

MINUTES OF THE TRANSITION FORUM
Held on the 12th March 2009 at Downs View Link College

Present: Jenny Brickell, Head of Service (Social Care Lead), Seaside View CDC (Chair)
Wendy Akehurst, Employment Support Manager
Jennifer Chapman, Consultant Paediatrician, Seaside View CDC [from 2pm]
Naomi Cox, Manager Integrated Learning Disability Services, Adult Social
Care & Housing
Patrick Field, Practice Manager, Seaside View CDC
Sue Winter, Transition Development Worker, aMaze
Claire Peligry, Parent Representative
Susy John, Advocate for Disabled People, YAP
Beverly Cohen, Manager YAP
Rachel Cooper, Disabled Young Persons Participation Worker, YAP
(observer)
Adrian Carver, Head Teach, Downs View [attended for last hour]
Lynne Berry, Secretary to Jenny Brickell (Minutes)

Apologies: Georgina Marnier, Michael Nix, Karin Divall and Dermot Anketell

I. TALK – Youth Advocacy & Participation Service (YAP)

Beverly Cohen gave a short talk on YAP during which she mentioned that they have moved offices and are now at **First Floor Ovest House, 58 West Street, Brighton BN1 2RA**. Beverly also introduced Rachel Cooper who has newly taken on the post of Participation Worker at YAP.

YAP supports the involvement of disabled children/young people in mainstream activities. Their principal services are 1:1 advocacy and Independent Visitors which are available to all looked after children/young people, not just those with disabilities, and since 2008 the remit has widened to include anyone who can benefit from the services offered.

There are several new and expanding services/projects around young people:

- Brighton & Hove Youth Council – to ensure young people participate in mainstream activities.
- LUCK (Listen Up Care Council) - for all children in care but especially those from minority and ethnic groups and those with disabilities.
- Aiming High commissioned YAP to get young people's opinions and views regarding the services available to them and Ruth Hilton is gathering a group consisting of 8 young people to form the core of this group.

Jenny Brickell thanked Beverly for her informative and interesting talk and mentioned that mainstream youth services and disability services have jointly commissioned work by Hove YMCA to map all youth services available in Brighton & Hove to see which ones are

accessible to disabled children. The report, when finalised, is due to go to the BHCC Youth Commissioning Board, which Jenny attends.

Jenny said she felt this report would prove to be a very useful tool when encouraging mainstream ventures to cater for disabled children.

ACTION: Jenny Brickell will arrange for distribution of the report as soon as it is available and aMaze will ensure this information is passed on.

Jenny will arrange for Stuart Johnson (Hove YMCA) and Nigel Jenner (Head of Youth BHCC) to attend the next meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

Roving Reporters DVD

All expressed an interest in viewing this at the next meeting. Viewing to form part of agenda at next meeting.

Health Issues

Meeting with Alison Nuttall and Jenny Chapman re health care pathways in process of being set up.

Development Worker Update

A correction was noted in relation to the second paragraph of this item in the last minutes. This paragraph should commence “A fourth full-time post is being recruited.....” **and NOT** “Four full-time post are being recruited...”.

With regard to Adrian Carver’s action point, it was believed that funding by the LDPB was not a possibility.

National Transition Support Programme

It was not possible for Karen Kingsland to attend this meeting but hopefully she will be able to attend the next one in July. Failing Karen being at the meeting to receive them in person, all members of the Forum wanted to offer their congratulations, appreciation and thanks for all Karen’s hard work and excellent organisational skills which enabled the funding questionnaire to be completed, especially in view of the extremely tight time-scales involved for submission.

Work Plan

Naomi Cox will discuss with Karen Kingsland and take the matter forward – see Updates.

3. UPDATES

Naomi Cox – Adult Services

National Transition Support Programme

Naomi distributed a feedback paper based on the Questionnaire response which highlighted some key areas that need to be looked at:

- Transition protocol
- Local transition pathway
- Children's Trusts and multi-agency working in the transition process
- Creation of a user friendly guide to the services of the Transitions Team
- Health services
- Transition reviews and person-centred approaches
- Post-16 options: education and employment
- Transport
- Disabled young people's participation in TSP

With regard to transition reviews and person-centred approaches, we will be monitored nationally on this. A meeting is to take place between Jacqueline Coe, Sue Winter, Naomi Cox and Jenny Brickell to discuss how this should be taken forward.

ACTION: Naomi, Jenny and Sue to report back to Forum and the update will be put on the Transition Forum web-site.

All Forum members to look at Partnership Board web-site and let Karen Kingsland know if they have any documents they want to put on it or any links. www.brigtpart.org.

Jenny will contact the Family Information Service.

Karen Kingsland will contact the National Transition Support Team for feedback on our Self Assessment Questionnaire.

This feedback connects to the updating of our Work Plan. Money for completing the Self Assessment Questionnaire will support us to:

- Review transition protocol
- Complete background work needed to update the Transition Forum Work Plan
- Produce some accessible information around transition

We will need a small sub-group to take this work forward. This must be arranged quickly and the key people to be involved are:

Work Plan	Naomi Cox, Jenny Brickell Susy John and Sue Winter
Protocol	Naomi Cox, Jenny Brickell, Susy John, Sue Winter and Patrick Field Claire Peligry will join one group.

ACTION: Karen Kingsland to take this forward.

