

national transition support team

working together to improve transition
for disabled young people

Year 3 of the Transition Support Programme Supporting disabled young people to live the lives they want

Core purpose of programme

- Transition Support Programme - supporting disabled young people to be provided with the support and services that enable them to work towards living the lives they want.
- The Transition Support Programme focuses on ensuring agencies in local areas in England work together in a coordinated way to provide better support for disabled young people and their families.
- The Transition Support Programme aims to change organisational culture to improve local service delivery.
- The Transition Support Programme provides targeted support to ensure that every local area in England is able to share learning and improve.
- The Transition Support Programme is raising the profile of transition across specialist and universal services to promote disabled young people having the same rights and opportunities as all young people.

The Transition Support Programme 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, along with the National Strategies and the Child Health and Maternity Partnership (CHaMP) working together.

Notice of funding and support for Year 3 of the Transition Support Programme was sent to all local areas¹ in England on 18 February 2010. This information was sent from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) in the weekly email to Local Authorities (**SURE START, EARLY YEARS & CHILDCARE GRANT AND AIMING HIGH FOR DISABLED CHILDREN GRANT: 2010-11 MEMORANDUM OF GRANT Ref: 2901100002**). It was sent directly to Directors of Children's Services, Chief Executives and finance leads.

The third year of the Transition Support Programme is a chance for us to build on our success so far and make sure that every local area has the maximum support and resources available to continue to improve and embed change.

Year 2 – Success so far

The second year of the programme saw a real improvement in the quality and level of support at transition across the country. Key statistics from the Year 2 Self Assessment Questionnaire² (SAQ) and the Named Advisor support shows that:

- 143 local areas now meet minimum standards³. This is an increase from 108 local areas meeting minimum standards in Year 2.
- In Year 2 44 local areas were not meeting minimum standards. This is reduced to 9 local areas in Year 3.
- 151 out of 152 Year 2 SAQs were returned, which demonstrates high levels of engagement in the programme and commitment to positive change.
- 99% of local areas have demonstrated improved family and young people engagement in the transition process.

Further analysis of the Self Assessment Questionnaires can be found in the summary report that can be downloaded:

http://www.transitionsupportprogramme.org.uk/resources/self_assessment.aspx

In Year 2 the programme achieved significant success in supporting local areas to improve practice in order to meet minimum standards in the delivery of transition

¹ We use local areas to mean local authorities, PCTs and their partner agencies.

² The SAQ is an assessment designed to capture a local area's practice in relation to the main statutory requirements and guidance at the time of transition for disabled young people. It also enables a local area to share areas of innovation and good practice.

³ These minimum standards are outlined in *A Transition Guide for All Services*, DCSF 2007.

support to disabled young people. The programme also supported local areas, who at the start of Year 2 were already meeting minimum standards, to develop innovative practice and work towards improved outcomes for disabled young people.

Following completion of the Self Assessment Questionnaire every local area in England received feedback and, with the support of a Named Advisor from NTST, CHaMP or National Strategies, developed a Transition Development Plan (TDP). The TDP sets out:

- the local area's current strengths in delivering transition support
- aspects of support requiring further development and improvement
- plans to involve disabled young people and families in planning, delivery and monitoring of the work
- lead roles and responsibilities for transition service improvement.

Local areas used the Named Advisor support and funding to achieve a diverse number of improvements in transition. Examples of work completed to improve transition support include:

- multi agency team days to understand roles and agree joint working with young people at transition;
- away days and meetings with strategic leads bringing together senior staff to agree and sign off the transition protocol;
- production of DVDs, booklets and web pages for young people and families to provide information on the transition process and local options.

Beyond local area activity, the SEN Hubs and CHaMP organised events in each region to examine and promote good practice on a range of transition related issues. The NTST worked with a range of agencies and local areas to produce resources to share nationally.

Year 3 – Embedding and sustaining change

Year 2 brought high levels of achievement across the country and a vast improvement of the quality of support available at transition to disabled young people and their families. However, Year 2 also highlighted areas where there is further room for improvement and where the gaps are in current practice. We need a continued focus on a number of key areas, which are:

- Sustained focus on ensuring **all** areas reach minimum standards.
- Continuous improvement in local areas so that many go well beyond meeting minimum standards.
- Much greater participation of disabled young people in transition planning.

In order to achieve these improvements we will need to:

- Ensure all agencies that have a role in supporting young people work together effectively and consistently in planning and delivering services.
- Improve the development of strong regional transition networks.
- Embed transition leadership locally.

The Year 3 activity programme is designed to focus on meeting the identified gaps and work with local areas to ensure high standards of support are in place as well as a sustainable plan for transition beyond 2011. Year 3 will see a continuation of support to local areas in improving practice as well as a focus on setting standards to develop excellent transition practice with local areas. This will give local areas a chance to try out innovative work and test out what works best.

