

national transition support team

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for disabled young people

Transition Support Programme Year 3

Report from the Self Assessment Questionnaire Analysis

Thursday, 03 March 2011

National Transition Support Team

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Summary of Findings

“Transition isn’t just about what goes on in schools or in children’s services or in adult services. Managers need to be able to see the whole picture from a young person’s perspective. They don’t just fit into a social care box or a health box or a leisure centre box. They have a life that needs lots of different components to make it work.”

TSP Named Advisor

Below are some general points from the analysis of information submitted in the Self Assessment Questionnaires from year 3 of the TSP.

Improvements:

- Multi agency strategic sign up to a Protocol/Pathway - recognition of value, working documents, young people being involved in the development and review of protocols, one example of commissioners using protocol to spell out expectations to service providers
- Multi agency strategic membership on steering/planning groups
- Better links between Commissioning and service departments
- Better information sharing and collation of information for planning
- Some improvements in monitoring outcomes and tracking young people
- Improvements in key working/ lead professional role - often active and consistent, with very clear definition of role and expectations
- There is high levels of engagement in year 9 reviews and quality of engagement is improved
- Participation of families and of disabled¹ young people appears to have improved a great deal. Improved family participation in many areas is due to transition being part of the wider AHDC parent forums and short break work. Improved participation of young people is due to TSP alongside more general AHDC work locally.

Gaps:

- Information, Advice and Guidance/Connexions remains an area of concern with budget cuts implemented this year and its future is uncertain in many areas.
- Health engagement is improving but remains an area in need of attention – there are still gaps in engagement and joined up working.
- Limited improvement in Post 16 opportunities
- Health Action Plans are often indicated as being in place but SAQ shows different levels of development and quality across country.

¹ For ease of reading we use the term ‘disabled’ throughout this report to mean young people with special educational needs, disabilities or complex health needs.

Introduction

The Transition Support Programme

The Transition Support Programme (TSP) is a government programme, owned jointly by the Department for Education and the Department of Health. It is designed to improve support to disabled young people in their transition to adulthood through local area services. It is part of the wider government programme, Aiming High for Disabled Children, which is transforming local services in England for all disabled children, young people and their families.

The TSP runs over three years with £19m of funding committed between 2008 and March 2011. The programme is supported by the National Transition Support Team (NTST), National Strategies (NS) and the Child Health and Maternity Partnership (CHaMP). These three agencies are working directly with every local area in England to improve processes to support disabled young people and their families through transition.

The National Transition Support Team is based at the Council for Disabled Children and coordinates the delivery of the Transition Support Programme including the preparation of this report.

Self Assessment Questionnaire

The SAQ is devised in a way that supports local areas to complete it as a multi agency self assessment which provides a shared understanding of how transition is operating within local services. It has been designed to capture the main statutory and guidance elements in relation to transition across all agencies and provide local areas with the space to share areas of improvement, innovation and good practice. The SAQ provides a snapshot of how agencies, processes and systems are working together at a specific point in time to support disabled young people and their families.

147 out of 152 local areas submitted SAQs in Year 3. The response data set out in this report is based on these returns. Of the 5 remaining areas, TSP Named Advisors and their previous SAQs show they are meeting minimum standards. However no information is included about them in this report as no SAQ data for year 3 is available.

This report

This report sets out findings from the analysis of the questionnaires and a breakdown of the overall findings from the local areas in England.

A report giving an overview of the work of the Transition Support Programme from 2008 – 2011 will be available in March 2011 on the website.

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Section A: Summary of progress regarding Statutory Requirements and Guidance Requirements

Fulfilment of Statutory Requirements

All local areas that returned their SAQs are meeting the majority of these statutory requirements. Although the increase in this year is small, the additional text provided in the SAQ indicates that in many areas the quality of support to young people in meeting these duties has improved significantly in some areas.

