

# Conference: Transition Matters

**Driving up standards for young people who have complex needs and little or no sight in their transition into adulthood**

**Tuesday 27 April 2010**

Deafblind UK Conference Centre, Peterborough

A conference focusing on opportunities, pathways and choices in the transition to adulthood for blind and partially sighted young people with complex needs and their families.



## Learning objectives

Attending this conference will enable you to:

- Learn about national initiatives for young people with complex needs in transition from children's to adult's services from the perspective of health, education and social care
- Extend your thinking in relation to what constitutes good practice in transition
- Encourage the participation of young people, families and carers in the transition process
- Gain information about providers of further education, housing and social care for young adults with complex needs and little or no sight.



## Keynote presentations

### **From process to outcomes: The national transition support programme to date**

Helen Wheatley, Director of the National Transitions Support Team, Council for Disabled Children.

### **Young people – first and foremost: The interdependence of adolescent health and transitional care**

Dr Janet McDonagh, Clinical Senior Lecturer in Paediatric and Adolescent Rheumatology, Institute of Child Health, University of Birmingham and Birmingham Children's Hospital.

### **Transition for young people leaving residential schools: What's different?**

Dr Bryony Beresford, Senior Research Fellow, Social Policy Research Unit, University of York.



## Workshops

Delegates will have the opportunity to attend workshops on two of three topics:

### Workshop 1

#### **User participation – getting a result: Supporting young deaf-blind people in planning their future**

Jenny Fletcher, Head of Sense Family Education Advisory Service, and young people with deafblindness who have been involved in their future plans.

### Workshop 2

#### **Views from the transition journey: Parents, carers and young people at different stages of the transition process – what is needed, what helps and what could be done differently**

Presented by families of young people with complex needs who are blind or partially sighted.

### Workshop 3

#### **Exploring best practice: Learning from the experience of transition from RNIB Rushton School and Children's Home**

Bill Love, consultant and lead researcher, RNIB Rushton transition project.

## Exhibition

Providers of further education, life long care, social housing and leisure opportunities for young adults with complex needs will be showcasing the services that they offer. This exhibition will be available throughout the day. It will offer young people, parents and professionals the opportunity to find out about some of the choices available.

## Keynote speakers

### Dr Bryony Beresford

Based in the Social Policy Research Unit at the University of York, Bryony has worked in the field of childhood disability for over fifteen years. Her research projects have included both large scale national surveys as well as qualitative work with children, parents and professional groups. All her projects have been concerned with informing policy and practice. She has been involved in a recent project looking at transitions to adult services by disabled young people leaving out of authority residential schools.

### Dr Janet McDonagh

Janet is active in both clinical and research fields. Her interests include adolescent health, chronic illness and transitional care. Her research interests include peer support and vocational issues for young people with chronic illness who are in the process of transition to adulthood. In 2007 she was appointed the clinical lead for the Department of Health National Transitions Champions Programme.

### Helen Wheatley

Helen's team leads work on the government's Transition Support Programme, which supports work in local areas to improve the transition into adulthood for disabled young people. She has worked on many projects that support the development and dissemination of good practice across policy areas affecting the lives of disabled children, young people and their families. These include promoting participation, working with children's trusts, access and inclusion in extended schools and children's centres and developing guidance on bullying in schools.

## Who should attend?

This exciting event will be of interest to parents, young people and professionals. Anyone working with young people with complex needs in the areas of health, education and social care will find something of interest whether in a practical or strategic capacity. All the facilities at Deafblind UK are fully accessible to those with disabilities, including sight loss, deafness, physical and learning disabilities.

## Price

£130 per person (professionals), £60 per person (parents, carers and young people) including lunch and refreshments.

## Booking details

**Book your place now. Strictly first come first served!**

To book your place, please contact:

**Sona Molnarova**  
**Children and Young People Training**  
**RNIB**  
**58-72 John Bright Street**  
**Birmingham**  
**B1 1BN**

Telephone: **0121 665 4235**

Fax: **0121 665 4201**

Email: **children@rnib.org.uk**

Website: **rnib.org.uk/transitionconf**

For information on more training and development opportunities, visit **www.rnib.org.uk/training**

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