

national transition support team

working together to improve transition
for disabled young people

The Transition Support Programme: Improving support for disabled young people in transition to adulthood

What is the Transition Support Programme?

Disabled young people need improved support from local agencies so that they can enjoy the same life opportunities as their non-disabled peers. The Transition Support Programme is a national government programme that has been developed to make sure support is available to local areas¹ to work on improving practice in every aspect of the transition to adulthood for disabled young people and their families. It is part of a wider government programme called Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC), which is transforming local services in England for all disabled children, young people and their families.

The Transition Support Programme is a 3 year programme with £19m of funding committed between 2008 and 2011. It is run jointly by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Health. The programme is supported by the National Transition Support Team (NTST) which is coordinating the delivery of the programme, working together with the National Strategies and the Child Health and Maternity Partnership (CHaMP).

The National Transition Support Team

The National Transition Support Team is part of the Council for Disabled Children, which is the umbrella body for the disabled children's sector in England. The National Transition Support Team is working with a range of partner organisations to develop support that local areas can access, including training days about transition, information booklets on specialist areas of work and extended case studies on good practice. Partner organisations include: Association for Children's Palliative Care (ACT), Association for Real Change (ARC), The Children's Society, Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities, Mencap, National Autistic Society, NCERCC, Paradigm, Scope, Skill: National Bureau for Students with Disabilities and Speaking Up.

National Strategies and the Child Health and Maternity Partnership (CHaMP): supporting the Transition Support Programme

The National Strategies are professional development programmes working with a range of agencies in local areas to raise standards of achievement and rates of progression for children and young people in all phases and settings. The Child Health and Maternity Partnership is a national service improvement resource for Child Health and Maternity Services, with a work programme steered by the Department of Health and the Strategic Health Authorities of England. It acts as a vehicle for consultancy and capacity building for service improvement, with particular expertise in integrated working across health and social care.

Supporting local areas to improve transition provision

The National Transition Support Team, National Strategies and the Child Health and Maternity Partnership are working with local areas to embed minimum standards, develop good practice and innovation and positive outcomes for disabled young people. We are working with every local area in England to implement Transition Development Plans that will help them in developing work on transition which will improve local outcomes for disabled young people and improve long term services.

The Council for Disabled Children and partners working as the national transition support team for the AHDC Transition Support Programme



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Outcomes

Our aim is that by the end of the programme, all local areas will meet minimum standards in transition provision and many will have developed outstanding innovative practice. The Transition Support Programme will have raised the profile of transition across specialist and universal services to promote disabled young people having the same rights and opportunities as all young people. Most importantly, we want disabled young people and their families to be able to report improvements in their experience of transition.

Sustainability

During 2010 – 2011, the final year for this phase of AHDC, local areas will be supported to ensure that transition developments are sustainable and will continue beyond March 2011. They will be supported to embed change and take advantage of the resources available to develop excellent support and links to other initiatives and mainstream provision so that their commitment to improving transition provision for disabled young people and their families will continue.

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To access resources, sign up for regular updates and to participate in our discussion forum visit our website: www.transitionssupportprogramme.org.uk

ⁱ We use the term local areas to describe local authorities, Primary Care Trusts and their partner agencies.

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