	SAQ 1 Local areas	%	SAQ 2 Local areas	%	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
Meeting all statutory requirements	83	56%	143	95%	139	95%
Meeting most statutory requirements, developments in place for others	53	36%	7	5%	8	5%
Not meeting the majority of statutory requirements	11	8%	1	1%	0	0%

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Fulfilment of Guidance Requirements

A range of legislation is before parliament at the moment which, if enacted, may mean much of the current guidance may soon be superseded. To ensure the SAQ3 gives a consistent picture, however, we have continued to use questions which relate to current guidance.

The SAQ includes a number of questions that are based on government documents which set out guidance with regard to transition provision. For example there were questions about multi agency working arrangements, strategic planning and information provision.

Summary	SAQ 2 Local areas	%	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
Meeting the majority of guidance requirements developments in place to meet others	88	58.3%	104	71%
Meeting most guidance requirements work planned to start to meet others	59	39.1%	42	29%
Meeting limited areas of guidance	4	2.6%	1	1%

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IAG Provision

This section reports on Information Advice and Guidance/Connexions provision. Even though IAG is integral to other activity, this section has been separated out to illustrate particular points about this service.

Local areas reported (in SAQs completed in December 2010) that local authority budget reductions which had to be made this financial year were having a significant impact on IAG/Connexions provision.

Do young people have access to Information Advice and Guidance advisors?	SAQ 2	%	SAQ 3	%
All	145	96.0%	142	98.6%
Some	5	3.3%	5	3.5%
None	1	0.7%	0	0.0%

Information Advice and Guidance advisors receive regular training in supporting disabled young people	SAQ 3	%
Yes	128	87.1%
Some	19	12.9%
None	0	0.0%

How do IAG advisors link in with transition planning?	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
Attendance at year 9 reviews	147	100.0%
Undertake the lead professional role	131	89.1%
Feed assessments and reports into transition planning	147	100.0%
Organise/attend transition information events	143	97.3%
Complete S140/S139a for young people in out of borough placements	143	97.3%
Uphold home/host arrangements	140	95.2%
Complete out of borough planning visits	123	83.7%

The SAQ contained a supplementary question about the impact of planned and possible future budget reductions in local areas. IAG/ Connexions was repeatedly highlighted as a service that was in jeopardy.

Section B: Good Practice – The Five Focus Areas

TSP used evidence from a variety of sources – including the views of disabled young people and families – to identify a set of 5 focus areas for the duration of the programme. They are:

1. **Participation** of disabled young people and their families
2. Effectiveness of **personalised approaches**
3. **Joint assessments** processes within children’s trusts and adult services
4. Realistic **post 16 opportunities** for living life
5. Strategic **joint partnership** working

What this might mean locally:

- Effective engagement with and participation from disabled young people and also their families;
- Effectiveness of personalised approaches including person centred planning, use of individual budgets and direct payments;
- Joint assessment processes within **children’s trust services, including schools and with adult social care**;
- Realistic **post 16 opportunities for living life and to help reduce the numbers of disabled young people who are not in education, employment or training**;
- Strategic partnership working **including commissioning, to ensure that all agencies are fully engaged in providing transition support**. In addition ensuring that other AHDC activity and universal offers, like the youth strategy, take into account the needs of disabled young people at transition.

1. Participation of disabled young people and their families

Transition Reviews

In just over 58% of local areas more than 80% of young people attend their year nine transition reviews. Beyond the figures, SAQ 3 shows an improvement in how the reviews are conducted, arrangements for young people not attending, and clarity in expecting actions to be followed up.

