

Transition from childhood to adult services: key strategies and service planning

Hardip Begol

Deputy Director

Special Educational Needs and Disability

Transition support – the issues

Aiming High report (May 2007) acknowledged that despite some examples of good practice, current transition support for disabled young people is variable.

However, we know what works.....Good transition practice will include:

- **A clear, strategic multi-agency transition protocol for local services;**
- **Local transition pathway – operational detail to guide action;**
- **Transition plan – tailored for each individual, and**
- **Involvement of adult and children's education, social care, health services plus young people, their families & others.**

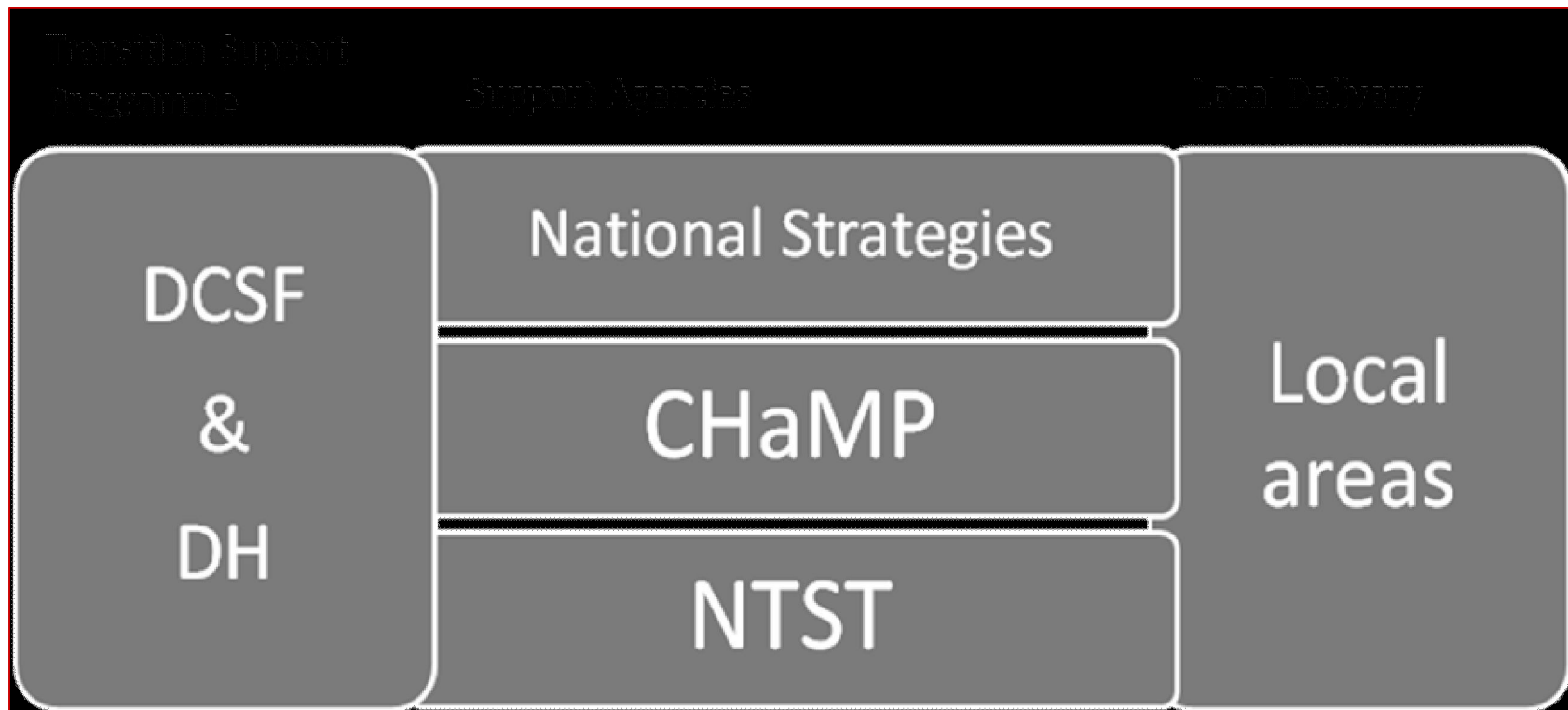
Policy Response - Finance & Objectives

- **Funding:** Aiming High announced £19m over the CSR period (2008/9 – 2010/11) to initiate and develop a transition support programme (TSP).
- **Aim:** by 2011 all areas to have a transition process in place which meets minimum standards and with many areas achieving good practice in transition support; and to be able to demonstrate higher levels of user satisfaction.
- **Measure:** Self-assessment questionnaire and named adviser input.

How the TSP works

- DCSF have responsibility and oversight of the Transition Support Programme, linking with DH colleagues.
- The national transition support team working under contract to DCSF to provide central drive and shape to the TSP led by Helen Wheatley of CDC.
- DCSF and DH have contracted with regional adviser teams to provide named adviser support to each local area plus grants, networking and access to specialist knowledge.

Delivery of transition support



National Transition Support Team

The Council for Disabled Children and partners – the national transition support team – have been appointed by DCSF to:

- Drive and shape the programme;
- Engage with and exchange good practice in transition;
- Identify the support needs of local areas.

Transition Support Programme

All local areas have completed a self-assessment questionnaire and have been matched to a tailored offer of support to help them improve their processes and the experience of disabled young people

Offer 3 (44 areas)

NS Regional adviser support days to: move practice on from min standards

Offer 2 (84 areas)

CHaMP Regional adviser days to: help promote use of networks & best practice

Offer 1 (24 areas)

Direct grant & NTST support to develop best practice and drive change in other areas

Universal Offer (152 areas) to support practice change everywhere:
Funding of £10,000 for each local area; access to development time from partners (for £); information, regional hubs and networking



department for
children, schools and families

Progress so far

All local areas have produced a transition development plan to focus work around five priority areas:

