How, who, what and when: making the pathway plan effective, enforceable and meaningful

Tuesday 13 May 2025, 2-3.30pm on Zoom

For members of the Children and Young People's Advocates Network

Pathway plans & reviews – key points

Key points

- **A legally defined document which sets out a young person's needs, views, plans, goals and aspirations, and the different services, both universal and more targeted, that will be provided by local authorities and others to meet those needs and to support the young person to thrive.**

- **It is a 'living document' that is subject to ongoing reviews based on the young person's changing needs and circumstances**.

- It sets out "the advice, assistance and support which the local authority intends to provide" to a young person and it **must comprehensively address any matters prescribed in regulations** (i.e., the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 for eligible children and the Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010 for relevant and former relevant children).

- **Must be developed based on a comprehensive needs assessment** and must be **prepared for every eligible child**, including young people who become looked after under s.20 CA 1989 after their 17th birthday, **every relevant child** who does not already have one, **and then continued/maintained for every former relevant child**.

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Key points

- **Young people's involvement is fundamentally important to effective pathway planning and reviews**. Local authorities must seek and have regard to young people's views and take all reasonable steps to enable them to attend and participate in any meetings which concern them.
- **Must include information about HOW the responsible authority intends to meet the young person's needs, WHOE will do WHAT and WHEN**.
- **Statutory professionals** like independent reviewing officers, social workers and personal advisers **play different and complementary roles** in the pathway planning, preparation, review and implementation process.
- **Independent advocates have a dual role to play** – (a) contributing to pathway plans and reviews and (b) holding local authorities to account for failure/s to follow the law and statutory guidance, in line with young people's wishes and instructions.
- Some young people require specialist support from advocates and solicitors to have a **care leaver's** ('former relevant child') **status recognised retrospectively**.

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Key points

- Any unwelcome or otherwise problematic decision taken by a local authority in connection with a young person's pathway plan can be the subject of a representation, including complaint, under the Children Act 1989. **Where a complaint concerns a proposed change to a pathway plan, young person's accommodation or another service, the decision may need to be deferred (frozen) until the complaint has been considered.**

- A pathway plan review must take place at prescribed intervals and whenever requested by a young person. **Reviews should always be brought forward where there is a known or assessed risk that a crisis may develop in a young person's life**.

- **The statutory responsibilities of local authorities** to prepare, review and implement pathway plans **apply irrespective of any other services being provided to young people because they are disabled, in custody or because they have an uncertain immigration status**. Planning and support need to be holistic and responsive to young people's individual needs and circumstances.

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WHO is involved?

Education professionals, incl. designated teacher

Health professionals

The local authority for the area in which the young person lives if different from the responsible local authority

Parents/carers, others with parental responsibility

YOUNG PERSON

Any other person whose views the responsible authority, or the young person, consider may be relevant.

Social worker – Prepares PP

IRO –
Makes sure PP reflects young person's views;
Must be satisfied that PP is informed by a good quality assessment, is aspirational, contains contingency plans and will assist the young person –
must take action if not the case

Personal adviser – participates in the needs assessment and PP preparation and reviews, liaises with the authority and others to ensure implementation of the PP

ADVOCATE
any person by whom assistance by way of representation is provided to the young person by virtue of arrangements made by the responsible authority under section 26A(3) Children Act 1989