Young people receive information about both the transition process and the options available to them	SAQ 2	%	SAQ 3	%
Yes	130	86.1%	141	97.9%
In Development	21	13.9%	6	4.2%

The percentage of young people that attend their year nine transition review is:	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
100%	4	2.8%
Over 90%	47	32.6%
80 - 90%	33	22.9%
50-80%	55	38.2%
Between 20 and 50%	5	3.5%

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Transition Reviews	SAQ 2	%	SAQ 3	%
Schools arrange and lead all transition reviews when they should happen	144	95.4%	143	99.3%
Schools send out invitations in good time (at least six weeks prior to meeting) to families and professionals	135	89.4%	135	93.8%
Review meetings are organised with the young person and their family	134	88.7%	139	96.5%
A named person is allocated to follow up actions and implement the plan with young people	145	96.0%	142	98.6%

Participation in local planning

What have you done to ensure that disabled young people have participated and will continue to participate in all TSP developments?	SAQ 2 Local areas	%	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
Increased capacity of local advocacy	74	49.3%	75	52.1%
Developed a participation strategy that links existing groups into TSP	95	63.3%	104	72.2%
Developed strategy to ensure information is accessible and presented in a number of formats	125	83.3%	123	85.4%
Disabled young people have direct involvement in project implementation	95	63.3%	120	83.3%
Disabled young people are involved in evaluating the progress of TSP locally	88	58.7%	102	70.8%

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2. Effectiveness of personalised approaches

Person centred approaches

Many areas now have some work in place on developing a more person centred approach to planning for disabled young people and their families.

Person centred planning is part of the following wider transition assessment and planning process:	SAQ 2 Local areas	%	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
S139A	109	72.2%	134	93.1%
Transition plan	133	88.1%	140	97.2%
Adult support plans	128	84.8%	139	96.5%
Pathway plan	103	68.2%	121	84.0%
Health action plan	87	57.6%	118	81.9%
Supported employment schemes	80	53.0%	104	72.2%

Data use and monitoring remains poor in many areas. As the use of person centred approaches is still relatively new the work on applying it to monitoring is an area requiring further development. Training of staff in understanding person centred approaches continues but even in well advanced areas the sharing of knowledge across agencies and throughout staff teams remains low. However some local areas are building local capacity in terms of person centred approaches by developing local training resources.

There is a monitoring process in place that tracks outcomes relating to person centred planning	SAQ 2 Local areas	%	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
Yes	50	33.1%	61	42.4%
In development	78	51.7%	81	56.3%
No	23	15.2%	5	3.5%

Individual Budgets

In some areas disabled young people are able to access individual budgets in children's services.

Disabled young people are able to access individual budgets in children's services	SAQ 2 Local areas	%	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
Yes	26	17.2%	41	28.5%
In development	73	48.3%	72	50.0%
No	52	34.4%	31	21.5%

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3. Joint assessment processes within children’s trusts and adult services

Transition teams

As many local areas are restructuring, teams, either virtual or actual, are being dismantled/restructured at the moment. Processes and arrangements such as shared training, meetings and joint work decisions are better established this year. Many areas use these mostly for specific groups of young people, for example for looked after children or children with palliative care needs.

There are formal management arrangements in place that support these people to work as a transition ‘team’	SAQ 2 Local areas	%	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
Yes	71	47.3%	86	59.7%
In Development	55	36.7%	44	30.6%
No	24	16.0%	17	11.8%

Information sharing between local authorities and health agencies remains problematic on the whole.

There is a process in place for sharing and merging assessment information across agencies supporting disabled young people in transition	SAQ 2 Local areas	%	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
Yes	91	60.3%	100	69.4%
In development	47	31.1%	45	31.3%
No	13	8.6%	2	1.4%

Health action plans

Health Action Plans (HAP) are developed with young people	SAQ 2 Local areas	%	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
Yes	121	80.1%	131	91.0%
No	30	19.9%	16	11.1%

Key workers

Local areas reporting that all young people have access to a key worker or lead professional has increased significantly since the first year of the programme.