In this third year we need to look beyond the programme and set activities in place in local areas that will provide the momentum to produce excellent practice and sustainable change.

With this in mind we have set out a Year 3 support model that provides scope for all local areas to go beyond the core work of the programme. This model enables local areas to apply for additional funds in order to develop practice that enables them to progress to the next stage of excellence in service provision.

Consequently, instead of providing local areas with an “offer of support”, as was the model in Year 2, in Year 3 all local areas will be viewed within a four stage development area model.

This model will provide a further stage of development which represents excellent support at transition being provided. During Year 3 local areas will be supported to reach this stage of development going well beyond good practice and embedding sustainable, high quality services for young people at transition. By the end of Year 3 we expect a significant number of local areas will have used the Transition Support Programme funding and support to achieve this stage of development which will set them up for the future beyond this phase of Aiming High for Disabled Children.

Transition Support Programme Year 3 Development Stages

	Support	Funding Allocation	Innovation & Outcomes fund (bid process)	Total funding possible	Development Stages
Development Stage 4 No areas yet					<p>Local areas that are meeting all statutory and all guidance requirements</p> <p>Have leading practice in all 5 focus areas</p> <p>Strong leadership and creative solutions</p> <p>Active strategic involvement across key agencies</p> <p>Demonstrable sustainability in services</p> <p>Expected to:</p> <p>Lead and promote regional network</p> <p>Share learning on linking with other AHDC work and wider mainstream agenda locally</p> <p>Lead work in participation of disabled young people in and beyond AHDC.</p>
Development Stage 3 (40 areas)	Up to 10 days named advisor support	£50,000	Up to £20,000	£70,000	<p>Local areas that are meeting all statutory requirements, the majority of guidance requirements, demonstrate good practice and innovation across the 5 priority outcomes, have demonstrable evidence of potential for development and their Named Advisor has verified that transition processes are effective.</p> <p>Expected to:</p> <p>Attend regional events.</p> <p>Act as transition promoters in region.</p> <p>Run good practice workshops at regional events.</p> <p>Input to development of case studies.</p> <p>Offer mentoring to other areas in region.</p>
Development Stage 2 (103 areas)	Up to 10 days named advisor support	£25,000	Up to £20,000	£45,000	<p>Local areas are meeting most statutory requirements, some guidance requirements, demonstrate good practice across 2 or 3 priority outcomes with some innovative practice, have some evidence of potential for development and their Named Advisor has verified that some transition processes are effective and progress is being made.</p> <p>Expected to:</p> <p>Attend regional events.</p> <p>Contribute to good practice workshops at regional events.</p> <p>Input to development of case studies with support from named advisor.</p>
Development Stage 1 (9 areas)	Up to 15 days named advisor support	£10,000	Up to £20,000	£30,000	<p>Local areas that are not meeting all statutory requirements, meeting limited areas of guidance, have little evidence of good practice or innovation, have little or no evidence of development potential and their Named Advisor verifies that there are limited effective transition processes in place and little progress is being made.</p> <p>Expected to:</p> <p>Attend regional events.</p> <p>Develop case studies</p> <p>If appropriate contribute to good practice workshops at regional events.</p>

Innovation and Outcomes Fund

All local areas have the opportunity to work towards improving transition practice that will help them progress to the next development stage by applying for additional money through the Innovation and Outcomes fund. This fund is designed to encourage those local areas with the capacity to develop innovative and outcomes focused support in the final year of funding.

The government have set aside funding for Year 3 of the Transition Support Programme in order to support this innovation and development. This creates an opportunity for every local area to apply for up to £20,000 to undertake work above and beyond that set out in their Transition Development Plan. This funding will be specifically to encourage work which creates or embeds excellence in services. For local areas with established good practice this may be in moving into Development Stage 4. For other local areas, this may be work which will enable them to embed and improve on minimum standards. A separate guidance document has been prepared to set out the details of this fund.

Further information about this fund, along with an application form and guidance notes which include frequently asked questions, are available to download from our website:

http://www.transitionsupportprogramme.org.uk/resources/innovation__outcomes_fund.aspx

All local areas have the opportunity to carry out additional work by applying to the Innovation and Outcomes fund.

Regional support

There is a considerable investment in regional working in Year 3 which recognises the effectiveness of bringing groups together and of the popularity of this way of working with local areas. This investment is being made to ensure there is a robust set of networks in place by March 2011 which will continue after Year 3 and provide an ongoing focus for further development work and practice sharing.

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.

National Transition Support Team

tsp@ncb.org.uk

Tel: 0207 843 6348

18/02/2010