

# national transition support team

working together to improve transition  
for disabled young people

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## What is the Government's Transition Support Programme?

The Transition Support Programme will seek to 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 will coordinate the 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.

*Aiming High for Disabled Children: better support for families* was published in 2007. The Aiming High for Disabled Children review found that more work was needed 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. To address this, the Aiming high for Disabled Children programme (AHDC) announced £19m over the Comprehensive Spending Review period (2008 – 2011) to develop a Transition Support Programme.

Over the past few years, the government has looked at how services in England, like local authorities, schools and hospitals, give support to families with disabled children. The government found that there were lots of families who did not always get the support they needed. So in 2007, the government wrote a plan called *Aiming High for Disabled Children: better support for families*. The aim of the plan is to give more money to services so that they can give better support to disabled children, young people and their families.

## What does the national transition support team do?

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.

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



## What will happen in local areas?

The aim is that by March 2011, transition services in all local areas in England will be improved and will be able to give more support to disabled young people in their transition to adulthood.

Local areas will routinely involve disabled young people in their own transition process, and in shaping and developing provision for all young people. The national transition support team will provide local advocacy groups with a range of tools, so that they can better support disabled young people to be more included in the transition process in their local areas.

The national transition support team will work with regional support agencies, including the Care Services Improvement Partnership and National Strategies, to develop mechanisms for sharing good practice and learning within regions and across regions.

Local areas will be supported to improve practice so that they meet minimum standards. This support will be in the form of various tools produced by the national transition support team that will be available to download from our website. There will be support available to local areas from the Regional Support Agencies, as well as support from the national transition support team itself.

Funding will be available for local areas to develop particular elements of good practice.

## How will this make transition support better?

Transition planning and transition services in local areas will support disabled young people to move towards and onto a new stage of life. Local areas will be supported to meet minimum standards in transition provision. By the end of the programme, many areas will have developed outstanding innovative practice that will lead to improved outcomes for disabled young people.

By the end of the Transition Support Programme:

- Disabled young people and families are able to report improvements in their experience of transition;
- Support for transition provided by local areas is more consistent;
- LAs, PCTs and schools show increased expertise in transition.

The national transition support team will raise the profile of transition across specialist and universal services to promote disabled young people having the same rights and opportunities as all young people.

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**For more information please contact the national transition support team:**

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