Disabled young people have access to a key worker or lead professional during the transition process	SAQ 1 Local areas	%	SAQ 2 Local areas	%	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
All	49	33%	85	56.3%	85	59.0%
Some	97	66%	65	43.0%	62	43.1%
None	1	1%	1	0.7%	0	0.0%

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What percentage of disabled young people have a key worker?	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
Over 80%	91	61.9%
50-80%	33	22.4%
Between 20 and 50%	15	10.2%
Under 20%	8	5.4%

Transition Pathway

Improvement here, more are now accessible and have had input from families and disabled young people to develop.

We have a multi-agency transition pathway	SAQ 1 Local areas	%	SAQ 2 Local areas	%	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
Have a Pathway	65	44%	96	63.6%	117	81.3%
Pathway in development	73	50%	53	35.1%	30	20.8%
Pathway not started	9	6%	2	1.3%	0	0.0%

4. Realistic post 16 opportunities for living life

Comments from local areas show that the development of short breaks has had a positive impact on options for disabled young people at transition. Some areas have used Short Breaks to support taster sessions of post 16 options and some have used to improve access to more mainstream leisure and social activities.

Housing

Information in this year's SAQs suggest that housing has been considered more in the last year, however options for young people in most local areas are still very limited. There is massive reliance on Connexions to be the sole source of support from school/college onwards.

There has been significant improvement in involvement of Housing on Strategic Planning Groups and Transition Operational Groups, and there is a widespread acknowledgement as an area of need.

The housing department is engaged in strategic transition planning	SAQ 3	%
Yes	111	75.5%
No	36	24.5%

Disabled young people are provided with information about local housing options	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
Yes	101	68.7%
In development	42	28.6%
No	4	2.7%

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Transport

There has been some clear progress in terms of Independent travel training projects, however, as with Housing, this is recognised as an area of need.

Transport needs are a part of individual transition planning	SAQ 2 Local areas	%	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
Yes	120	79.5%	123	85.4%
In development	28	18.5%	22	15.3%
No	3	2.0%	2	1.4%

Individual support to promote Independent Travel is part of the transition process	SAQ 2 Local areas	%	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
Yes	104	68.9%	115	79.9%
In development	44	29.1%	30	20.8%
No	3	2.0%	2	1.4%

There is a transport policy that clearly outlines transport provision for disabled young people post 16	SAQ 2 Local areas	%	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
Yes	83	55.0%	106	73.6%
In development	39	25.8%	28	19.4%
No	29	19.2%	13	9.0%

Youth provision

There are specific objectives in the local youth strategy around improving access and services for disabled young people age 14-25	SAQ 2 Local areas	%	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
Yes	111	73.5%	122	84.7%
In development	33	21.9%	25	17.4%
No	7	4.6%	0	0.0%

Colleges

Schools and FE providers work together to provide clear progression routes into college as part of transition planning	SAQ 2 Local areas	%	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
Yes	112	74.2%	117	81.3%
In development	39	25.8%	30	20.8%
No	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Employment

Specific questions were asked in SAQ 3 regarding the number of young people supported into employment, many local areas struggled to provide this information.

Information on how many young people move into employment is collated	SAQ 2 Local areas	%	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
Yes	116	76.8%	116	80.6%
No	35	23.2%	31	21.5%

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Disabled young people receive support to access meaningful work experience at year 10	SAQ 2 Local areas	%	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
Yes	87	57.6%	83	57.6%
Some	64	42.4%	64	44.4%
No	0	0%	0	0.0%

5. Strategic joint partnership working

Transition protocols and planning groups

The narrative in the SAQs highlights how not only do all areas now have a protocol signed off and in use or in development, they have a greater understanding of the function of the protocol and are using it to ensure young people are getting the support they need from all agencies.

