

Transition Information Network Council for Disabled Children

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Consultation on the Right to Control

Please find below a response from the Transition Information Network to the consultation document on the Right to Control.

The Transition Information Network (TIN) is an alliance of organisations and individuals who work together with a common aim: to improve the experience of disabled young people's transition to adulthood. TIN is a source of information and good practice for disabled young people, families and professionals. TIN is based at the Council for Disabled Children.

TIN welcomes the Government's consultation on the Right to Control. Disabled young people can have complex needs which can be best met using an individual approach providing flexibility and control over how support is provided. At the transition to adulthood disabled young people are planning how they will move towards independent living and for many this involved a move from children's to adults social care services. It is important that challenges faced by disabled young people are taken into account when considering how the Right to Control could be implemented. This letter sets out some points that TIN would recommend considering to ensure the Right to Control trailblazer sites provide as much evidence and learning as possible on the potential benefits to disabled young people from this approach.

Funding options

With regards to the inclusion of specific funding streams there are two areas of funding where intended outcomes are particularly important to disabled young people going through transition. Disabled Students' Allowance is a vital support for many disabled young people who

would not be able to take part in higher or further education without it. Support in making the transition into employment such as WORKSTEP, Work Preparation and Access to Work also plays a vital role in supporting disabled young people into work. These schemes help to ensure that as many disabled young people as possible have the chance to build skills and confidence, maintain their self esteem and participate in society through gaining employment and continuing into work as adults.

Support costs

The impact on individual service users needs to be considered carefully when making decisions about how to fund support brokerage in the Right to Control trailblazers. The cost of supporting the Right to Control will vary between individuals and may be hard to predict in many cases. It could therefore be seen as unfair to charge people's individual budgets with the cost of their support to exercise this new right. In some cases, funding such support in this way may leave some individuals with inadequate funds remaining to secure the services they are seeking to control. A fairer alternative could be for the cost of the implementation of the Right to Control to be spread either across the individual budgets of those who exercise this right, or those who are able to exercise this right.

Children's to adults social care services

Government has recently been investing in improving the interaction between children's and adults services, through the funding of the Transition Support Programme, for example. When setting up the Right to Control trailblazers it may be useful to look at how the funding of children's and adults services will align. It may be useful, in particular, to look at the range of budgets in children's services and the particular challenges to using them in this way. The trailblazers could begin to explore how this may facilitate a seamless transition to adult's services. The role of commissioners in this area will also need to be considered in implementing reform of how support for disabled people is delivered.

Transparency

Several questions in the consultation seek views on how difficult decisions should be made about service provision and the when to make the Right to Control available. Making such decisions in a fair way relies on making sure a transparent process is followed and that service users are informed and involved appropriately. The Aiming High for Disabled Children Core Offer sets out key principles on information, transparency and participation. In setting up the Right to Control trailblazers it may be useful to refer to these ideas to support the decision making framework in Right to Control.

We Hope you find our suggestions useful and if you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

Yours Sincerely

[personal details removed]