

Strategic Transition to Adulthood Group (STAG) south east



Newsletter No. 4 – December 2009



Welcome to the fourth STAG Newsletter.

We hope that this newsletter will keep you up to date with some of the things that are happening in transition from school to adult life for young people with learning difficulties and/or difficulties.

Transition in the South East Region

The Transition Support Programme

All Local Authorities in the South East have returned the self-assessment questionnaire on transition. The questionnaire was very difficult but hopefully all Partnership Boards were involved.

It is hoped that news about the support and funding for the third year of the programme will be with each area soon.

Transition Support Programme workshops

There will be more workshops about self-directed support and opportunities for people when they are 16 and older. These are run by the SEN Regional Hub.

There will also be a workshop about what will happen when Learning & Skills Council, LSC, closes at the end of March and local authorities take over the responsibility for planning and paying for further education.





More information about the workshops will be sent to local authorities.

If you would like more information about the work of the SEN Regional Hub please go to:

www3.hants.gov.uk/sen-hub

Getting A Life



The Getting A Life Programme helps young people with learning disabilities have the same opportunities as other people their age. In the south east, there are two project sites; Kent and Medway. The South East is the only regional site in the country and one of its aims is to share learning from the projects in the south east across the region.



Kent and Medway are each working with 30 young people.

In Kent person centred review training has happened in some schools and colleges. There are projects to support disabled young people to get jobs.

For more information about Getting A Life in Kent please contact sheelagh.smith@hotmail.co.uk.

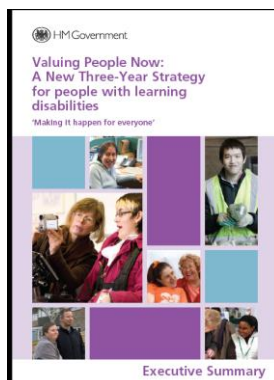
Valuing People Now (2009)

Valuing People Now (2009) says the Partnership Boards have to report on how well they are doing.

The Valuing People Now aim when thinking about children growing into adults :

Every young person with a learning disability and with a “statement” will have person centred reviews from the age of 14 to 19.

The person centred reviews will make sure there is a person centred transition plan. This will help the people who plan services make sure there are good supports in place for children as they become adults.





Young people will leave school and be able to enter paid work and education.

There will be more young people with individual budgets and direct payments.

Jo Poynter or Kathy Taylor are visiting each Partnership Board in the south east to talk about transition.

There are 2 south east person centred transition forums planned this year . The next forum meeting is on 24 March 2010

Action for Inclusion



Action for Inclusion is trying to improve opportunities in Further Education for all young people.

Action for Inclusion now has a website which can be found at www.actionforinclusion.net.

On 17th March 2010 there will be an event to share good practice in including people in Further Education.

National developments



The Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act was passed in November 2009. This tells us of the new way further education will be funded.

Local authorities will be supported by the Young People's Learning Agency.

The Skills Funding Agency, will have responsibility for funding adult learners.



Young disabled people will be helped to gain apprenticeships..

Local authorities will also have to think about how young disabled people get to and home from their education and training.



Learning Difficulty Assessments.

The Government has sent guidance to local authorities to help them carry out assessments, called Learning Difficulty Assessments, for young people who may need extra help in further education.

It is the responsibility of the Local authorities to make sure the assessments happen.

All the information about the funding of further education is at:

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-01111-2009.pdf>.

The National Commissioning Framework



Guidance on planning and buying learning is set out in a draft Framework. This is open for public consultation until 5th February 2012. It is available at

www.dcs.gov.uk

There is a section about learners with a learning difficulty or disability.

The work of Strategic Transition to Adulthood Group (STAG)

STAG is updating its terms of reference which set out what the group is for.

There will be new members because of all the changes.

These will be on the SEN Regional Hub website - www3.hants.gov.uk/sen-hub



Thank you for reading.