

national transition support team

working together to improve transition
for disabled young people

Surrey Transition Case Study

Person-Centred Reviews

Surrey has been running a Person-Centred Transition Reviews Project, funded by the Learning Disability Development Fund via the Learning Disability Partnership Board. The project has been run by the County Transition Adviser, who works for Surrey's Partnership with Parents organisation. The Learning Disability Development Fund provided funding for the project, and more funding has now been agreed to extend the project to mainstream schools.

The vision of the project is that all young people with a statement of special educational needs will have a person-centred transition review, and that from the review a person-centred transition plan will be produced. The information in the plan will then be used to ensure a smooth transition into adult services, and also to inform commissioners.

The project has been overseen by a Touchstone Group, which was a group formed of representatives from schools, Connexions and parents. The group acted in an advisory capacity on different elements of the project.

All 20 special schools in Surrey have been involved in the project, with four of them trialling the draft materials. All special schools were visited by the County Transition Adviser to discuss the project, and to look at the needs of the school. Each school was asked to look at their current practice and the resources that they had available.

A Resource Guide has been developed, and this includes booklets called "My Transition Review" which provide information about the review, including an invitation to the review, the agenda, a list of people invited and some questions about the young person. There are different versions for professionals, and for parents, and the young person can personalise some of the resources. There is also a general leaflet available containing information about the person-centred transition review, and how the process will now be different for them.

Information sessions were held in June to inform a wider range of professionals about the person-centred transition review process. The County Transition Adviser has also attended team meetings of various professionals to ensure that a range of professionals understand the process.

The Resource Guide (in a loose leaf file) will be distributed to all of the special schools involved in the project, as well as to relevant professionals. The materials will also be provided on a CD so that schools can adapt them to meet their needs. The project will expand to incorporate mainstream schools in September 2008, following the agreement for funding. This will again start with the participation of a few schools before encouraging more mainstream schools to become involved.

Parent Involvement

In Surrey the Partnership with Parents service has a County Transition Adviser who supports the parents of young people throughout the transition process. As part of the service parents can phone the Partnership with Parents helpline, and get specific advice about transition issues.

The County Transition Adviser runs training sessions for the parents of young people in year 8 about the transition process, and each year also runs a conference for parents of young people aged 12-25. A newsletter is also produced each term. Partnership with Parents has a website that contains information about transition including accessible information about transition for young people.

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