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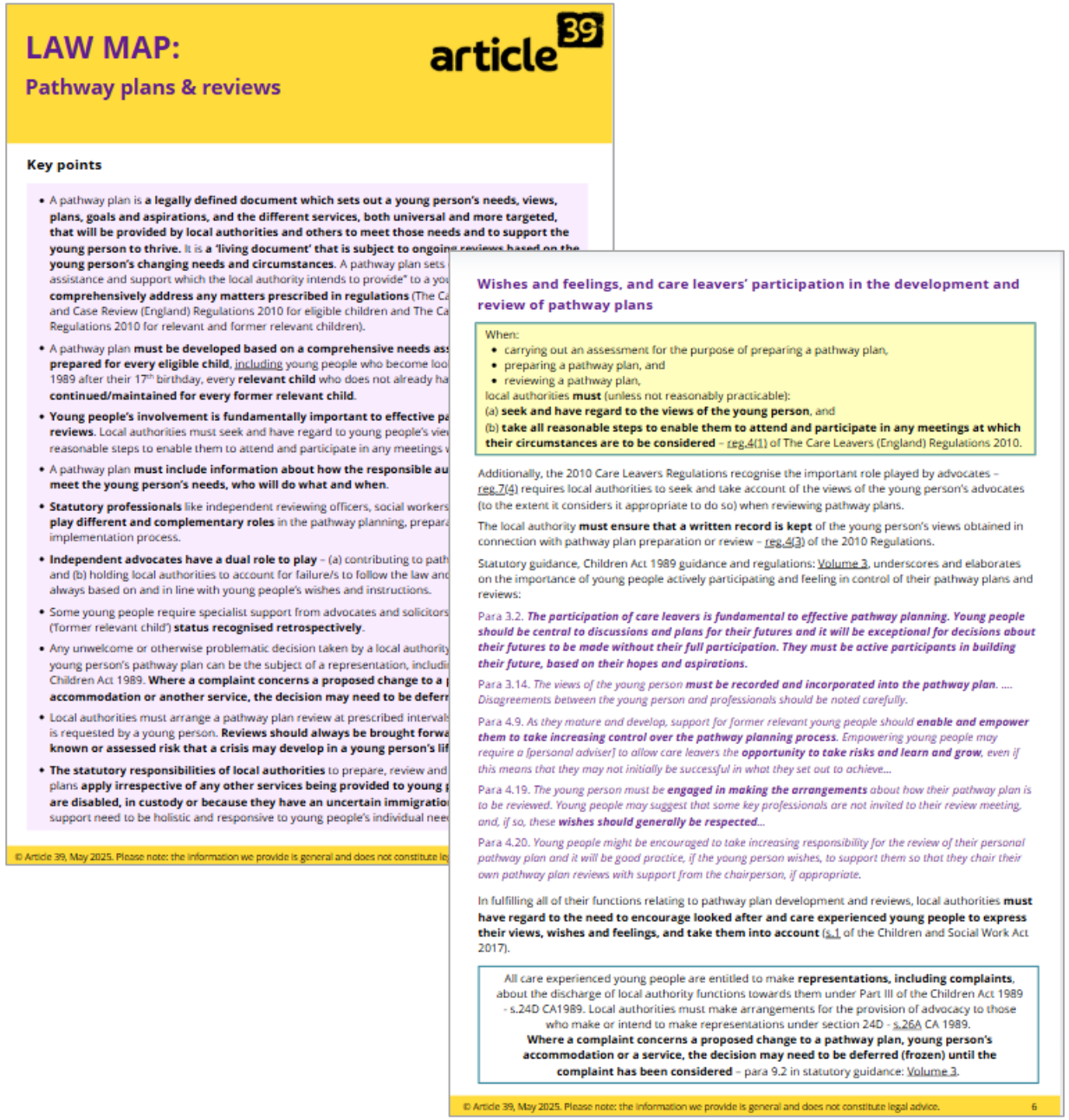
Law map:
Pathway plans & reviews



LAW MAP:

Pathway plans & reviews

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Key points

- A pathway plan is **a legally defined document which sets out a young person's needs, views, plans, goals and aspirations, and the different services, both universal and more targeted, that will be provided by local authorities and others to meet those needs and to support the young person to thrive.** It is **a 'living document' that is subject to ongoing reviews based on the young person's changing needs and circumstances.** A pathway plan sets assistance and support which the local authority intends to provide" to a yo **comprehensively address any matters prescribed in regulations** (The Ca and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 for eligible children and The Ca Regulations 2010 for relevant and former relevant children).
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- Some young people require specialist support from advocates and solicitors (Former relevant child') **status recognised retrospectively.**
- Any unwelcome or otherwise problematic decision taken by a local authority young person's pathway plan can be the subject of a representation, includi Children Act 1989. **Where a complaint concerns a proposed change to a accommodation or another service, the decision may need to be defer**
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Wishes and feelings, and care leavers' participation in the development and review of pathway plans

When:
- carrying out an assessment for the purpose of preparing a pathway plan,
- preparing a pathway plan, and
- reviewing a pathway plan,

local authorities **must** (unless not reasonably practicable):
(a) **seek and have regard to the views of the young person**, and
(b) **take all reasonable steps to enable them to attend and participate in any meetings at which their circumstances are to be considered** – reg.4(1) of The Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010.