Is there a multi-agency transition protocol in place that covers the roles and responsibilities of all agencies that are involved?	SAQ 1 Local areas	%	SAQ 2 Local areas	%	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
Yes	73	49.7%	108	71.5%	120	83.3%
In development	69	46.9%	42	27.8%	27	18.8%
Not Started	5	3.4%	1	0.7%	0	0.0%

Young people and their families are involved in the ongoing development and review of the transition protocol.	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
Yes	121	82.3%
In development	26	17.7%
Not Started	0	0.0%

There is a strategic transition planning group which links to the local governance arrangements for children's services and partners	SAQ 2 Local areas	%	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
Yes	137	90.7%	142	98.6%
In development	14	9.3%	5	3.5%
No	0	0	0	0.0%

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The following senior managers and lead members have signed up to the protocol and have a responsibility to deliver	SAQ 2 Local areas	%	SAQ 3 Local areas	%
Children's Social Care	142	94.0%	144	100.0%
Adult Social Care	142	94.0%	144	100.0%
Inclusion/school improvement	107	70.9%	118	81.9%
Connexions/IAG services	135	89.4%	143	99.3%
PCT Commissioning / NHS Providers	125	82.8%	99	68.8%
Learning and Skills Council	71	47.0%	51	35.4%
SEN Department	136	90.1%	144	100.0%
Lead member for Adult Social Care	82	54.3%	99	68.8%
Youth services	96	63.6%	115	79.9%
Housing	81	53.6%	99	68.8%
Supported Employment	70	46.4%	95	66.0%
Local Colleges	81	53.6%	96	66.7%
Training providers	36	23.8%	48	33.3%
Lead member for children's services	93	61.6%	109	75.7%

Conclusion

Nationally there have been significant improvements in baseline standards. Meeting statutory requirements is now commonplace in local agencies.

As part of the wider AHDC programme, TSP has changed culture and placed disabled children, young people and their families at the heart of the political agenda. In particular the Transition Support Programme has:

- Consolidated the voice of parents and their involvement in strategic planning and specific support for their children
- Built up a significant bank of evidence on effective ways of working which is now available to local areas
- Caused a cultural shift from 'dealing with' families to 'working with' families as staff have felt more supported and their work more valued (evidence from SAQ3 and LA interviews)
- Meant that positive outcomes for disabled young people are not so commonly seen only as something to do if there is time/money but something that must be done as standard.
- Given local areas the confidence to support the business case for transition.

90% of local areas reported in their Year 3 SAQ returns that they were fairly or very satisfied with the support they have received from the Transition Support Programme and many local areas have made significant progress since 2007. Some aspects of development activity and 'focus areas' promoted by the national programme constitute a clear 'legacy' for local areas to take with them into the future, including:

- increased understanding of the importance of this area of work, particularly among managers with responsibility for strategic planning
- better information materials about local Transition processes, pathways and about the options available
- better understanding of the impact and relative cost-effectiveness of information events like Transition Fairs
- changed expectations about the advantages of consulting with young people and families and incorporating a service user perspective into discussion and decision-making at every level
- high level multi-agency agreement about how the Transition of young people should be facilitated locally and defined arrangements for joint working
- increased understanding and skill using person-centred approaches and planning
- enhanced knowledge, understanding and skill resulting from significant investment in workforce development.

Many local areas have reflected positively on the experience of completing self-assessment questionnaires as an opportunity to focus minds and review joint working practice. The national programme has responded by developing a version

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of the TSP SAQ for local areas to continue using in coming years, as part of the TIN-TRO resource that is being developed for use by local areas from April 2011. This will be a focus point for information and resources to support the continuing improvement of activity in local areas. This will include:

- Case studies
- “How to” guides
- Policy and legislation papers
- Mini SAQs
- TIN e-bulletin with up to date information including; policy; practice and research (sign up via www.transitioninfonet.org.uk)

“It’s going to be a challenging couple of years now as we try to implement some of the good practice we’ve developed through the programme. It may seem to some people we’ve already had a lot of time and a lot of support to get to this point, but we feel we’re just beginning to implement things and do things differently.” Local Area TSP and AHDC Lead

National Transition Support Team

Thursday, 03 March 2011