

Transition Support Programme.

What is the Transition Support Programme?

One of the issues identified by Aiming High for Disabled Children (2007) was that more work was needed to improve services for young people with disabilities and their transition to adulthood. To address this, the government announced the Transition Support Programme, whose aim is to raise the standard of transition in all local areas.

The Transition Support Programme is running over 3 years with £19m of funding committed between 2008-2011.

The Transition Support Programme plans to raise standards through three main roles:

- Working directly with local areas through regional advisors
- Promoting and exchanging examples of good practice between areas
- Identifying the support needs of local areas through feedback from regional advisors, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Health, in order to improve transition practice

Every local area has been given a direct grant to use to develop transition services, which in turn will improve outcomes for disabled young people in their area.

What does this mean for Kingston?

Kingston is currently recognised as one of the leading areas for transition planning. As a result, Kingston has been awarded an additional grant to further develop best practice and also to be involved in driving change in other local areas.

The priority areas identified by the Transition Support Programme for all local areas to develop are:

- Participation of young people and their families/carers
- Effectiveness of personalised approaches
- Joint assessment processes
- Realistic post 16 opportunities for living
- Strategic joint partnership working

The Transition Support Programme has provided Kingston with a Regional Development Coordinator who meets regularly with the Transition Manager and Integrated Services Manager in Kingston in order to identify strategies for development and to aid Kingston in continuing to improve upon their transition processes. The Regional Development Coordinator provides information and examples of good practice in other local areas, as well as writing case studies on the good practice currently taking place in Kingston.

The aim of the work being completed by the Transition Support Programme is for all local areas to have developed innovative practice that lead to improved outcomes for young people with disabilities and the same rights and opportunities as all young people.