Learning Disability Development Fund

Naomi said the Adult LDPB has money to support transition. Our task is to make recommendations round the bids from the key areas. There are three projects which we want to fund from this money:

1. Improving health transitions for young people. This is a big issue particularly for young people with complex needs moving from a paediatrician to a GP and the project is to look at improving the pathway.
2. How we can help young people to have a voice and become more resilient as they go through transition, especially those who are non-verbal. Amaze has prepared a bid which Sue Winter circulated. The Amaze project is called Words Are Not Enough and revolves around resilience therapy – what does it take for severely disadvantaged young people to bounce back. It looks at how we can use art to work with young people to express themselves and will be run by Sue Winter.
3. Further development of the transitions team. Key pieces of work taken up through a sub-group of this group needs to be taken forward to ensure management and continuance of children and adult transitions. Naomi will put a bid in on behalf of the transitions steering group with Naomi taking the lead and the group making contributions.

Invitations for bids to do this work will be issued immediately as the closing date is 20th March. A decision needs to be made quickly so this cannot wait until the next Forum on the 9th July. Consequently, when the bids are received, they will be circulated by e-mail, along with the day and time of the meeting to decide on the successful applicant so that people can either attend or send comments by e-mail. The decision needs to go back to the LDPB in May for sign-off. Funding will be one year's money to improve health transitions.

Jenny Brickell – Children's Disability Services

Jenny said that Children's Services will be making a bid in relation to the new individualised budget pilot and, if successful, transitions would be their chosen area. Jenny is to meet with Nicola St George who has offered her help to put together the bid in relation to this project.

Jenny Brickell mentioned Healthy Lives and asked whether we should have a children's representative. Naomi Cox said she thought it was a good idea. If Natalie Winterton is successful she might be able to come to the next meeting. We need to broaden out the focus on health issues which would be possible if we had someone with dedicated time.

ACTION: Naomi Cox to arrange for Natalie Winterton to attend the next meeting.

Wendy Akehurst left the meeting at 2.15.

Adrian Carver joined the meeting at 2.45.

Patrick Field – Transition Scheme

All young people 18+ have transitions plans but issues still outstanding within scope of pilot relating to 9 – 11 age range. Continuing challenges as the resources available currently equate to less than 3 fulltime posts dealing with 50+ children at DVLC alone. This staffing situation has caused problems and getting work picked up has been difficult. These difficulties have been compounded because Pat Rosine, who had a specialist role around moving on plans for year 14 students and Learning Skills Council applications, retiring at the end of March. Rosie has looked at how work can be picked up and has ideas on how this can happen. Pat will cover LSC applications into April.

Money has been identified for another full-time post and through redeployment, two candidates have been identified. They are to be interviewed next Thursday afternoon here at the DVLC when they will meet the students and teachers. However, on this occasion students will not be invited to participate in the interviews due to urgency of getting the new worker in place.

At a recent budget meeting, discussion took place regarding how we create an additional post for the transition team. With this in mind, it was felt that it might be possible to take on both redeployment candidates if they were good enough.

ACTION: Jenny Brickell to liaise with Naomi Cox and Patrick Field to take matters forward.

Health need copies of transition reports on students at DVLC and Adrian Carver will arrange for them to be included in the circulation list.

Adrian Carver asked for it to be officially recorded in the Minutes that the current transition service for Downs View students is poor.

Jenny Chapman – Health

Jenny mentioned that she has organised a conference on Children That Fall Outside Mainstream Services (Residential Units and Transition) which is due to take place on the morning of the 25th September. There are three nationally known speakers booked and the cost will be around £10 - £15.

ACTION: Jenny Chapman to let Lynne Berry have a flyer which Lynne will circulate to the Forum members.

Sue Winter – Transition Development Worker, Amaze

Brighton & Hove's Person Centred Transition Review Project

Sue has met with Jon Fagg, SENCO for ACE, Queensdown School to discuss the introduction of reviews in line with Brighton & Hove's Behaviour Strategy Plan. Sue will facilitate a review in April and identify any further training needed for ACE staff.

Training, Information and Support for Parents

Insider Guide to Brining Up Teenagers with Special Needs 5 week course took place for 10 parents in January and February. Trained Claire Peligry to co-facilitate.

Two transition Information sessions for parents will be arranged before the summer and again in the autumn term.

Eighteen parents attended the Parent5s with Teenagers Transition Reference Group on the 5th March.

The aMaze website (www.amazebrighton.org.uk) is in the process of being updated.

Keeping up-to-date on national policies, regional strategies, development and good practice

Sue attended the Transition Conference in London in January with Naomi Cox and Karen Kingsland which gave an update on the National Transition Support Programme and Valuing People Now.

Research project with young people from Downs View Link College

As part of her MA in Inclusive Arts practice, Sue is running 5 art sessions with young people 16+ from the college. These sessions will be filmed by a fellow student to document the project. Following the outcome of the evaluation of the pilot, it is hoped to run more sessions in the Autumn, subject to funding. Amaze will be bidding for funds from the Learning disability Development Fund for this work.

4. Next Meeting is on the 9th July 2009 at 12.30 pm at the DVLC. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE TO START TIME.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR JULY:

- Roving Reporters DVD to be shown - Sarah Pickard and Sarah Watson who made the DVD to attend next meeting – Sue Winter to arrange.
- Stuart Johnson of Hove YMCA and Nigel Jenner to attend the meeting – Jenny Brickell to arrange.
- Updates to be included in each agenda as a standard item.
- Learning Development Funds – Naomi Cox to update
- Karen Kingsland to attend the meeting – Naomi Cox to arrange.