Additionally, the 2010 Care Leavers Regulations recognise the important role played by advocates – reg.7(4) requires local authorities to seek and take account of the views of the young person's advocates (to the extent it considers it appropriate to do so) when reviewing pathway plans.

The local authority **must ensure that a written record is kept** of the young person's views obtained in connection with pathway plan preparation or review – reg.4(3) of the 2010 Regulations.

Statutory guidance, Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations: Volume 3, underscores and elaborates on the importance of young people actively participating and feeling in control of their pathway plans and reviews:

Para 3.2. ***The participation of care leavers is fundamental to effective pathway planning. Young people should be central to discussions and plans for their futures and it will be exceptional for decisions about their futures to be made without their full participation. They must be active participants in building their future, based on their hopes and aspirations.***

Para 3.14. *The views of the young person* ***must be recorded and incorporated into the pathway plan****. .... Disagreements between the young person and professionals should be noted carefully.*

Para 4.9. *As they mature and develop, support for former relevant young people should* ***enable and empower them to take increasing control over the pathway planning process****. Empowering young people may require a [personal adviser] to allow care leavers the* ***opportunity to take risks and learn and grow****, even if this means that they may not initially be successful in what they set out to achieve...*

Para 4.19. *The young person must be* ***engaged in making the arrangements*** *about how their pathway plan is to be reviewed. Young people may suggest that some key professionals are not invited to their review meeting, and, if so, these* ***wishes should generally be respected****...*

Para 4.20. *Young people might be encouraged to take increasing responsibility for the review of their personal pathway plan and it will be good practice, if the young person wishes, to support them so that they chair their own pathway plan reviews with support from the chairperson, if appropriate.*

In fulfilling all of their functions relating to pathway plan development and reviews, local authorities **must have regard to the need to encourage looked after and care experienced young people to express their views, wishes and feelings, and take them into account** (s.1 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017).

All care experienced young people are entitled to make **representations, including complaints**, about the discharge of local authority functions towards them under Part III of the Children Act 1989 - s.24D CA1989. Local authorities must make arrangements for the provision of advocacy to those who make or intend to make representations under section 24D - s.26A CA 1989.
Where a complaint concerns a proposed change to a pathway plan, young person's accommodation or a service, the decision may need to be deferred (frozen) until the complaint has been considered – para 9.2 in statutory guidance: Volume 3.

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- Relevant legislation and guidance
- Pathway plans and 'eligible children' (children who are aged 16/17 and are still looked after)
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- Wishes and feelings, and care leavers' participation in the development and review of pathway plans
- Content and format of pathway plans (relevant and former relevant children)
- Access to pathway plans and connected records
- Pathway plan reviews (relevant and former relevant children)
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- ANNEX 1: Who needs a pathway plan, and which professionals are involved?

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History of care leavers’ rights

History of care leavers' rights

We asked officials to prepare a paper spelling out what ordinary families do or try to do, not necessarily continuously, but intermittently, for their own children between the ages of 16 and 21. The main thing is to provide a home to live in, or return to. Then there is the shoulder to cry on, the encouragement to do a bit more work at school or college, the morale-boosting chat before going to an interview, the consolation afterwards if the interview goes wrong, or celebration if the interview goes right. Young people want someone to provide a lift when they want to go somewhere, a meal, or, when they are bit older, someone to take them for a drink, someone to get the washing done, someone to touch for a tenner when they are skint, someone to keep an eye on them, someone who cares about them.

Health Minister, John Hutton MP (House of Commons Debates., 2000b, col.654)
the Children (Leaving Care) Act, 2000

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History of care leavers' rights

- **The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000** amended the Children Act 1989 to create **duties and** confer **powers** to local authorities to support children and young people leaving care.
- Minister for Health John Hutton hailed the leaving care legislation as bringing ***'historic changes that are long overdue'*** (John Hutton, Standing Committee A, 2000a, col.3).

