

Social work support

You may already have support from Social Work, and you may already have a support plan in place. If not, and you may need longer term support upon leaving school as a result of a disability, you are entitled to have your needs assessed by social work. It is important that this assessment begins well in advance of your school leaving date to ensure that there is enough time for planning to take place and for support to be available.

There are many ways in which your needs may be met, and all involved will be working to make sure that you are as independent and as included within the community as possible. Where additional support is needed for this to happen, Social Work can help you to consider the options available.

A **Locality Support Service** operates within each of the 6 local areas in North Lanarkshire, and it may be suggested that you would benefit from support from a Locality Support Service. The staff within the Locality Support Service are able to provide a wide range of support for people with disabilities, and they can provide flexible support to help you to be linked in with opportunities in the community and to meet with other people.

If you will need longer term, funded support to be safe at home and to access opportunities, it may be suggested that an individual **Self Directed Support** budget be agreed. The Council has a “prioritisation framework” in place, and this will be an option where there is an agreed priority 1 or 2 need. This means that the Social Work Department will consider how complex your needs are and how much you might be at risk without this longer term support being in place when deciding if this kind of support is right for you. Further information about Self Directed Support and the Prioritisation Framework is available on the Council’s website.

<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=5002>

The most important part of a support plan is that it shows clearly how you will be supported to achieve agreed outcomes i.e. the positive difference which the support will make to help you to have a good life. Every school leaver, including those with complex support needs has a right to be included in their community, to be involved in a wide range of activities, and to develop friendships, with the right support provided to meet their individual needs. Social workers work hard to make sure that you have good opportunities to be included.

The contact details for your local Social Work Office can be found here:

<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=20623>

The Social Work Transitions Team

The Social Work Transitions Team links closely with schools and other agencies to ensure that young people with a disability who may require support as young school leavers to achieve agreed outcomes and individual goals are linked appropriately with their local social work teams, with the right support available at the right time. The Team is able to attend school transition meetings and to support the planning with young people approaching school leaving age.

If you would like to know more about Transition Planning, you can either ask your Guidance Teacher, or phone the Social Work Transition Team at 01698 332799.

***This information is provided by H&SC North Lanarkshire Council
Transition team.***