

## Principle 7:

A continued focus on  
transitions across Scotland



## Principles of Good Transitions 3

Scottish Transitions Forum  
Second Edition 2019



# **Principles of Good Transitions 3**

**Scottish Transitions Forum**

**Second Edition 2019**



Compiled on behalf of Scottish Transitions  
Forum Members by ARC Scotland

scott.read@arcuk.org.uk  
rebecca.williams@arcuk.org.uk

www.arcscotland.org.uk  
@ARCScot  
www.scottishtransitions.org.uk  
@Scotranfor

0131 663 4444

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www.maireadkeating.com

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# The Seven Principles of Good Transitions

1

Planning and decision making should be carried out in a person-centred way

2

Support should be co-ordinated across all services

3

Planning should start early and continue up to age 25

4

All young people should get the support they need

5

Young people, parents and carers must have access to the information they need

6

Families and carers need support

7

**A continued focus on transitions across Scotland**



# Principle 7

## **A continued focus on transitions across Scotland**

This means:

- The Scottish Transitions Forum working collectively to promote the Principles of Good Transitions and improve practice across Scotland
- A continued focus on transitions within policy and legislative developments
- Learning good practice from project-funded work and embedding this into sustainable longer-term strategies

## **The Scottish Transitions Forum working collectively to promote the Principles of Good Transitions and improve practice across Scotland**

One of the first steps to achieving a shared approach to transitions is the development of a definition of the term 'transition' that is relevant and meaningful to all areas. The definition we offer is:

**Transition is the period when young people develop from children to young adults. This is not a single event, such as leaving school, but a growing-up process that unfolds over several years and involves significant emotional, physical, intellectual and physiological changes. During this period, young people progressively assume greater autonomy in many different areas of their lives and are required to adjust to different experiences, expectations, processes, places and routines. Transitions also impact on the family or on those who care for the child or young person.**

‘The challenge is the variability of approaches. There is not a consistent approach that follows an evidence-based pathway for transitions. We need to get to the point where there is a wide understanding of transition that would help us move to a consistent service. A transition in [local authority] should be no different from one in [another local authority].’

Unit General Manager, “Where Next?” STF evaluation (2015) p38

The Principles of Good Transitions 3 provides a basis for a more detailed framework that is part of the commitment of the Fairer Scotland For Disabled People<sup>1</sup> Delivery Plan.

This framework provides an approach to transitions that can be shared by all professionals, at strategic and operational levels, linking up the legislative areas and different professional concerns<sup>2</sup>.

The Scottish Transitions Forum will continue to actively engage with our members, Scottish Government, professional bodies, young people, parents and carers, and other national organisations to promote and support the implementation of the Principles of Good Transitions 3 into planning and practice as detailed in the delivery plan, and evaluate its effectiveness for improving joined-up working across Scotland.



## A continued focus on transitions within policy and legislative developments

The Doran report recommended that:

‘The Scottish Government should provide leadership and where appropriate direction to local authorities and health boards and consider the adequacy of existing legislation to ensure that the transition from children to adult services for young people with complex additional support needs is properly co-ordinated, managed and delivered.’ Recommendation 11, the Doran Report<sup>3</sup>

Current developments in legislation and policy surrounding transitions offer a positive framework to improve the experience of young people. However, the Scottish Government recognises that the policy and legislation relating to transitions for those with additional support needs are complicated<sup>4</sup>. New initiatives sit on top of older legislation without clarity as to how these interlink. As a result, there is

widespread confusion among professionals, young people and their carers as to what young people are entitled to and who is responsible for providing it<sup>5</sup>. This can lead to some parents becoming ‘professionalised’ due to the amount of complex knowledge they need to navigate the systems involved. Professionals themselves are often frustrated with what appears to be bureaucratic and administrative tasks<sup>6</sup>, complicated processes, a lack of clear pathways and accountability.

To help address this issue, the Scottish Government has worked with the Scottish Transitions Forum to develop this publication. We will continue to engage with them to promote consideration of transitions within all relevant policy developments.

Consultation with senior staff within NHS and all 32 local authority areas carried out by the Scottish Transitions Forum in 2014/15<sup>7</sup> found the introduction of the Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach is viewed as the most helpful initiative for improving transitions for young people with additional support needs. However, the impact of GIRFEC on transitions is yet to be fully explored and was not a central part of the GIRFEC pathfinder test areas<sup>8</sup>.

In some areas, Health and Social Care Joint Improvement Boards have integrated children's services into their plans under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014. Other areas have only integrated the mandated adult services. More time is needed to explore opportunities and challenges of integration and its impact on transitions.

Feedback from the many professionals who have attended training and workshops delivered by the Scottish Transitions Forum over the past year indicate a high demand and interest from all professional sectors for continued provision of information and learning opportunities to improve their knowledge in this area.

'There's a growing consensus that there is an increasing need to address the gap between children's and adult services, with something specific to teenagers. We need to see young people as teenagers, and include sexual and mental health. It's not all about the "care."'

Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People.  
"Where Next?" STF Evaluation (2015) p43

The Scottish Transitions Forum will continue to provide up-to-date information, training and guidance to professionals from all sectors across Scotland as the legislative, policy and practice background develops over the coming years.

## **Learning good practice from project-funded work and embedding this into sustainable longer-term strategies**

A range of project funds are available to support transitions projects across Scotland. This includes funds provided by the Scottish Government, Big Lottery Fund Scotland and others. This has helped local authorities and universal services to collaborate with third sector organisations, young people, parents and carers. This has led to the development of successful and innovative approaches that have improved outcomes for many young people in Scotland.

It is important the support provided by successful time-limited project work is sustained in the long-term and that learning and expertise is not lost. Learning from project outcomes and the good practice developed needs to be embedded into other

strategic, operational and practitioner level processes. This should apply not only within the area in which projects operate, but also used as best practice examples for national consideration to enhance effective and equitable work in transitions.

The Principles of Good Transitions 3 provides a framework that can be used to help embed the learning and experiences of project-funded initiatives into longer-term transitions strategies that span the range of those involved in this process. The Scottish Transitions Forum is currently supporting and facilitating work of this nature in several local authority areas and we welcome involvement with others.

## How to support Principles of Good Transitions 3

Many organisations and professional bodies have already endorsed the Principles of Good Transitions 3. This means they believe it provides an effective framework to improve transitions in Scotland.

If your organisation wishes to endorse the Principles of Good Transitions 3, please contact us at:

**[www.scottishtransitions.org.uk](http://www.scottishtransitions.org.uk)**

We hope that those who have already endorsed it will continue to promote it to others and apply it in their work. We rely on the members of the Scottish Transitions Forum to support one another and to champion the many examples of good work in transitions that is occurring across Scotland.

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Members of the Scottish Transitions Forum for providing ideas, evidence, experience, case studies and practice examples and our 'Think Tank' members, for their guidance and inspiration.

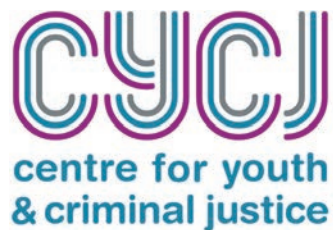
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## Endorsements





















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