> *Assistance for [care leavers over 18] … will consist of help with employment, education and training or general matters. Such help will normally be agreed between the young person and the responsible authority and will be given for specific purposes. Councils are under a duty to provide such assistance to the extent that someone's welfare or his educational and training needs require it.*
>
> *A Pathway Plan, setting out such assistance, will be reviewed regularly and as frequently as necessary. Clearly that is not a licence for relevant children to stay in bed all day … while limitless funds flow into their bank account (ibid., col.652).*
>
> Health ;Minister, John Hutton MP (House of Commons Debates., 2000b, col.654 and 652) the Children (Leaving Care) Act, 2000

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History of care leavers' rights

The Children and Young Persons Act 2008

- Local authorities must pay a **higher education bursary** to certain former relevant children.
- Care leavers under the age of 25 who wish to take up a programme of education or training will have an entitlement to resume support from a personal adviser (PA) appointed by the local authority previously responsible for providing their leaving care support.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017

- Right to a personal adviser:

  extend the entitlement to a PA to all care leavers up until the age of 25, regardless of whether they are in education or training, to ensure "*no care leaver [is] left isolated or forced to fend for themselves*" and require that a local authority notifies care leavers once a year that they have the right to have a PA until their 25th birthday.

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History of care leavers' rights

The Children and Social Work Act 2017

- **Corporate parenting principles,** section 1

(a) act in the best interests of children and young people and promote their physical and mental health and well-being;
(b) encourage children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
(c) take into account children and young people's views, wishes and feelings;
(d) help children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services;
(e) promote high aspirations for children and young people, and support them to achieve best possible outcomes;
(f) ensure children and young people are safe and that they have stability in their home lives, relationships, and education/work;
(g) prepare children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

- **The local offer**, section 2

Requires each local authority to consult on and publish **a local offer** for its care leavers that provides information about all the services and support that is available to care leavers, including information about both their statutory entitlements as well as any discretionary support that a local authority chooses to provide

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Key legal information

Who may qualify as a care leaver?

ELIGIBLE CHILD -> aged 16 and 17

AND is currently looked after AND has been looked after for a cumulative period of at least 13 weeks which began after their 14th birthday.

RELEVANT CHILD -> aged 16 and 17

AND is no longer looked after AND was looked after for a cumulative period of 13+ weeks since age 14 which ended after their 16th birthday (i.e., was an eligible child before ceasing to be looked after).

OR

is no longer looked after AND after their 16th birthday was in hospital, a young offender institution or a secure children's home AND was (before leaving care) looked after for a cumulative period of 13+ weeks since age 14 which ended after their 16th birthday.

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Who may qualify as a care leaver?

FORMER RELEVANT CHILD -> aged 18-25

AND Was either a relevant child in the past OR an eligible child immediately before ceasing to be looked after at 18.

QUALIFYING YOUNG PERSON -> aged 16-25

AND Is the subject of a special guardianship order (or was when they reached 18)
AND was looked after immediately before the making of that order.

OR

at any time between the ages of 16 and 18, was looked after (for less than 13 weeks) but is no longer looked after.

Retrospective care leavers -> Aged up to 24 years

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Essential reading and references

- ✓ Children Act 1989
- ✓ The Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010
- ✓ The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010
- ✓ Children and Social Worker Act 2017
- ✓ The Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations:

  Volume 2 (2010) – eligible children

  Volume 3 (2010) [last updated Feb 2025] – relevant and former relevant children, qualifying care leavers
- ✓ IRO Handbook 2010
- ✓ Extending personal adviser support to all care leavers to age (2018)
- ✓ Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers (2018)
- ✓ The national protocol on reducing unnecessary criminalisation of looked-after children and care leavers (2018)

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The personal adviser

The personal adviser plays a fundamental role in the supporting, encouraging and nurturing the young person, and making sure that the **pathway needs assessment** and **pathway plan** reflects their needs, wishes and feelings … and if not, making sure that it does.

The functions of personal advisers are set out in regulation 8 of The Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010 (relevant and former relevant children) and regulation 44 of The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 (eligible children):

(a) to **provide advice (including practical advice) and support**,

(b) where applicable, to **participate in the assessment and the preparation of the pathway plan**,

(c) to **participate in reviews of the pathway plan**,

(d) to **liaise with the responsible authority in the implementation of the pathway plan**,

(e) to **co-ordinate the provision of services**, and to take reasonable steps to ensure that the child makes use of such services and that they are appropriate to the child's needs,

(f) to **remain informed about** the relevant child's or former relevant child's **progress and wellbeing**, and

(g) to **keep a written record** of contacts with, and of services provided to, the relevant or former relevant child.

