



## **Transition Support for Disabled Young People in the South West Region**

### **A summary of operational arrangements to support multi-agency team working**

#### **Introduction**

In December 2010, each local area completed and submitted a Self Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) for the final year of the National Transition Support Programme to assess and illustrate progress made in developing and improving transition support for disabled young people.

This summary is based on information collated from an analysis of these SAQ returns to show the operational arrangements and structures that are in place in the South West region to support multi agency team working during transition.

#### **Structures and Arrangements**

Local areas were asked to indicate from those listed in the SAQ which structures and arrangements were in place in their area to support professionals to work together as a transition “team”.

As illustrated in the summary table below, most of the local areas (14 out of the 16 south west areas) indicated that they undertook joint training and the same number, 14, indicated that they had lead professionals in place.

13 of the local areas had joint cross cutting policies, and 11 described having shared targets. 7 indicated they had shared budgets and 7 had team building days.

In addition to these, several areas described other arrangements they had in place to support joint working at an operational level. For example, Bath & NE Somerset, Poole, Somerset and Swindon each describe having a form of transitional operational group to share information, tracking and mapping.

Transition panels are also established in some areas, eg Bath & NE Somerset, Devon and Wiltshire, to discuss and plan for the transition needs of individual young people.

## Structures and arrangements to support multi agency working

	Shared targets	Shared budgets	Team building days	Lead professionals	Joint training	Cross cutting policies
<b>Bath &amp; NE Somerset</b>		√		√	√	
<b>Bristol</b>	√	√	√	√	√	√
<b>Bournemouth</b>	√			√		
<b>Cornwall</b>	√			√	√	√
<b>Devon</b>		√	√	√	√	√
<b>Dorset</b>	√		√	√	√	√
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	√			√	√	√
<b>Isle of Scilly</b>	√	√		√	√	
<b>North Somerset</b>					√	√
<b>Plymouth</b>	√		√	√	√	√
<b>Poole</b>	√			√	√	√
<b>Somerset</b>	√		√	√	√	√
<b>South Gloucestershire</b>			√	√	√	√
<b>Swindon</b>	√	√			√	√
<b>Torbay</b>		√	√	√	√	√
<b>Wiltshire</b>	√	√		√		√
Total	11	7	7	14	14	13

### Transition “teams”

In the SAQ, local areas were asked to indicate whether formal management arrangements were in place to support professionals to work as a team and if so, if the team was co-located.

9 local areas indicated that formal management arrangements to work as a team were in place and a further 2 areas said that these arrangements were in development.

Of the 9 with arrangements in place, 4 described the team as co-located - Bristol, Dorset, North Somerset and Plymouth

## Management arrangements to support “team” working

	Formal management arrangements for transition “team”	Co-location of Team
<b>Bath &amp; NE Somerset</b>	No	No
<b>Bristol</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Bournemouth</b>	No	No
<b>Cornwall</b>	Yes	No
<b>Devon</b>	In Development	No
<b>Dorset</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Gloucestershire</b>	No	No
<b>Isle of Scilly</b>	Yes	No
<b>North Somerset</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Plymouth</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Poole</b>	Yes	No
<b>Somerset</b>	Yes	No
<b>South Gloucestershire</b>	In Development	No
<b>Swindon</b>	No	No
<b>Torbay</b>	No	No
<b>Wiltshire</b>	Yes	No

### Co-located team models

The four south west local areas with co-located transition teams described varied structures for the team and the personnel included in it. Two of the teams were located in adult services, one in children’s services and one in Connexions.

**Bristol** – The transition team is located and managed within adult social care services

**Dorset** – The Transition Planning team is based in Connexions and has person centred planning facilitators and coordinators working alongside the team

**North Somerset** – The team is located in the Adult LLD team. The children’s transition social worker is part of the team and there are named links from Connexions, SEN, Health and Housing Options

**Plymouth** – The Transition Team is hosted by the Children’s Integrated Disability Service, managed through the social care team. The team consists of a children’s social worker, an adult care social worker, an adult learning disability social worker and a 14-19 education advisor. In addition the team are supported by a person- centred planning co-ordinator and a project officer-putting people first as “virtual” team members and are developing membership from continuing health care and Connexions.

### Non co-located team management arrangements

Five of the south west local areas indicated that they have formal management arrangements in place to support work as a transition “team”, although the team was not co-located. These arrangements vary from regular operational meetings to plan for individual young people, (Poole, Somerset, Wiltshire), key transition personnel based in a team or locality, (Somerset, Cornwall) and close proximity and working relationships between all professionals involved with a young person (Isle of Scilly):-

**Cornwall** – there are 3 advanced transitions practitioners, one in each locality. Two of these are based in adult care and the third is based in children’s services.

**Isle of Scilly** – describe a system of very close working and proximity between key professionals and effective individualised planning due to the size and very small population of the Isles

**Poole** – There is a single sited integrated children and young people’s service and a multi agency operational transition group meets regularly to look at the needs of individual young people.

**Somerset** – There is a team based within adult services which has as its core the transition personal advisor, Connect career and skills advisor and the education lead if the young person is in school or college. Other professionals will be involved in individual planning. There are 4 locality groups which meet 3x per year to discuss individuals, mapping and tracking.

**Wilshire** – have a multi agency operational transition group which meets regularly to discuss and plan for individual young people. Transition advisors have been recruited to work with disabled young people leaving college.

Two of the local areas, Devon and South Gloucestershire, describe their formal management arrangements as “in development”:-

**Devon** have integrated children’s teams for young people with more complex need with transition processes and protocols operationally overseen by a Connexions worker. There are also transition workers based in adult services teams. The transition team is described as virtual with practitioners coming together for meetings, training and development events. They have 5 locality meetings where practitioners meet to discuss and plan for individual young people.

**South Gloucestershire** have a jointly funded transition senior practitioner post who is managed day to day in adult services but there is shared responsibility for the operation of this role between adult and children’s services.. Hence a “virtual” team is developing with regular meetings between adult and children’s services managers and Connexions.

Although the remaining South West local areas indicated in their SAQ that they did not have in place formal management arrangements or structures to support working as a transition team, varying aspects of the arrangements and structures described above were evidenced. For example, Bournemouth have a transitions social worker who is jointly supervised between adult and children’s social care services and Swindon and Bath & NE Somerset each hold regular transition panels to coordinate and plan for the transitional needs of disabled young people. Gloucestershire hold quarterly meetings to monitor the effectiveness of the transition pathways and Torbay have integrated co-located health and social care teams in both adults and children’s services with transition planning as an integral part of the teams overall responsibilities and strong working partnerships in a small authority.

## **In Summary**

The information collated in this report is inevitably limited to and dependent on that submitted by local areas in their SAQ returns in December 2010. Hence there may be some detail missed or new developments not evidenced but it offers a useful initial summary of how varied structures and models are developing to meet local need in the south west.

