



PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD STRATEGY

2023 - 2026

● ACHIEVING FOR CHILDREN ● OPTALIS ● RBWM ●



Royal Borough
of Windsor &
Maidenhead

ABOUT US

optalis
choices for living



**achieving
for children**

In The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, we want to make sure all children and young people like yourself, reach your goals, and move successfully into adulthood. This strategy explains our most important plans in supporting you, your families and your network to plan and prepare for your journey to adulthood.

Social care in Windsor and Maidenhead is delivered through two organisations: Achieving for Children and Optalis.

Working closely with these partners, The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council is committed to delivering the best support and paths to adulthood for you. It is important that we support you, your families, and networks on this journey as you prepare and move into your adulthood. This strategy is for you if you are aged between 14 and 25, If you happen to have special education needs and disabilities (SEND), mental health needs or are moving on from care, this is sometimes called 'transition'. It is also for your parents, your guardians, your carers and any professionals supporting you and helping them to look at the many choices a young person like you can make that will support your move into adulthood.



INTRODUCTION

This Preparing for Adulthood strategy has one purpose; to support young people with special educational needs and disabilities, mental health needs and or those who are moving on from care to get the life they want.

Preparing for adulthood can be tough for all young people, and even more so for those who may need support from health, education, and social care. In the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead we want to make sure all young people with additional needs have the chance to reach all your personal goals and are supported in this through thoughtful, personalised and timely planning.

NATIONAL AND LOCAL PICTURE

Just under 1.5 million young people have special educational needs in England. That's around 12.5% of the population. ([GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk))

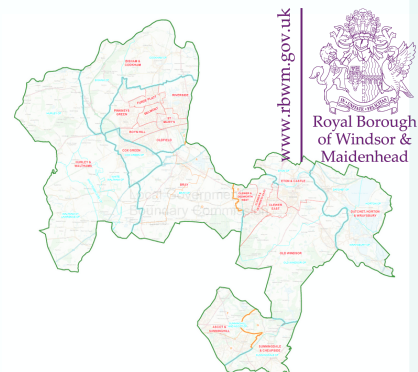
In England in 2022 there were 30,070 care leavers of which 92% were aged between 19 and 21

([GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk))



In 2022 18% of children aged 7-16 and 22% of young people aged 17-24 years had a probable mental health disorder (digital.nhs.uk)

The percentage of pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) (All schools) in The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead is 15.7% (2022)



There were 121 care leavers that live in The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead in 2022

PRIORITIES

RBWM, Achieving for Children and Optalis asked young people like you and their families what they wanted when preparing for adulthood and they said this:

I want to know who to contact

What help can I get from adult services?

What information is available to me, and where from?

I need clear communication about what will happen.

I need someone to talk when things are going wrong

I wish health and social services would talk to each other

I need quick decision making

I want a flat of my own

So our priorities will be:

- You, your families and network have timely and effective support to plan for your adulthood.
- You, your families and network have access to information about your options and in preparing for adulthood.
- You have access to education and employment opportunities into your adulthood.
- You have access to a range of housing options including supported housing.
- You can develop independence and learn independent living skills, including keeping yourself safe.
- You have friends, can develop relationships, and engage with your community
- You can plan for good health into your adulthood, and this should include your wellbeing

KEY PRINCIPLES

- You are at the centre of preparing for your adulthood and will be fully involved in decisions affecting you. Taking into account your views and needs
- Any support focuses on your strengths, what is positive and possible for you rather than on a standard set of options.
- We should support you to remove barriers, so you can be a part of your community. Giving you access to people and things that give your life purpose.
- We should support you as a young person to develop resilience through a range of targeted interactions from partners, this will help you into your adulthood.

COPRODUCTION

Co-production means doing things together and listening to what is important to people.

We will work with young people like you and your families to develop action plans for achieving your priorities. We will ensure all young people with a disability, mental health need and those who are moving on from care have access to consistent, timely and effective preparations for adulthood.

SAFEGUARDING

Transitional Safeguarding is not simply transition planning for you to move from children to adult social care services free from harm or abuse, the RBWM Safeguarding Partnership believes that it can, and should, be applied to any transition between services and organisations. This means a needs-led, personalised approach, requiring professionals, leaders and all involved in services for you, to consider how they might work together with you and think beyond their traditional boundaries for your benefit and the benefit of people like you at any key life stage.

ACTIONS

We Will:

Work with partners across Achieving for Children, Optalis and health services to understand needs, develop services and use joint resources.

Put in place an accessible Preparing for Adulthood protocol which sets out what you your families and network can expect from Achieving for Children and Optalis

Ensure that you, your families and network are involved in decision making, kept informed and supported throughout the preparing for adulthood process.

Make sure staff have access to training to support person centred preparing for adulthood

Seek to commission and develop new housing and employment opportunities building on existing relationships and options

Work with the health commissioners for the joint commissioning of services in the NHS and community

When things don't happen quite as they should, it is important that you can raise, and we listen to your concerns. This helps the us to keep learning, and improving

Promote opportunities for community inclusion and building meaningful friendships into your adulthood.

Establish a preparing for Adulthood Working Group to monitor progress of an action plan and oversee implementation of the action plan

Ensure accessible information is available at every stage of the process

Develop our Direct Payments offer so you can have choice and control in the support you receive.

KEY LEGISLATION

Children Act 1989

[CLICK HERE](#)

Provides a framework for all kinds of safeguarding and child protection systems and laws that have been implemented across England. The key focuses of the Act are the importance of children's welfare and the requirements and expectation of anyone who has a duty of care to a child.

Whilst there have been amendments made to the Children Act since its original release, the 1989 version is still referenced and influences a lot of child protection policy today.

Children and Families Act 2014

[CLICK HERE](#)

This Act is broad in its scope. It brings together lots of different areas of law that affect children, especially vulnerable children. The legislation is mainly aimed to protect vulnerable children or those at risk. These children tend to interact with local government and agencies more often, so how professionals work with them needs to be set out. Children have rights to fast and fair processes and must get more consideration in the legal system.

The Care Act 2014

[CLICK HERE](#)

The Care Act 2014 sets out local authorities' duties when assessing people's care and support needs. It requires local authorities to make sure that people who live in their areas: receive services that prevent their care needs from becoming more serious or delay the impact of their needs, can get the information and advice they need to make good decisions about care and support, have a range of high quality, appropriate services to choose from and have more control over how their care and support is organised.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005

[CLICK HERE](#)

This act applies to everyone involved in the care, treatment and support of people aged 16 and over living in England and Wales who are unable to make all or some decisions for themselves. The act also supports those who have capacity now to plan for their future.

SEND Code of Practice

[CLICK HERE](#)

Chapter 8 of the SEND Code of Practice covers Preparing for Adulthood from the earliest of years. It is relevant to children, young people and professionals who work with people aged 14 and over. It sets out how everyone should be supporting children and young people.