

**Q& A from the Families & Carers Transition Forum
on Wednesday 15th October 2025**

Question	Answer	Contact for further info
<p>Wonder how the transition timeline affects Welsh learners, who only get funded for 2 years at National Star?</p>	<p>Some of our learners are only funded for a 1 year or 2 year programme and therefore their transition timeline would be individual to them. An updated version of the Transition Guide booklet is currently in production and will reiterate that the timeline is based on a 3 year programme. There will also be new sections on Benefits, Motability & Transport and Wills & Trusts. We hope to email out a digital version at the end of term.</p>	<p>The Transition Support Team on: Team-Transitions@nationalstar.org</p>
<p>How do we access the Life After College power app</p>	<p>Unfortunately, this is an information system that is only used by our internal teams currently. We are hopeful that in the future that there may be a way of giving public access, but this is some way away.</p> <p>In the meantime, please contact your young person's PLC or PLCT and arrange to meet with them on Teams to look at the app 'live' or they can email a list e.g. providers for residential care and supported living in Gloucestershire.</p>	<p>Please email your learner's PLC or PLCT in the first instance.</p> <p>The Transition Support Team member supporting your young person's transition can also help.</p>
<p>What if our young person wants to move across counties from home county to reside in say, Gloucestershire or live with their friends?</p>	<p>There are many local, regional and national providers who are happy to work with families and Local Authority Commissioners to set up bespoke supported living services and to look at finding a suitable property, providing they can negotiate a spot contract (if they are not currently on the Local Framework for the preferred county).</p> <p>Setting up a cohort of compatible sharers is possible, but it can be challenging if the young people all have different Local Authorities who all need to conduct their own checks and funding approvals. But we have supported and collaborated on such projects for previous leavers.</p> <p>It is however quite a lengthy process, as once your young person has had a care needs assessment, your LA will first need to offer the contract to all the providers on their Local Framework to see if any of them can meet your young person's care needs. If this is not the case, it is then possible that your LA will agree to consider the funding of an out of county placement and support your research into providers in other counties.</p> <p>Once you have identified a provider and service provision, the Local Authority will conduct the required checks and meet with the provider directly, authorise for them to conduct their own Care Needs Assessment and negotiate on costings.</p>	<p>Your learners PLC or PLCT in the first instance with support from the Transition Support Team.</p>

	<p>If the Local Authority has identified a provider in your home county that you do not feel is appropriate for whatever reason, it is possible to challenge this via a Best Interests decision where the options for out of county providers can be considered (see last question for more information on this).</p> <p>Your young person's PLC or PLCT can search the Life After College app to see what providers are available in whichever county and if appropriate, the Transition Support Team can conduct bespoke research to identify other providers for you. This applies to both Residential Care and Supported Living even though the funding and financing of each will differ.</p>	
My son wants a job but not a Job Coach, what should he/we do?	<p>Students have opportunity to access internal work placements with our StarBistro, Star Mart and customer service/reception areas.</p> <p>Also, students, families and carers can access the Life After College app with either their PLC, PLCT, Job Coach or a member of the Transition Support Team for updates in the student's local area.</p>	Please email your learner's PLC, PLCT or Job Coach in the first instance.
If a young person isn't able to cope with 'normal work' and they opt to undertake a volunteer role, what benefits are they able to access to support them financially?	Volunteering doesn't affect benefits. Your local job centre or disability employment advisor would be able to advise on any support.	Please contact your local Job Centre for more information.
As above and in previous sessions, what is available for young adults who are far less able than this?	Your young person's PLC or PLCT and the Transition Support Team would be best placed to advise on what may be on offer to the student in terms of volunteer or meaningful occupation activities that will allow them to contribute to their community.	Please email your learner's PLC or PLCT in the first instance.
Will we get a copy of the slides afterwards?	Yes, the PowerPoint and this Q&A will be posted to the 'Families & Carers Zone' under the 'Knowledge Zone' on the National Star website.	Visit: www.nationalstar.org/sharing-knowledge/knowledge-hub/the-parent-zone/
What does long-term living cost?	Every placement is individual and depends on the complexity of care and whether any care can be shared and the pricing structure of the provider and whether they are limited by the hourly rate agreed on the Local Framework, if they are registered on it with a full or spot contract as these both have different rates.	The Transition Support Team on: Team-Transitions@nationalstar.org
Who pays for long term living?	It depends on how your young person is currently funded. If it is through Adult Social Care at your Local Authority, they would fund any onward long-term living care and support needs. If your son or daughter are CHC funded or part funded, they would be responsible for this element. In this case	The Transition Support Team on: Team-Transitions@nationalstar.org

