

Preparing for Adulthood (Version 3 - April 2014)
Appendix 5 – Hertfordshire Transition Guide
Consultation (December 2013)

Young people voice their support

Young people approaching transition age took part in a consultation recently, to help Hertfordshire County Council's (HCC) Youth Connexions service develop a Transition Guide for young people.

Transition can be a daunting time for many young people, as it is when they start to think about their future and what they would like to do when they leave school.

The Transition Guide aims to make this a smoother process by helping young people with additional needs navigate their way through the process. It includes information about transition planning, post-16 choices, social care, health, money, leisure, housing issues and useful contacts.

Working in partnership with Lonsdale School, HCC organised an event to capture young people's views about the Transition Guide, in particular what the contents and design should look like.

The young people watched a DVD about the Guide and were asked what they thought of it. Most of the young people felt that it had the right balance of content, but they were very keen to share ideas about how it could be improved. Brandon said: "There were a lot of people in the video; it was alright for me but it has to meet everybody else's needs."

When asked if he'd like to answer questions with stickers he said: "It might be a bit babyish but there are always ways round it like using software on a computer. I'm thinking of access - personally, I could type information but others might like stickers to stick on."

Freddie added: "I understood about the annual review. I understood the DVD and enjoyed it. More pictures and less words is better because it is clearer and I can read this. Also show people doing things to see what it is saying. YouTube is the best website."

Zeneb prints from her machine, but agreed with Freddie that website links would be useful.

The young people had many ideas about where they see themselves in the future. Dominic explained: "I'd like to live close to my family but not with them forever. I'd like my independence."

Jordan said: "I'd like to work in a shop. I don't want to go to college but I'd like to know more about the different trips and clubs colleges offer."

Patricia Walker, LDD Strategy and Commissioning Manager, Services for Children and Young People explained: "The teenage years can be a challenging time for a disabled young person and their family."

We want to make sure that we listen to the views of children and young people so that we get the information in the transition Guide right and make sure that it is presented in the most accessible way for young people with additional needs.”

The current version of the Transition Guide is available to view and download [here](#).

For more information please visit www.hertsdirect.org or visit the [**Youth Connexions website**](#).