

Transition from Children's Hospice Services to Adult Services

Northern Ireland Children's Hospice recognises the need to work closely with professionals from the relevant multidisciplinary teams to ensure a positive approach is adopted when supporting young people through the move from Children's Hospice to adult services.

An annual review for each child or young person is carried out around the time of their birthday. The review will focus on the child's palliative care requirements, ensuring that changing needs are addressed and appropriate services are provided.

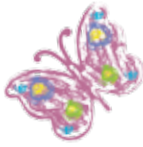
Fourteenth birthday

After a young person's fourteenth birthday, their annual review begins to focus on preparation for transition. By planning ahead, the young person and their family can contribute to the assessment as well as having input into the transition planning process.

Eighteenth birthday

After the young person's eighteenth birthday, their annual review will specifically focus on determining the appropriateness of continued use of Children's Hospice services. Due to regulatory requirements, most young people will transition to adult services by the time they reach nineteen years of age.

The Children's Hospice Transition Nurse Specialist will support young people and their families throughout this process. The aim is to work with a range of professionals to identify age and condition appropriate services, including short breaks, and to plan for a smooth and seamless transition.



Do Children's Hospice services stop at the point of transition?

Children's Hospice usually supports young people until they are nineteen years old, provided they continue to meet Children's Hospice criteria. During the transition process the Children's Hospice Team will work with other professionals to support young people and their families. This is a normal progression for all young people of that age. Once transition is completed, the young person will no longer use Children's Hospice services.

The discharge from Children's Hospice Services will be managed through the annual review process and will involve both the family and key professionals. However, if a young person is considered to be too ill or too unstable to complete the transition process, the discharge process will be postponed.

If you would like further information on the transition process, please contact the Children's Hospice Transition Nurse Specialist or a member of the Management Team on 028 9077 7635.

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