	<p>early engagement with the ICB/CHC Case Management Team is crucial.</p> <p>Either way, funding has to be agreed and may require costing adjustments by the provider (particularly if a spot contract is required if they are not on the Local Framework).</p> <p>In the case of supported living, the care and housing are separate – with housing costs (via a tenancy agreement) covered by private means or via claiming Universal Credit (previously Housing Benefit).</p>	
Who is the first point of contact? The PLC or PLCT at National Star or the young person's Social Worker?	The PLC or PLCT should be contacted in the first instance in relation to transition. A meeting can then be arranged with the Social Worker and may include a member of the Transition Support Team, if appropriate.	The learner's PLC or PLCT is the first point of contact.
What is a CNA?	<p>A Care Needs Assessment is carried out to assess current health and care support needs to ensure that the right placement is sought on the local framework.</p> <p>If the Local Authority wish to carry out their own up to date CNA they will contact your young person's PLC or PLCT in the first instance. The Local Authority will also authorise any providers to conduct an assessment once a short list is made.</p>	Please contact the learner's PLC or PLCT in the first instance.
My son doesn't have a social worker, how can he get one?	Contact the Adult Social Care Duty Team in the September of your young person's last year at National Star and request a named Social Worker. If you get no response, their PLC or PLCT or a member of the Transition Support Team can also send an email. If no response, make a formal complaint via the Local Authority website as it is then officially recorded with a 14 days response period.	The learner's PLC or PLCT in the first instance with support from the Transition Support Team member supporting your young person's transition.
What day/time are the Day Student family meet ups usually held in the StarBistro?	Information about this and other informal (not National Star run) parent get togethers will be highlighted on the National Star 'Life After College' Parent and Carers Network (Facebook Group).	Please visit the National Star 'Life After College' Parent and Carers Network (Facebook Group): www.facebook.com/groups/3089681621340089
Is there a default to a 4 th year if an appropriate long-term living placement is not identified?	There is no default 4 th year sorry. If a student has had some time away from education during the programme e.g. ill health and are not meeting their outcomes because of this, a request for a continued placement can be requested. The most positive outcome is to work towards the best possible transition out of college; starting those conversations with the Local Authority, Social Workers etc as early as possible, with the support from your student's PLC, PLCT and the Transition Support Team.	Start conversations about life after college with your young person's PLC or PLCT as soon as possible and get the support needed early in your young person's programme at National Star.
Our Social Worker has given us an indicative	Negotiations regarding costings are made between the Local Authority and any prospective care	The Transition Support Team on:

<p>budget for care, would you normally expect to negotiate up? What if care providers I approach have a higher hourly rate? Can we negotiate what is in the Care Plan as you do for an EHCP?</p>	<p>provider. National Star's Transition Support Team do not usually get involved with this. If the provider is on the Local Framework, then they will have agreed to charge a rate set by the Local Authority.</p> <p>If the Local Authority has agreed to offer the provider a spot contract (when applications for a place on the Framework has closed) that will have a specific rate negotiated between them both and may be higher than the Local Framework rates.</p> <p>For out of county funding, this would need to be agreed by the funding (home) Local Authority and negotiations between them and the provider may involve multiple discussions to get to an agreed rate. This is very much on an individual, case-by-case basis.</p> <p>A current Care Needs Assessment will be carried out by the Local Authority and supporting documentation and information provided by staff at National Star will support input as to the content of the Care Plan and current care needs, which parents can also ask for sight of and give input to.</p> <p>The Transition Support Team will also give input and feedback to any Transition Meetings held along the way and the wider MDT will provide any additional information required.</p>	<p>Team-Transitions@nationalstar.org</p>
<p>How do I book on the talks or get a ticket for the Life After College Transition Event next Friday 24th October?</p>	<p>Please register for a free ticket for the event on the Families and Carers Zone tab on the National Star website asap. Bookings end on Thursday 23.10.25 at noon. There is still space on some of the talks which can also be booked via the link to the event.</p>	<p>Visit: www.nationalstar.org/events/student-transition-event/</p> <p>or contact the Transition Support Team on: Team-Transitions@nationalstar.org</p>
<p>If we have Deputyship for our young person, does this mean that we have the final say in which long-term living placement he lives in after Star?</p>	<p>Who has legal authority depends upon what exactly the deputyship order covers.</p> <p>Property & Financial Affairs Deputyship gives authority over money, benefits, bills, rent, etc., but not automatically over where the person lives.</p> <p>Health & Welfare Deputyship gives authority to make decisions about care, residence and medical treatment, but only within the specific powers granted by the Court of Protection. (These are quite rare and are usually made under Best Interests rather than appointing a welfare deputy).</p> <p>When a person lacks capacity to decide where to live the Local Authority must make a Best Interests decision under section 4 of the Mental Capacity Act.</p>	<p>The Transition Support Team on: Team-Transitions@nationalstar.org</p>

	<p>This requires the Local Authority to gather input from everyone involved at a Best Interests Meeting including the Deputy, family and professionals such as the National Star MDT (although on occasion, National Star staff have been excluded from meetings). The attendees consider all relevant circumstances - especially the person's wishes and feelings (if they are able to express them), evidence submitted, balance options and document the reasoning for their proposed decision. The Local Authority does not have the final say, as it's a shared statutory process.</p> <p>If the parent or carer (as the Deputy) and the Local Authority disagree on the Best Interests decision, and it can't be resolved through discussion or mediation (which sometimes involves further discussion with providers regarding costings so may not be immediate), then the final say rests with the Court of Protection.</p> <p>The Court of Protection then decides where the person should live, clarifies or extends the Deputy's powers and determines whether the Local Authority acted lawfully.</p>	
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