

Better Care: Better Lives

This document, published by the Department of Health on 19th February, sets out future directions for children's palliative care services and the systems in which these sit. It builds on the review of Palliative Care Services for Children and Young People in England, published in May 2007.

This document provides a framework from which local areas can build their own delivery strategies. It is intended to:

- highlight the key aspects of the Independent Review of Children's Palliative Care Services;
- challenge and inspire local commissioners to champion the needs of this patient group and devise local strategies to meet them; and
- act as a framework for future service delivery for local commissioners and service planners/providers, with information on the services that should be available and guidance on how they should be delivered.

This framework is underpinned with new funding to ensure better outcomes for children and families. Children's trusts commissioners and service providers will be ultimately responsible for ensuring that services are accessible to all who need them. The full report is available at: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_083106

Transition: Moving on Well

This good practice guide on effective transition from children's to adult services for young people with complex health needs was published by the Department of Health and the Department for Schools, Children and Families (DCSF) on 19th March.

The guide aims to ensure that the young person and their family is better prepared for the move to adult care and that the adult care team has been involved in planning for the transfer. It builds on a wealth of good practice and aims to:

- place the young person's needs and aspirations at the centre of the transition process;
- reinforce the need for a clear inter-agency planning structure which is based on good communication, education and training of staff, has agreed protocols that take account of national standards and evaluates outcomes of local planning to improve experiences of transition for these young people;
- acknowledge that transition does not end when the young person moves on from child-centred services but continues in adult services;
- highlight practical approaches through which both the children's and adult health services can contribute to improving the transition process for young people with complex needs (including mental health, long-term conditions and palliative care) and disabilities (both those

with and without statements of special educational needs (SEN)); and

- support the commissioning process by clarifying the driving principles of person-centred planning and partnership working, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the professionals/main agencies involved in the transition process.

The guide supports A transition guide for all services: key information for professionals about the transition process for disabled children, which was published by the DCSF and DH in October 2007.

Further information is available at: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_083592