

Changes introduced by Dorset County Council

following the SAR into the death of 'Harry'

- Dorset Children's Services underwent a restructure in 2016 and the transfer point for Looked After Children (LAC) changed. The 16+ team was replaced with a 13+ service which means transfers take place much earlier, allowing for better transition planning to adulthood.
- Monitoring the completion of Care Plans and Pathway Plans is a weekly task through Mosaic reporting. It is therefore an improving picture for all young people.
- Recognition of the low number of LAC who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and similar low numbers for whom a referral for a Care Act assessment has been made, has resulted in the setting up of a Transitions Referral Monitoring meeting which will meet monthly. The purpose is to ensure that the right people at the right time are identified for referral and that the engagement of Adult Services can be planned from age 14 years in cases where the need for Adult Services post 18 is identified.
- Recommendation has been made through the Transitions Referral Monitoring meeting that EHCP's should include a narrative on what support the young person requires to prepare for adulthood.
- There is now a "Towards Adulthood" Steering Group in place which provides overarching strategic direction in respect of transitional planning between Children's and Adult Services which will consider the learning from this SCR.
- Children and Social Work Act 2017 brought in new legislation to extend the time care leavers could choose to have a personal adviser until their 25th birthday. This person takes the lead in terms of planning and support and will extend the time available for a care leaver to develop the necessary skills to make a successful transition to adulthood.