

Transition (*ref 33*)

- 1.** The transition from school or college to adult life is complex for any young person, and can be particularly difficult for those with a learning disability. This time of life involves a move from Children's Services to Adult Services, and good planning is critical for a successful transition out of the educational system.
- 2.** For those young people with a Statement of Educational Needs, Transition Planning begins at the review of this statement in year 9. This will usually be when the young person is 13 or 14 years old. This review meeting is convened by the Head Teacher, and will include the young person, the parents, and someone from the Connexions Service. Other people (e.g. older siblings, G.P.s etc) can also attend. The Connexions Service has to send someone, because young people have a right to access one of the Service's Personal Advisers, who will be central to the Transition process. The Head Teacher has to ensure that a 'Transition Plan' is produced after this review. The 'Transition Plan' will set out the steps that need to be taken to address the young person's needs after they leave school. It can be updated or changed at subsequent reviews. The Personal Adviser from Connexions has the job of ensuring that the plan is carried out. Details of the Connexions Service can be found at their website, www.connexions.gov.uk.
- 3.** The 'Transition Plan' will need to take into account such things as:
 - daytime activities after leaving school (college, day services, employment etc.)
 - living arrangements and living independently
 - medical, physical, and mental health care needs
 - finances, benefits, direct payments
 - leisure opportunities
- 4.** For young people with a learning disability, transition can carry on until they are 25 years old, depending on when it is appropriate for responsibility for co-ordinating the individual's services to be passed on to the relevant adult agency.
- 5.** The *Special Educational Needs Code of Practice* sets out the legal duties around the writing of a 'Transition Plan' and the responsibilities of the Connexions Service. Section 10 of the *SEN Toolkit* provides guidance on transition planning for young people aged 13 - 19 (website: www.dfes.gov.uk/sen).
- 6.** Where a young person has severe or complex learning disabilities, it can be difficult for them to take an active role in transition planning. The 'Trans-active' project, set up by Mencap, is being used as a toolkit to help people with communication difficulties get involved. Details can be found at www.trans-active.org.uk.
- 7.** To find out about what is happening in your area, you can check with your local Learning Partnership Board (through Social Services). Every Board has a 'Transition Champion' who has to take the work of transition forward. The policy laid down in *Valuing People* also says that young people in the transition process are a priority group for person centred planning.
- 8.** A useful and practical guide to Transition can be downloaded from the Dimensions website - www.dimensions-uk.org, on the publications page.

If you require further information or have other queries contact Housing Options.

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