

# **national transition support team**

working together to improve transition  
for disabled young people

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## **Macintyre Care – My Way Project**

For the past year Macintyre care have employed a “My Way” facilitator to support young people and their families when they move from the organisations two schools into adults services. The “My Way” facilitator will work with young people from two years prior to their leaving date with agreement from the young person, their parents and the placing local authority.

The project uses Person-Centred Approaches to support the young people to plan for their future. The “My Way” facilitator talks to young people about who they want to live with, where they want to live, what they want to do, and who they want to support them. For young people with severe communication difficulties this may be through helping a young person to experience something, and observing how they react to it.

The “My Way” facilitator then works with local authorities in an attempt to secure an individual budget. Most authorities have agreed to provide young people with an individual budget, however those that have not yet felt able to do this have agreed to allow the young person to feed into the commissioning process, to ensure that the young person’s voice is heard. The “My Way” facilitator is able to advise and support local authorities in the provision of individual budgets.

Once the funding is agreed the “My Way” facilitator will support young people and their families to identify suitable providers. This may mean supplying a list of providers to a family and suggesting that they visit, or for some young people it may mean going to visit providers with them. For the authority where they have not yet felt able to provide individual budgets, they have completed a tender process for individualised services.

The “My Way” facilitator works with the placing local authority from the beginning of the planning process, as it will become the local authorities responsibility to support the young person when they move into adult’s services. The coordinator will also encourage a culture where professionals, meet regularly with the young people and their family, to ensure the support mechanisms are in place when a young person leaves school.

The “My Way” facilitator will also challenge local authorities to develop their transition practice. In Oxfordshire she will be supporting the running of a day where young people and their families in the local area meet. The young people will be provided with a range of activities during which time they will get to know some of their peer group, and the parents can meet with professionals to discuss any questions they have. The hope is that by providing young people with forums to meet other young people it may be possible for groups of young people to identify others that they may want to live with.

The “My Way” facilitator will also work with providers to help them to see how they can best support the young person. She will challenge providers to think creatively about the support that they are providing, and try to ensure that young people are involved in the selection of their support workers. For young people with severe communication difficulties this may be done by looking at the characteristics of the staff that are already effectively supporting the young person. The “My Way” facilitator will also work with providers to help them to see how they can follow the support plan.

The first young people that have been supported through this project are about to leave the school, and move into adult’s services. The Macintyre Schools are now starting to receive training in person-centred planning, as a result of the My Way project. Derbyshire County Council have commissioned Macintyre Care to develop their transition processes and the “My Way” facilitator will now be supporting this project. She will look at supporting the authority in developing their processes particularly for those most at risk of losing their place in society and having to go into expensive or unsuitable placements, through the use of care managers as facilitators.

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