

## **Young People at the centre of Transition Planning in Northern Ireland**

"One of the most innovative and exciting things about the engagement undertaken by the CYPSP Children and Young People with Disabilities and the Transition of Children and Young People with Disabilities in to Adulthood Subgroups is the process of involving young people with disabilities in developing the plan from a blank page" – *Iolo Eilian, chair of the CYPSP Children and Young People with Disabilities Subgroup.*

Iolo Eilian, chair of the CYPSP Transition of Children and Young People with Disabilities to Adulthood Subgroup and Teresa Stewart from Barnardo's Disabled Children and Young People's Participation Project (DCYPPP) presented at the Improving Children's Lives seminar; Moving On: Young Disabled People and Transitions which was held at Queens University Belfast in September 2013.

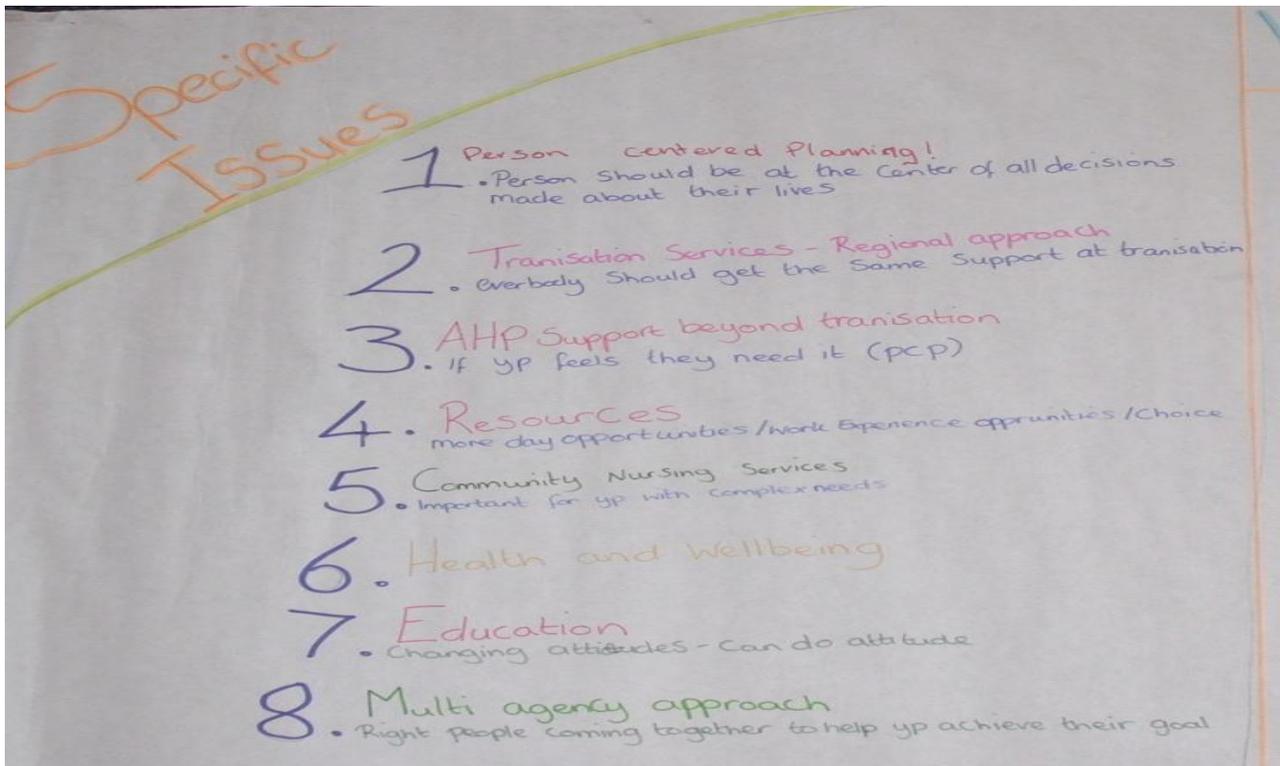
Members of Barnardo's DCYPPP's Advocacy Group, 6<sup>th</sup> Sense, share their experiences and views of transition issues in the CYPSP Young People's Regional Transition Group alongside other young people from a range of voluntary organisations. The young people's views are fed into the CYPSP Regional Subgroups on Children and Young People with Disabilities and Transition of Children and Young People with Disabilities to Adulthood by Teresa and her colleague Rosemary Murray, who act as the Young People's facilitator in the CYPSP process.

This process provides young people with the opportunity to have their voices heard by CYPSP planning groups to ensure the decisions made by the Children and Young People with Disabilities subgroup and

Transition of Children and Young People with Disabilities to Adulthood subgroups are informed by a direct input by young people.

