

national transition support team

working together to improve transition
for disabled young people

Frequently Asked Questions

The TSP Self Assessment Questionnaire

What is AHDC and the TSP?

Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better Support for Families is the report from the government's review of children's services. This was a joint review between HM Treasury and DfES (now DCSF) aimed at improving services for disabled children in England. AHDC commits government to providing significant additional resources - £340 million – over the next three years (2008-11). This money should start to transform services across the country.

The money is backed by a package of system reform measures, including:

- A new national indicator on disabled children within the local government performance management framework
- A 'core offer' for families with disabled children
- Work to improve data collection at a local and national level.

Transition is one of the key areas highlighted for funding with £19m announced over the CSR period 2008 – 2011 to develop a Transition Support Programme.

The overall aim for the AHDC Transition Support Programme (TSP) is to raise the standards of transition in all local areas. This is based on findings from *Aiming High for Disabled Children* which found that more needed to be done to co-ordinate services for disabled young people in transition to adult life, and to ensure young people and families can access high quality information at key points. The TSP will raise the standards of transition support and provision and achieve greater consistency in all local areas. The programme consists of two main elements:

1. The national transition support team, which coordinates work with local authorities, PCTs and regional advisers and existing experts; and
2. Support for change at local level through a combination of direct grants and regional adviser activity.

The national transition support team, a coalition between the Council for Disabled Children and partners, has three main roles:

- **Drive and shape** the programme in local areas through work with regional advisers, and disabled young people and their families;
- **Engage with and exchange** good practice in transition through websites, targeted information sheets and other resources to help build capacity; and
- **Identify the support needs** of local areas and work in partnership with regional advisers, the Department for Children Schools and Families and the Department of Health to improve transition practice.

If you would like more information about TSP and the national transition support team, visit www.transitionsupportprogramme.org.uk.

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



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Which young people are covered by the TSP?

All young people with a statement of SEN, and young people with complex health needs. The main age group for the work is 14 – 19 years however many services have a duty to support disabled young people until their 25th birthday.

The TSP also aims to have a positive impact for young people at school action and school action plus who will benefit from a general improvement in transition support and should be provided with high quality services from IAG providers, through LSC arrangements and from universal support agencies. Using the definition from the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, the population of disabled children and young people across the four nations of the UK currently stands at over 770,000 and the evidence suggests this number is rising. This rise is due to a number of factors, including increased survival of pre-term babies and greater numbers of children being identified with autistic spectrum disorders. Furthermore, among this population there is a growing proportion of children with complex and significant needs; for example, there are more than 6,000 children in Britain dependent on assistive technology.

More children with complex health needs are surviving into adult life; therefore, transition is an increasing issue for all services. These groups, along with those with SEN, have a wide range of support needs. Although the number of pupils with statements of SEN remains at just under three per cent of the pupil population in England, the number of pupils with SEN and no statement is over 16 per cent across all schools. These groups include disabled young people with complex health needs, those who are looked after, and those from black and minority ethnic groups, who face further discrimination. In the past, young people from these groups have not had access to the support they need.

Why have a questionnaire?

To build on existing evidence and form a picture of what transition services are currently delivering. We have recently completed a practice based mapping exercise with a number of local authorities and PCT partners and will build on this, and existing information from Children and Young People's Plans and inspection reports to form an idea of how the long term challenges which face services in delivering transition support are being addressed.

The SAQ is designed to look at each area which forms the basic principles of providing effective transition support. This SAQ will be sent out again in year two and will be used by us to help identify effective practice and strategic models and monitor progress and change. This will contribute to our recommendations to DCSF for the following years support to local areas.

In the pilot areas the SAQ was seen as a useful point of reference for the local transition planning group to use as a focus for activity, prioritising and measuring progress. The SAQ has information on the range of National Indicators that each section is relevant to, so that respondents can cross reference information and responses.

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The SAQ will also:

- Support mapping of transition provision and its improvement over a specified period of time.
- Start to address the lack of a national benchmark or baseline for transition and it is one of the most complex areas for delivery as it covers every aspect of a young person's life.
- Identify effective practice – particularly in addressing challenges like employment, delivering on the transition plan, bringing children's, adults and health agencies together and agreeing support.
- Give local areas a point of reference to work from and an understanding of government expectations around everyone reaching minimum standards and showcasing solutions and excellent practice.

What will the ntst do with the information from the SAQ?

The ntst will hold the information securely and the SAQ forms will not be shared beyond ntst. Information from the completed SAQs will be used in our report to DCSF to plan funding and support allocations for Year 2 of the TSP.

Is completing the SAQ compulsory?

No.

Completion of the SAQ is at the discretion of each area. It will act to inform future grant allocation from the £19m allocated to the TSP.

What support will local authorities get to improve transition?

Each area is receiving £10k this year to complete the initial SAQ.

They will also have access to all tools and learning developed to support the programme.

ntst are running an Information Line and website to support the programme.

A small number of authorities who have been identified using a range of evidence will receive additional funds in year one to further test and develop practice.

The authorities providing evidence of best practice through the SAQ, inspections and CYPP activity will be recommended for additional funding in subsequent years. Overall funding for TSP for the three years up to 2011 is £19 m. Funding is planned to increase significantly in the final year.

Support for all areas will be available from March 2009 from the regional support agencies. This support will be part of their wider support role. It will include:

- delivering support in selected local areas based on assessment of need
- facilitating regional networking across all areas to exchange best practice on transition
- engaging with the national transition support team to receive current advice on the effectiveness of practice in local areas and
- to provide information on local activity during year two.

Further information about this support will be available soon.

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Where can I get resources and examples from?

The website has a range of materials to support local areas in completing the SAQ and in looking at local practice and planning improvement. This includes a set of extended case studies on different aspects of transition planning and service delivery, a planning and development tool to act as a further focus for mapping and planning local practice, building on the basic issues covered in the SAQ, and a set of resources lists which cover every aspect of the transition for disabled young people into adulthood. The website will be updated regularly and an email update service is available.

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