Involving young people with disabilities in the development of regional child and youth disability services

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Context

• Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership

• Participation Network

• Regional sub-group on Transitions of Children and Young People with Disabilities to Adulthood

• Disabled Children and Young People’s Participation Project
Process

1. Establishing the children and young people’s group
2. Designing the path
3. Liaison with decision makers
4. Meeting between sub-group Chairs and the children and young people
5. Reviewing the draft plan

CYPSP
Children & Young People’s Strategic Partnership
Designing the path

Specific Issues
1. Client-centered Planning
   - Client should be at the center of all decision-making processes.
2. Television Services - Regional approach
   - Television should be regionally approached.
3. Health Services for Children
   - Child Health Services should be tailored.
4. Resources
   - Utilize community resources.
5. Education
   - Improve educational outcomes.
6. Health Promotions
   - Increase health awareness.
7. Education
   - Enhance educational opportunities.
8. Multi-agency approach
   - Involve multiple agencies to ensure comprehensive support.

Who Can Help
- Nurses
- HSCT
- SW
- Vision
- Special Education
- Teachers
- DEL
- OSD
- Parents
- Barnadoes
- Menzies
- YWCA

Dream
- Primary care
- Comprehensive services
- Early intervention
- Support services

Relistic in 2 years
- Regular updates
- Monitoring progress
- Review and adjust plans

Support Networks
- Family
- Friends
- Support groups

CYPSP
Children & Young People’s Strategic Partnership
The dream
Process

Establishing the children and young people’s group → Designing the path

Meeting between sub-group Chairs and the children and young people ← Reviewing the draft plan

Liaison with decision makers ←
Key messages

• A regional approach to transition in place.

• A multi-agency approach operating.

• A person-centred plan in place for every young person.

• Professionals to have a more relaxed and “can do” attitude to young people and to engage them in a meaningful way.

• Young people to be aware of their rights – to be heard and make decisions about their lives.

• Professionals to actively seek and appreciate children and young people’s views
Impact

**A regional approach to transition in place.**
Develop an integrated commissioning statement, which will ensure equal opportunities through the transition process across the region.

**A multi-agency approach operating.**
Develop a collaborative multi-agency approach to individual assessment to best benefit the young person through transition stage from 14+.
Impact cont’d

A person-centred plan in place for every young person.

Develop a good practice model for integrated plans – to ensure that every young person has access to support from 14 years old.

Ensure a person centred approach through self-directed support including individualised budgets and direct payments.
Impact cont’d

Professionals to have a more relaxed and “can do” attitude to young people and to engage them in a meaningful way.

Training for Teachers, Community Nurses, Social Workers and other relevant professionals to challenge their attitudes to disability and expand their skills in supporting children with disabilities and their families. The aim of this training is to aid the young person to develop to their fullest potential and adapt a can-do attitude to life, aiding independence.

Training for service providers and policy makers on how to communicate effectively with adolescents with disabilities in order to help them to identify their needs and wishes and aid participation.
Impact cont’d

Young people to be aware of their rights – to be heard and make decisions about their lives.

Children and young people with disabilities receive rights training based on the Human Rights Act, the UNCRC and the UNCRPD, including advocacy training.

Professionals to actively seek and appreciate children and young people’s views

Human rights, UNCRC, UNCRPD and disability awareness training for all staff working with young people and their professional bodies.

Agree a collaborative training programme for all agencies that is designed to be delivered by young people with disabilities.
The challenges

• Among other sub-group members - professional defensiveness – taking challenge as complaint

• Getting commitment from each of the young people’s agencies

• Changing membership of young people’s group – “age out” – go to University
What made it work

• Experience of DCYPP
• Commitment of Sub-group chairs
• Mandated by CYPSP strategy
• Willingness of young people to engage
• Underpinned by ASK FIRST standards
ASK FIRST standards

Appropriate methods
Support
Knowledge
Feedback
Inclusion
Respect
Senior people
Timing
ASK FIRST standards

Appropriate methods
Children and young people will be engaged in a variety of ways, based on what is best suited to their age and level of development / maturity. In particular, play based methodologies will be developed for involving pre-school children.

Support
Children and young people will be provided with the support needed to engage effectively in the decision making process.
Knowledge
Children and young people will be provided with the knowledge they need to engage fully in decision-making processes. Information will be easily understood, child friendly and produced in a range of accessible formats.

Feedback
Children and young people will be told about the outcomes of their involvement and how their input has been considered. Where their ideas have not been taken on board they will be told why this has happened.
Inclusion
All children and young people will be facilitated to engage in public decision-making processes. Particular measures will be put in place to ensure the involvement of those who are vulnerable and marginalised, in line with Section 75 and UNCRC obligations.

Respect
Children and young people will be treated with respect. They will decide the nature and extent of their involvement, including the option not to participate.
ASK FIRST

Senior people
Children and young people will have direct contact with senior people who are in a position to make decisions and take action in relation to their ideas, views and experiences.

Timing
Children and young people will be involved at the earliest possible stages of policy and service development, including processes to establish the need for service or policy initiatives.
More Information

Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership
www.cypsp.org
Children with Disabilities Working Group
http://www.cypsp.org/children-disabilities.htm
Transition Working Group
http://www.cypsp.org/transition.htm
CYPSP Young Peoples Pages
http://www.cypsp.org/young-people.htm

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