A number of specific issues have been identified by young people with disabilities, and statutory, community and voluntary sector representatives who sit on each subgroup. These issues will be taken forward collaboratively by the organisations represented on the regional planning subgroups for children and young people with disabilities and in the CYPSP Transition Group.

The issues include those in the photograph below;



Each CYPSP regional planning group; Children and Young People with Disabilities and Transition of Children and Young People with Disabilities to Adulthood, have used qualitative information such as the information provided above, alongside quantitative data to develop an action plan. Services will target young people with disabilities in transition to ensure

they can reach their full capacity in life with minimised barriers to the same opportunities as their peers.

The Transition of Children and Young People with Disabilities to Adulthood subgroup have identified a number of actions to be taken forward under the Governments Ten Year Strategy, Our Children, Our Pledge's six high level outcomes;

**1. Healthy**

- Develop an Integrated Plan for each person.
- Develop a Passport for each young person.

**2. Living in safety and stability**

- Promote awareness of disability in schools, youth clubs and local facilities in the community.
- Disability awareness training for staff.
- Ensure that young people know their rights.

**3. Enjoying, Learning and Achieving**

- Ensuring that, as part of the integrated plan, young people are supported to access the same opportunities as their peers.
- Examine home tuition to ensure that young people who cannot attend school are supported to access the same opportunities as their peers.

**4. Experiencing economic and environmental well-being**

- One point of access for information available in accessible format.
- Review short break services.
- Review employment opportunities.

- Ensuring services are age appropriate and safe
- Ensure accessible transport and facilities for young people are available.

## **5. Contributing positively to community and society**

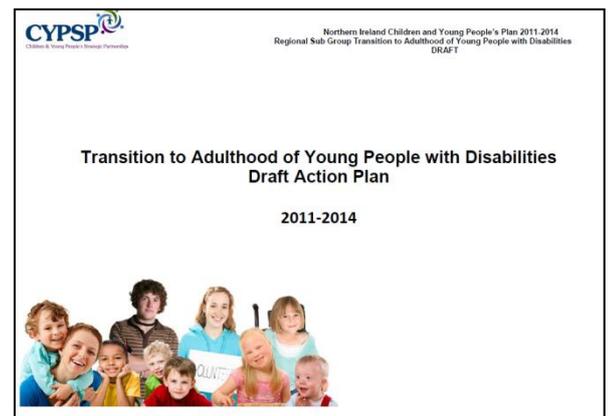
- Ensuring a person centred approach through self-directed support including individualised budgets and direct payments.

## **6. Living in a society that protects their rights**

- Ensure that there is a Integrated/multi agency approach to individual assessment

Further detail can be read in the CYPSP Transition of Children and Young People with Disabilities to Adulthood Subgroup action plan which is available on the CYPSP website through this link;

[http://www.cypsp.org/publications/subgroups/transition/cypsp\\_transition\\_draft\\_action\\_plan.pdf](http://www.cypsp.org/publications/subgroups/transition/cypsp_transition_draft_action_plan.pdf)



Young people have been involved from the beginning to plan and make decisions within the Disabilities and Transitions subgroups for CYPSP. Iolo Eilian, chair of the CYPSP Transition of Children and Young People with Disabilities to Adulthood Subgroup said; 'The young people didn't provide some input, they didn't give feedback on an existing plan - they were involved as co-creators of the plan from the outset. They became leaders and drivers of key elements of the plan. I haven't seen anything else across Europe to approach that depth of engagement in relation to regional planning around disability".

The Barnardo's Sixth Sense Advocacy Group also attended Queens University, Belfast to celebrate the launch of a report on children and young people with disabilities in transition. The report followed a ten year research project "Don't Box Me In: Disability, Identity and Transitions to Young Adult Life" undertaken by Dr Bernie Kelly. 6<sup>th</sup> Sense acted as advisors to the research by comparing their own experiences to those of the young peoples who were featured in the research. 6<sup>th</sup> Sense's input into this research can be viewed within this short video, <http://vimeo.com/61752074>.

For more information, go to, [http://www.cypsp.org/publications/young-people/disability/Publications/DCYPPP Talk Transition at QUB.pdf](http://www.cypsp.org/publications/young-people/disability/Publications/DCYPPP_Talk_Transition_at_QUB.pdf)

To keep up to date with the work of the Sixth Sense Advocacy Group go to the young people's page on the CYPSP website for children young people with disabilities;

<http://www.cypsp.org/young-people-disability.htm>

For more information about the Barnardo's Sixth Sense Advocacy Group contact Teresa Stewart or Rosemary Murray by;

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