

Transition in Medway

By
Richard Barker

Medway Council Aiming High Commissioner

Transition

- The word transition means 'change'
- The transition that I will be talking about today is the change from being a child to moving into adulthood



'Transition' is a Valuing People Now delivery priority for 2010/11

"To improve joint strategic planning, commissioning and service development across children's and adult services, so that people are supported to plan for future employment and a full life"



Getting A Life

There are many government plans to do with transition

These include:

- Aiming High for Disabled children (2007)
- Every Child Matters (2003)
- Moving On Well (2008)
- Progression Through Partnership (2007)
- Valuing People Now (2009)
- Improving the Life Chances for Disabled People (2005)
- Valuing Employment Now (2009)



All of the government's transition plans say that ...

- Agencies (like the Council, Connexions, Jobcentre Plus, Health service, parents, young people) **must** work together to support disabled people moving into adulthood



- There need to be clear and agreed ways that people work together about how to support disabled people moving into adulthood



What is happening nationally to make all these policies happen?

Transition Support Programme which aims to raise transition standards and improve ways of working at 'transition'

Each year there is a Self-Assessment Questionnaire about transition for local authorities

National Valuing People Now transition project is called *Getting A Life*



Getting A Life

Medway Transition

- The main Medway transition plans are agreed and checked at the Medway 'Aiming High' Partnership .
- This is part of Medway's Children's Trust
- Representatives on the Aiming High partnership board include parents, special schools, Medway Council, NHS Medway, health services, Medway Youth Trust etc



To help the Medway Aiming High partnership board with their work the board set up:

1. Transition Strategy Steering Group (chaired by Children's social care services) - to help with Medway transition policy planning



2. Transition Operational Group (chaired by adult social care services) - help with planning individual cases



People on these 2 groups are from different organisations and this helps to improve joined-up transition planning in Medway



How does Aiming High involve people with learning disabilities and family carers?

- Medway Parents and Carers Forum
- Representatives from Medway Parent and Carers Forum on Aiming High Board and groups
- Listening to what young people and parents say



What is the main work of Aiming High at the moment in Medway?

- Increasing short breaks
 - Improving the transition process
 - Increasing participation by parents and young people
 - Improve child care
 - Improve health (eg palliative care)
-So that all young children and their families can have the support they need to lead an ordinary Medway life



Other Aiming High Work in Medway includes...

- Creating a Medway multi-agency transition database
- Writing a Medway Transition Strategy (there is an easy read version)
- Working with the Getting a Life project



Getting A Life

Aiming High would like help from the Learning Disability Partnership board

Would members of the Medway Learning Disability Partnership Board look at the Medway transition plan and give their feedback?



My contact details are:

richard.barker@medway.gov.uk

Telephone 01634 334402

Thank you for listening