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The personal adviser

Mr Justice Munby (as he was then), in the case of **J-v-Caerphilly CBC** stated:

> *In my judgment there is nothing either in the general law or in the relevant legislation which makes it either unlawful or necessarily undesirable to appoint as the personal adviser of a child in care an officer or employee of the local authority which is the child's statutory parent. On the other hand, if such a person is appointed,* ***it is important that both he or she and the local authority should recognise that the personal adviser is indeed acting in that role and not in some other, let alone conflicting, role.*** *That, unfortunately, seems not to have been appreciated in the present case.* [paragraph 27]

> ***It is not part of the personal adviser's functions to undertake the statutory assessment or the preparation of the pathway plan, nor should he do so.*** *The Regulations, in my judgment, show that it is not permissible for him to do so. It is in any event undesirable that he should do so.* ***Part of the personal adviser's role is, in a sense, to be the advocate or representative of the child in the course of the child's dealings with the local authority.*** *As the Children Leaving Care Act Guidance puts it, the personal adviser plays a "negotiating role on behalf of the child". He is, in a sense, a 'go-between' between the child and the local authority. His vital role and function are apt to be compromised if he is, at one and the same time, both the author of the local authority's pathway plan and the person charged with important duties owed to the child in respect of its preparation and implementation.*[paragraph 30]

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The assessment of needs

The “assessment” stage of pathway planning is essential and must address:

- needs related to physical, emotional and mental health and development;
- education, training or employment needs;
- needs resulting from the young person being an unaccompanied asylum seeking child or a victim (known or there’s reason to believe they are) of trafficking;
- actual and anticipated financial resources and the capacity to manage financial matters;
- accommodation needs;
- wishes and feelings of the young person;
- the views of relevant adults and professionals (e.g., IRO, personal adviser).

Statutory guidance, The Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations: Volume 3, states:

The needs assessment to inform the Pathway Plan should be based on the three domains within the Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families … The Assessment and Action Records ***should provide a comprehensive picture of the child’s developmental needs and the agreed actions to address these****.*

Chapter 6 (paragraphs 6.1-6.18)

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The pathway plan

The **pathway plan** is born out of the **pathway needs assessment**.

Statutory guidance, The Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations: Volume 3, states that the pathway plan is
"pivotal to the process whereby children and young people map out their future".

Paragraph 7.2

And,

"The Pathway Plan should be explicit in setting out the objectives and actions needed to achieve these; this should include who is responsible for achieving each action and time-scale for achieving it."

Paragraph 7.7

Regulation 6 of The Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010
[…]
(3) The pathway plan must, in relation to each of the matters included in it by virtue of paragraph (2) [matters referred to in Schedule 1], set out—
(a) the manner in which the responsible authority propose to meet the needs of the relevant or former relevant child, and
(b) the date by which, and by whom, any action required to implement any aspect of the pathway plan will be carried out.
(4) The pathway plan must be recorded in writing.

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The pathway plan

The **pathway plan** must address in accordance with schedule 1 of the The Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010:

1. ***Contact and personal support***
2. *A detailed plan for the **education or training***
3. *Assistance in relation to **employment or other purposeful activity or occupation**.*
4. ***Contingency plans***
5. *Details of the suitable **accommodation** to be arranged*
6. *Support to be provided to develop and sustain appropriate **family and social relationships**.*
7. *A programme to develop the **practical and other skills** to live independently.*
8. *The **financial support** to be provided, in particular to meet accommodation and maintenance needs.*
9. *The **health needs**, including any mental health needs, and how they are to be met.*
10. *Arrangements to meet the child's **needs in relation to identity with particular regard to their religious persuasion, racial origin and cultural and linguistic background**.*
11*. *Where the child [is an **unaccompanied asylum seeking child or a victim [known or there's reason to believe they are] of trafficking**, whether the **child's needs as a result of that status** are being met.*

