

Proposed Project:

What is the name of the proposed project?

Transition Information Sessions

Please give a brief description of the proposed project:

Many young people with learning disabilities and their parents find the transition to adulthood very stressful. Amaze would like to try out a new way of offering more support to them which we believe could improve the lives of the young people as they become adults and reduce the stress for their parents.

Parents whose teenagers have more severe learning disabilities and go to Hillside, Downs View and Downs View Link College, tell us they find it difficult to get the right information to plan for their son or daughter's future. They have told us that it helps when they get together to find out and share information. They say they would like to have information sessions that cover topics e.g. housing options for their son or daughter.

Amaze would like to work in partnership with Hillside, Downs View schools and Downs View Link College to coordinate 4 parent transition information sessions to run from September to March. These will be held at a central location and Amaze will promote these to parents from each of the above schools as well as inviting the relevant professionals to come and speak to the parents. Amaze will facilitate the sessions and ensure any learning is shared afterwards

We know that both Hillside and Downs View School have tried to offer some things along these lines but found it hard to organise and get parents along, despite parents saying they need more information. We thought it would be good to use this opportunity to trial whether it is more effective for Amaze to set these up centrally, in liaison with both schools.

We have some experience of doing transition information workshops for parents about the initial process of transition planning and of offering occasional themed sessions for the Parents of Teens group. This new pilot would build on and develop that work by being tailored specifically to the parents of young people who are likely to be eligible for adult services i.e. SLD/PMLD young people, and being themed on subjects requested by those families.

We have just started offering a termly meeting for this more targeted group (as fed back to the last LDPB) and the information sessions would complement this. We would need to talk to the schools and parents to be sure the topics were based on what they want and need. Once we identified the priority themes, we would approach adult services for relevant "experts" to contribute. This should be less onerous than the road shows which took a lot of staff resource without the take up from parents to make it worthwhile.

What are the name and contact details of Organisation that would deliver the project?

**Amaze, Rachel Travers Chief Executive Officer and Sue Winter
Transition Development Worker 01273 234020, Amaze.**

Does your organisation currently receive funding from Brighton & Hove city council? **YES**

If yes, please briefly describe what funding you receive already:

Amaze has a rolling grant agreement to provide information, advice and support to parent carers from Children's Integrated Disability Service.

Priorities:

Which of the four priorities would your project meet? How will the project meet these priorities?

- 1. The transition information sessions would offer value for money as if successful they would remove the need for schools to attempt to run these types of sessions independently, removing duplication of effort**
- 2. We believe that encouraging families to plan for transition using a person centred approach ensures more equality for the young person.**
- 3. Early person centred planning maximises the chances for independence as the young person and their family are able to think about opportunities and options as early as possible. Supporting parents through transition encourages sustainable family support for people with learning disabilities.**
- 4. Similarly person centred planning and providing clear information should reduce the need for increased support and prevent crises for young people with learning disabilities occurring later.**

Criteria

Please explain how your project would meet all of the following criteria.

1. What are the benefits and outcomes?

(What would your project achieve for people with learning disabilities and how will you show evidence of the benefits?)

- **Parent carers will be more informed about the options available to their young person with learning disabilities as they become an adult and will be able to prepare themselves and their child for the changes ahead**
- **Parent carers will feel less alone during this challenging period and will feel supported both by meeting other parents of young people with similar needs at the information sessions. This can be followed up through the relevant networks they can be linked into e.g. Insiders Guide to bringing up Teenagers with Special Needs training course that Amaze offers, Amaze's Parents of Teens with special needs Get Together sessions Triple P (Positive Parenting Programme) training.**
- **The overall aim of the project is to increase resilience of parent carers and their children so they are able to cope better with the challenges associated with the transition to adulthood. Young people with learning disabilities will leave school and college and move on to have a good, full and meaningful life**

2. What is the added value of the project?

(The something extra this project would do that is not being done already)

Amaze's co-ordination of information briefings should save money in the long run if individual schools were happy with them as they wouldn't need to continue to provide these sessions themselves in what is currently an ad hoc and duplicated way.

As mentioned above there are many other benefits in organising information sessions for parent carers above the provision of useful information. These provide a networking opportunity to meet other families in very similar situations – making parent carers in particular feel less isolated and giving them an opportunity to share information, experience and knowledge.

3. How would you make sure the project can be set up and money spent by March?

We are planning to co-ordinate and facilitate 4 information sessions between September and March and feel this is very achievable as we would be using existing staff to perform this work. We would be drawing

on our existing positive links with parents, both schools and the relevant service providers.

4. What is the on-going benefit?

(The benefits, effects or learning that continues after March 2012)
Strengthening the support families receive during the transition years and preventing them from going into crisis in the future. We see the LDDF funding as a real opportunity to try out a pilot project to help us gather the evidence of what is needed and what works. This will really help us in our bids to other funders. We will use the findings and evidence of the outcomes delivered in this pilot for funding bids we make during the course of the year. It is our intention to continue this project after the end of the LDDF funding in March 2012, initially by bridge funding with some of our unrestricted funding whilst we seek a longer term funding partner.

Funding:

How much LDDF money does your proposal need in 2011-2012?
(Maximum £20,000 per project)

£2,095

What would the funding be spent on?

56 hours to facilitate and organise 4 information briefings

Venue hire and refreshments

Contribution to overheads

Admin/Management fee

Is there anything else you want us to know?

This investment aims to complement the existing work being provided by the Transitions Team and Connexions – ensuring a greater number of families feel supported at this challenging time. It supports embedding the personalised transition planning focus which is being highlighted as key in the series of Transition Workshops currently underway for BHCC professionals.

This proposal has been endorsed and has the full backing of Jenny Brickell, Chair of the Transition Forum. Amaze has consulted with Cameron Brown, (Manager Transition Team - Community Learning Disability Team) and Philip

Ward (Connexions Manager), Sue Furdas (Head teacher, Cedar Centre) and Kim Bolton (Executive Head, Downs Park School) who have all responded positively to the proposal.