



Learner and Learning Support

Autism & Transitions Video – Transcript

The Autism & Transitions Conference was brought together as a result of the Special Education Needs Green Paper.

LSIS, Learning Skills Improvement Service established a series of cluster projects to identify pathways to improve transition for young people with disabilities.

The conference was one of the outcomes from the South Yorkshire Cluster, who specifically focused on autism.

The cluster members identified a gap in knowledge over what support was available and accessing that support locally.

We felt the best way to address this was to hold a conference that brought individuals with autism, parents, carers and professionals together with organisations providing support.

The event was hosted at Communications Specialist College, Doncaster, one of our cluster members, coordinated by Autism Plus and supported by other cluster members including Sheffield College, Doncaster College, Freemans College, Dearne ALC, Dearne Valley College, National Autistic Society, and The Options Group.

The event attracted over 20 provider stalls, all delivering services that are of benefit to individuals with autism across the South Yorkshire area, including Sensory Plus, Voluntary Action Barnsley, Aiming High, as well as many others.

The event was well attended, attracting over 200 people, all with a specific interest in autism and transition. Attendees included local authorities, NHS staff, parents, individuals, local service providers as well as national representations from Jobcentre Plus and Dept Health.

Key Speakers in the morning covered national and local agendas. We were delighted to welcome Gareth James, Childrens Disability Lead from Dept Health. Liz Howard, Personalisation Team, Sheffield Council, Tracy Mistry, Deputy Manager Transitions & Autism, Doncaster Council and Linda Calverley, Head of Special Education Needs, Doncaster.

In the afternoon we offered 10 workshops covering a range of topics, such as transport, education, employment and funding. There was also an opportunity to provide a local perspective to Michael Swaffield, from Department Health who is leading on the national autism strategy.

Attendees were invited to leave their feedback of the event via a video diary room.

This feedback showed that individuals really did gain something from this event and we have in many ways built a bridge from service users to service providers to help make the transition process smoother.

Diane Foster (Parent)

“One of the good things I found out was that my son, who’s got ADHD (Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) and is also on the autistic spectrum will still be able to go to college even though he is over 20 now, so that’s been really good and helpful”

Andrew Farren (Parent)

“I’ve spent that long in this afternoons workshops, it’s been a highly productive visit. Very well run, very well attended and some really good professional bodies out there who obviously know what they’re doing and I think this is definitely the way forward. Information was clear and concise and not too long and it was thoroughly enjoyable. So thank you very much”

We were delighted with the event, with a fantastic turn out, some really strong messages from the speakers and a series of fully engaging workshops.

The project has been such a success that we are already looking at how we can do this again in the future.

If you would like to be kept updated on progress of the group please follow the link to contact us directly.