**[NB. para 11 was added to Schedule 1 in 2014 and does not appear in the 2010 Regulations but can be viewed here & here].*

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The importance of the pathway plan

Mr Justice Munby – ***R(J) -v- Caerphilly CBC***

> *I propose to focus on the content of the pathway plans rather than the assessments because the pathway plans are so deficient that it is scarcely necessary to spend time examining assessments which are in many ways equally unsatisfactory.* ***It is, after all, the inadequacy of the assessments – which feed into and form the basis of the pathway plans – which is in large measure the cause of the deficiencies in the pathway plans***
>
> [paragraph 35]

> ***Any judge who sits in the Family Division will be familiar with the depressing inadequacies and deficiencies in too many of the care plans presented to the court for its approval. A care plan is more than a statement of strategic objectives – though all too often even these are expressed in the most vacuous terms. A care plan is – or ought to be – a detailed operational plan.*** *Just how detailed will depend upon the circumstances of the particular case. Sometimes a very high level of detail will be essential. But whatever the level of detail which the individual case may call for,* ***any care plan worth its name ought to set out the operational objectives with sufficient detail – including detail of the 'how, who, what and when' – to enable the care plan itself to be used as a means of checking whether or not those objectives are being met. Nothing less is called for in a pathway plan****. Indeed, the Regulations, as we have seen, mandate a high level of detail.*
>
> [paragraph 46]

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The "uncooperative" care leaver

Mr Justice Munby – ***R(J) -v- Caerphilly CBC***

> *The fact that a child is uncooperative and unwilling to engage, or even refuses to engage, is no reason for the local authority not to carry out its obligations under the Act and the Regulations. After all, a disturbed child's unwillingness to engage with those who are trying to help is often merely a part of the overall problems which justified the local authority's statutory intervention in the first place. The local authority must do its best.*

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Case law

Case law

- ***J-v- Caerphilly CBC* [2005] EWHC 586 (Admin)**

This is the leading judgment in regards the care and support for care leavers. It provide judicial guidance around the level of detail required in a care plan, including ensuring that it was specific and detailed, that the care leaver was engaged in the process of the assessment and care plan, and identified that a personal adviser was a distinct and separate role from the social worker.

- ***R (on the application of Deeming) v Birmingham City Council* [2006] EWHC 3719 (Admin)**

The claimant was placed into care at 9 months old and placed with adoptive parents. At 15 years he was placed in a children's home and then an independent living placement. When this broke down he was placed in a Travelodge. The claim against the local authority was the inadequacy of the pathway plan. **Conclusion:** pathway plan failed to adequately address financial needs, failure to make contingency plans, and to undertake a lawful needs assessment.

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Case law

- ***R (on the application of C) v London Borough of Lambeth* [2008] EWHC 1230 (Admin)**

The Claimant (21) had a long history with children's services. She experienced mental health difficulties, sexual abuse, and neglect. The local authority had refused any support as she was not education. The claimant wanted to enrol on a course and requested leaving care support. **Conclusion:** the pathway planning (unlawfully prepared by the personal adviser) was so deficient that the local authority was required to redraft the pathway plan and to continue supporting the claimant.

- ***R (on the application of A) v Lambeth London Borough Council* [2010] All ER (D) 58 (Jul)**

The claimant (child) was involved with gangs, spent time in prison, and had suffered life threatening injuries, and alleged that the authority had failed to produce a lawful pathway plan. **Conclusion:** the personal adviser had produced the plan which was contrary to the law and assessment and plan was required to be done again.

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Case law

- ***Birara (R on the application of) v London Borough Of Hounslow* (2010) [2010] EWHC 2113 (Admin)**

The claimant (21) requested the assistance of the authority to access education, which was refused on the basis of her age. **Conclusion:** the pathway plan failed:

> *"… live up to its name. It should be a document which sets out the pathway to the achievement of the agreed goal. The plan should set out the start and the end of the path, identifying points along that path which represent the steps to be taken and in due course taken, and objectives to be achieved and in due course achieved. Each review of the plan would show therefore the point along the path which the young person had reached, an evaluation of the progress made, the further steps to be taken and modification to the steps or targets if deemed necessary. An examination of the plan would enable the reader to see the progress made from start to date and ultimately to finish."* [paragraph 54]

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Case law

- ***SO, R (on the application of) v London Borough of Barking and Dagenham* [2010] EWCA Civ 1101**

The Court of Appeal **overturned** the High Court decision that section s23C of the Children Act 1989 did not provide local authorities the power to provide accommodation to a care leaver. The Court also found that the existence of National Asylum Support Service accommodation does not amount to accommodation that would remove the power of the authority to provide accommodation.