- engagement with disabled young people and their families;
- personalisation;
- joint assessment processes in children's and adult services;
- education, employment and training options at 16+;
- strategic partnership working.



Case studies of local area support for autism

- provide brokerage support for young people with Aspergers syndrome LB Redbridge;
- improve pathway planning (Haringey drawing on the CAMHS pathway).



Case studies of local area support for autism

- Piloting individual budgets for people with learning difficulties with Aspergers syndrome or autism – LB Redbridge;
- Improving annual reviews to enable young people with autism to attend all or part and encouraging adult care to attend from age 17 – York;
- developing autism specific services for young adults and adults by holding a seminar for parents / carers to help plan and shape future services – LB Haringey.



Case studies of local area support for autism

- In Warwickshire, information about housing options at transition events has led to a housing project for 3 young men on the autistic spectrum. This has led to them being involved in producing a DVD of their experiences. The DVD will be shared with practitioners supporting young people to live independently.

Case studies of local area support for autism

- In West London, pilot work between NAS, their employment service, Prospects, and Sybil Elgar School to prepare 6 students for work experience in October.
- Placements are later this month and a report on how it went should be available from the end of November.

Looking Ahead

- second **self assessment questionnaire** sent to local areas in September for completion by 1 December;
- NTST will provide a full **report** on local support needs in December to DCSF & DH to inform decisions on grant and support in 2010/11;
- Joint funding **research** with DH on transition and autism due to begin in November.

The wider context

TSP links with wider Government goals:

- PSA 16 to reduce the numbers of socially excluded adults;
- Valuing People Now and Valuing Employment Now to encourage people with learning disabilities to move into work and have choice about where they live;
- Changes to 14-19 qualifications with more of an employment focus;
- Strengthening of Children's Trusts and improvement in commissioning provision linked into new Local Authority responsibility to commission services from age 16 up to age 25 for those with a disability from next April.

Further information

- Information about Aiming High for Disabled Children can be found at:
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/healthandwellbeing/ahdc/AHDC/>
- Specific information on transition is at
<http://www.transitionssupportprogramme.org.uk/>
- Queries can be sent to:
ahdc.implementation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk

