

DIRECT PAYMENTS AT TRANSITION.

This fact sheet covers:

- What is meant by transition.
- What is person centred planning (PCP).
- How PCP fits with direct payments.
- Using other funding streams to maximise the care package.
- Problem solving.
- Further reading.

1. Introduction.

What is meant by Transition?

Transition occurs when a young person is moving on from secondary education and entering the adult world. Transition can happen “in their final years at school, when children and young people with additional support needs should engage in personal planning to help them prepare for leaving school. This process must start **no later** than 12 months before the young person leaves school.” (Source: Additional Support for Learning (Scotland) Act 2004).

When a young person reaches their 19th birthday, they can no longer remain in school and are required to move on, into adult services. Transition is a unique process for each individual young person, and it may or may not involve a range of agencies, including: Careers Scotland, a local health authority, social work department, education department, housing support services, or Jobcentre Plus.

It is a time in a young person’s life which requires a considerable amount of planning for the future, especially when a young person is disabled and/or requires community care services to support them in their adult life.

Planning for the young person's future should involve all relevant agencies with the young person at the centre. The planning process should use a holistic approach drawing together the range of views and recommendations for future life/career/activities for the young person. This approach should occur as normal practice at annual reviews within the education, health and/or social work system.

The young person should be allowed and encouraged to express their views and preferences as far as they are able and should be given appropriate support and/or advocacy to do this during the planning process.

Choice plays a key role in this process. Transition is one of the four key areas addressed in the report "Improving the life chances of disabled people" (February 2005), which highlights the importance of planning, focussed on individual needs.

2. What is person centred planning (PCP)?

PCP is an approach to planning which can utilise a range of tools to facilitate the planning process. This approach was originally developed for people with learning difficulties; however it is effective for anyone.

PCP is about the person being at the **centre**, not service-centred or building-centred. It is a 'needs led' process which listens, responds and facilitates the person's expression of choice, preference, hopes, dreams, and aspirations for the future.

Social workers, health professionals, career advisors, supported employment coaches and others in the voluntary sector should be able to deliver a pcP service. Inclusion is the foundation to the process, and tools can be used such as: circles of support; relationship map; 'who am I?' poster; discovering capacities, abilities and gifts; community building; MAP of life up to now and PATH. All of these tools do not require to be used in order to do effective PCP.

3. How PCP fits with direct payments.

When the PCP process has been completed, this will demonstrate key themes for the young person, in order to pursue their interests, talents, skills and potential. This individual approach will indicate a 'tailor made'

solution to their support needs, which may not fit with directly delivered services in a building or existing outreach service.

In order to fulfil the PCP process to its culmination, direct payments can provide a person with an individualised stream of funding to provide support for the young person, in order to pursue and achieve their aspirations.

Both PCP and direct payments (dps) have an individual approach to the person which means that the process is 'needs driven' and therefore requires an individualised approach to planning and funding.

A direct payment is a different way to receive a community care service. Once a person has received a community care assessment and the assessment has identified a need that a local authority will meet, an individual can get a direct payment to meet some or all of that need. This takes the form of money given to the individual to buy the support that would meet their assessed need.

If the individual is below the age of 16 then that person's parent or guardian would get the direct payment for them. At ages 16 or 17 the individual can get the direct payment or their parent or guardian can get it for them. At the age of 18 and over the individual has to receive the direct payment in their own right, unless the appropriate powers have been obtained. (For more information on who can get a direct payment see 'A Guide to Receiving Direct Payments in Scotland').

This may mean for some young people whose parents or guardians have been receiving a direct payment for them that there will be a time where the control of the direct payment shifts to them. This shift should be examined as part of the planning process.

4. Using other funding streams to maximise a care package.

It is possible for a young person's support to be funded by different sources. These could include:

Independent Living Fund

A direct payment is not the only funding route to be utilised for creating a care package for a young person. The Independent Living Fund (ILF) can also pay a large contribution towards the care package.

ILF is a central government fund which provides additional funding towards a care package if the person is:

- Living in UK.
- 16 – 65years old, on application.
- In receipt of Local Authority Social Work support to the value of at least £200 per week. This support can take the form of Direct Services or money from a Direct Payment scheme.
- On higher rate of the care component of Disability Living Allowance.
- The Fund user and their partner must have capital of less than £18,500.

The ILF pays for personal and domestic care. Many care packages can lever more funds from ILF than direct payments and this means that the local authority do not need to fund the complete package.

Access to Work Funds

Access to Work funds can be negotiated through the Disability Employment Advisor at the Jobcentre Plus and can pay for a worker to support a person in work, work placement or a volunteering placement. It can also help with adaptive technologies and assistance to travel to and from work.

Supporting People Funds

If the young person moves into their own home, he/she may also access Supporting People funds through the local authority to help with managing a tenancy, if they have an assessed need.

Disabled Student's Allowance

This can be accessed through the Scottish Awards Agency for Scotland for support in higher education courses. The support can include assistance with travel costs, provision of adaptive technologies and non-medical assistance.

Further education colleges receive additional funding for disabled students. However, unlike Disabled Student's Allowance, this money

does not go to the individual student and it is up to the college to decide how that money is spent.

5. Problem solving.

- If the young person is unable to take responsibility for their dp and the young person's parent/carer does not wish to take on the responsibility of the dp, the young person could be offered advocacy and supported decision making / capacity building for a Circle of Support (see Fact sheet 10: Help with consenting to and managing direct payments).
- If the young person does not fulfil the criteria for ILF, it may be useful to review the young person's benefits to ensure full entitlement for their needs.
- If the young person has not had a work placement opportunity, early discussion with the Disability Employment Advisor, or Supported Employment Advisor would be recommended.
- Young people may face discrimination because they are disabled. The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 makes this unlawful in employment, access to goods and services, and education.

6. Further reading.

- A guide to receiving direct payments in Scotland – Scottish Executive (October 2003).
- Direct Payments: Policy and Practice Guidance – Scottish Executive (June 2003).
- Post 16 Transition in Scotland Fact sheet - Contact a Family (August 2005).
- A Little Book About Person Centred Planning, John O'Brien & Connie Lyle O'Brien (1998) – Inclusion Press.
- Independent Living Fund Information Leaflets - Independent Living Fund.
- Improving Life Chances of Disabled People – Prime Ministers Strategy Unit (2005).

- Trusting Independence: A practical guide to independent living trusts, Andrew Holman and Catherine Bewley (2001) – Values Into Action and Community Living.

7. Further information.

UPDATE, Scotland's National Disability Information Service.

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Edinburgh
EH7 4JE

Tel: 0131 558 5200

Fax: 0131 558 5201

Minicom: 0131 558 5202

Email: info@update.org.uk

Careers Scotland: Works with people, employers and the learning and guidance community to: look at the changing labour market and career options, consider opportunities to learn and to get a job, and find sources of support.

Telephone: 0845 8 502 502 (calls will be charged at local rates)

Website: www.careers-scotland.org.uk

Skill Scotland: Promotes opportunities for people with any kind of disability in learning and employment, they operate an information and advice service, provides volunteering opportunities, informs and influences key decision makers, runs conferences and works with its members.

Freephone helpline: 0800 328 5050

Main office telephone: 0131 475 2348 (text phone available on both numbers).

Email: admin@skillscotland.org.uk Website: www.skill.org.uk

Circles around Dundee: An organisation whose main purpose is to help people with learning disabilities and/or autism reach their goals in life, and to have better lives by their own standards.

Telephone: 01382 305726 Website: www.circlesaroundundee.org

Disability Rights Commission (DRC) is an independent body established to stop discrimination and promote equality of opportunity for disabled people.

Telephone: 08457 622 633 Text phone: 08457 622 644

Website: www.drc-gb.org

Contact a Family is a UK-wide charity providing support, advice and information for families with disabled children.

Helpline 0808 808 3555 or Textphone 0808 808 3556 (Freephone for parents and families, 10am-4pm, Mon-Fri).
Scottish Office - Telephone: 0131 475 2608
Email: info@cafamily.org.uk
Website: www.cafamily.org.uk

Transition Information Network show how disabled and learning disabled young people can access new choices and opportunities.

Telephone: 020 7843 6006
Email: tin@ncb.org.uk Website: www.myfuturechoices.org.uk/

Job Centre Plus - Access to Work (AtW): give advice and information to disabled people and employers, Jobcentre Plus pays a grant, through AtW, towards any extra employment costs that result from a person's disability.

Telephone: 0141 950 5327 Textphone: 0141 950 5218
Website: www.jobcentreplus.org.uk

Independent Living Funds (ILF) were set up as a national resource dedicated to the financial support of disabled people to enable them to choose to live in the community rather than in residential care.

Telephone: 0845 601 8815 Textphone: 0845 601 8816
Email: funds@ilf.org.uk Website: www.ilf.org.uk

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