- ***R(TG) v London Borough of Lambeth* [2011] EWCA Civ 526**

The Court of Appeal **overturned** the High Court decision that the Claimant should not be recognised as a care leaver *retrospectively*. The Claimant (22) argued that accommodation provided to him with the assistance of his youth offending team worker through the housing department should be understood as the authority making arrangements his home in accordance with section 20 of the Children Act 1989. The Court of Appeal agreed and TG was treated as a former relevant child.

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Case law

- ***R v London Borough Of Croydon* (2012) [2012] EWHC 4243 (Admin)**

The Claimant was an unaccompanied asylum seeker and the authority concluded he was an adult, not a child as claimed. The Claimant was provided National Asylum Seeker Services (NASS) accommodation pending legal proceedings around the assessment of his age. The Claimant was found to be a child at the relevant time and argued that the accommodation by NASS should be treated as time when he was "looked after" and he should be treated as a care leaver. **Conclusion:** The Court agreed that he should be treated as a care leaver.

- ***R (on the application of Kebede and another) v Newcastle City Council* [2013] EWHC 355 (Admin)**

The Claimants had limited leave to remain in the UK and wished to attend university. They were unable to access funding due to their immigration status and therefore requested the authority's assistance to fund their education as care leavers, pursuant to section 23C of the Children Act 1989. The authority argued that the wording of the statute didn't include tuition fees. **Conclusion**: The Court found that the statute would permit funding of education, including tuition fees.

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Case law

- ***R(TW)-v-Essex CC and Colchester CC*** **[2024] EWHC 264 (Admin)**

The claimant sought to be treated as a care leaver following an assessment that he was not a child in need but that he needed support to access long term accommodation. The authority provided support via one of its services and he sofa surfed (with family) while a separate service arranged longer term accommodation. The claimant argued that the authority was in all other means "looking after" him within the meaning of section of the Children Act 1989. **Conclusion**: The authority was permitted to conclude he was not a child in need and therefore not looked after, and not now a care leaver. [*subject to appeal*]

- ***R (DF) -v- Essex County Council*** **[2024] EWCA Civ 1545**

The claimant lived with her mother who died unexpectedly. She was left in the family home without support and which was owned by the authority. She was given notice to quit the home, extended while alternatives were arranged. The claimant argued that the period until she was provided her own home should be understood to be as a child looked after by the authority. **Conclusion:** The Court found that she was not looked after for this period (she had accommodation) and therefore not a care leaver.

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CASE STUDY ANALYSIS

Scenario 1 – Andrew

Andrew, 18, has been in the care since a care order was granted when he was 6 years-old. He is due to be released from prison in two weeks but there are no plans for what happens when he is out. Andrew is worried that he has no home to go to, no money and he doesn't know where his personal possessions are. Before being sentenced to custody, he was living in supported accommodation and had a key worker who was also his leaving care personal advisor.

He had asked his key worker for help to enrol on a course at a local college but was told that all future advice and support would have to be provided by the probation service

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Scenario 2 – Sarah

Sarah, 22, lives in a privately rented flat and has been told by her landlord that she needs to leave in 3 months. She tried to call her personal adviser (PA) for help; the PA emailed to say that Sarah is no longer entitled to any support.

Sarah is in the second year of her degree and while she loves her course and the uni environment, she is struggling financially and the housing situation is affecting her mental health, making it impossible to focus or rest.

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Scenario 3 – Zahra

Zahra, who turned 16 six months ago, has just been informed by her social worker that she would be moving from the children's home where she's been living for 2 years to supported accommodation. The social worker explained that this must happen as part of "preparation for transition to adulthood". When Zahra asked what would happen after that, she was told that it would depend on a number of things and would be discussed once she's turned 18.

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Q&A

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