your support. It was so refreshing right from the start to have someone assessing P in such an insightful and dedicated way.