

On behalf of Brighton & Hove City Council and NHS Sussex, we acknowledge the difficulties and concerns parents have in relation to the Barnardo's contract coming to an end.

We want to reassure you that we are committed to avoiding a gap in services for your child or young person wherever possible.

We feel it has been positive that a number of the carers from Barnardo's have agreed to remain working with the young people they currently care for and have been willing to transfer over to receive direct payments.

We have been working hard to ensure that the administration tasks associated with this have been prioritised by our direct payment's administrator and our social work team to avoid a gap in care and to reduce the administrative burden on families.

A number of questions have been put forward by PaCC they consider would be helpful for us to answer. The questions and our responses are listed below.

If families have any further concerns about the process, they can discuss these with their child's social worker.

For all families

1. Will DBS checks be ported over by BHCC, to avoid any gap in care, and no DBS administrative burden on families.

Answer: Yes.

2. What will happen for families with no carer when the service ends.

Answer: Brighton & Hove will prioritise helping families in finding a suitable carer and ensure support is in place when the Barnardo's contract ends.

3. What happens if the council fail to find a suitable carer if family have exercised their right to refuse DP route?

Answer: The social worker will undertake a holistic assessment of the child/ young person and the family's needs to find an alternative provision.

For families receiving foster care

4. The transfer of care will move to BHCC and BHCC will hold the package in the same way that Barnardo's did?

Answer: Yes, BHCC will be responsible for training and supervision of foster carers, provide Human Resources support and will identify a suitable alternative placement should the foster care leave or the placement breaks down.

5. Families should not feel pressured to accept DPs, will an alternative source of paying a PA by BHCC be an option?

Answer: The council will assess all cases on an individual basis and if the parent / carer is unable to manage direct payments or doesn't want them, an alternative will be identified.

6. What happens next for any family where the transfer provision is at risk and no carer has been identified and/or families do not want direct payments.

Answer: As above, the council will assess on an individual basis.

For families using the Home Support Service under 18s social care

7. The transfer of care will move to health and health will be financially responsible for the package and will be in charge of the delivery of a family's social care package.

Answer: This is not the case. Health will not be financially responsible for the package. NHS Sussex has protected a small amount of funding to support packages of respite care led and provided by Brighton & Hove City Council. To make sure the support provided is targeted individually to a family's needs, is consistent with other help they receive, and as easy to access as possible, families will remain with their social work team for all aspects of packages of care.

8. Health will be responsible for training and supervision of carers?

Answer: The NHS-commissioned training and competency offer remains the same at present. This means there is no responsibility from health, for general training and supervision for carers, however parent/carers of children can access child specific training as per a child's individual programme of care to meet their health needs.

9. Health will be responsible for finding carers if a carer leaves?

Answer: Health are not responsible for finding carers and do not provide carer services, unless as part of a continuing healthcare package that has been agreed in this way. The council will continue to have responsibility for supporting families to find alternative provisions.

10. Health will be responsible for all HR for carers.

Answer: Again, not the case. NHS Sussex is not responsible for HR for carers. BHCC will be responsible for the HR of any employed carers.

11. What happens next for any family where the transfer provision is at risk and no carer has been identified and/or families do not want direct payments.

Answer: The social worker will carry out a holistic assessment of the child/young person and the family's needs to find an alternative provision.

12. Families should not feel pressured to accept DPs, an alternative source of paying a PA by BHCC must be an option. For families switching to Direct payments, a very high level of clear step by step support to remove the significant administrative burden, to ensure continuity of the care package as soon as the Barnardo's contract ceases.

Answer: We are not pressuring families to accept direct payments and we are offering support where no provider is available. Direct payments are not compulsory and where families would rather Brighton & Hove City Council arrange their support directly for whatever reason, this should be arranged. It is also possible to have a combination of support from the council and direct payments. Our primary goal is that families receive the respite care they need and deserve.

Spot purchase families over 18s

13. The transfer of care will move to BHCC and BHCC will hold the package in the same way that Barnardo's did.

Answer: Yes, the council will be responsible for training and supervision of foster carers, provide Human Resources support and will identify a suitable alternative placement should the foster care leave or the placement breaks down.

14. What happens next for any family where the transfer provision is at risk and no carer has been identified and/or families do not want direct payments.

Answer: The council will prioritise helping families to find a suitable carer and ensure support is in place when the Barnardo's contract ends.

15. Families should not feel pressured to accept DPs, an alternative source of paying a PA by BHCC must be an option.

Answer: The council will assess all cases on an individual basis and if the parent / carer is unable to manage direct payments or doesn't want them, an alternative will be identified.