

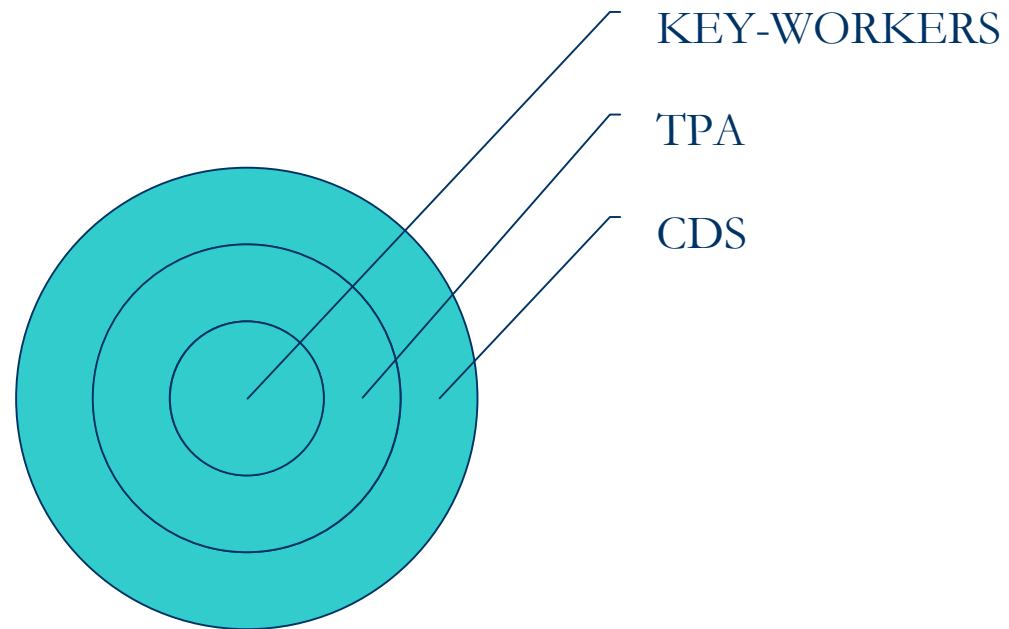
Multi-agency Coordination of Children's Disability Services in Ceredigion



Tim Plant Anabl Ceredigion/ Child Development Service

- Established in 1991
- Based on research that recommended that the TPA be an integral part of the CDS.
- Both services be managed by the same person
- Service to be multi-agency, health, social services and education
- Service to include dedicated key-workers to coordinate care plans for children.

Interface between Child Development Service (CDS) and the Tim Plant Anab



Ceredigion Child Development Service

Service not a team, includes a variety of professionals involved in child health
e.g. paediatrician, therapists, generic health visitors, teacher, psychologist etc.
Meet for care plan reviews of children

Ceredigion Tim Plant Anabl. Criteria

- Moderate to severe learning, physical and sensory disability.
- Meet the criteria for the Disability Index
- 0-18 years old
- Living in Ceredigion

TPA.-Current provision

- Key-worker service/ assessment/Care planning
- Disability Index
- Respite/short break service
- Resource library
- Early intervention service
- Specialist Autism Service
- Physiotherapy/Occupational therapy
- Community children's nursing service
- Project worker service
- Legislative child care support

Tim Plant Anabl 2008

- 21 members of staff (16w.t.e.) 220children on our Children's Disability Index
- Manager/Senior social work practitioner
- 6.5w.t.e. key-workers (social workers, teachers, health visitors, community children's nurse)
- O.T.
- Physiotherapists
- Autism Social Worker/Development Worker
- Project worker
- Early intervention worker
- Respite care social workers
- Admin support

Transition Key Working

- The National Service Framework Chapter 5 (5.32-5.37)
- NSF Audit Chapter 5, low returns nationally especially transition section
- WAG setup a Transition Working Party to address this
- Jane Hutt announced in March 2008 dedicated money for Transition Key Working

Ceredigion's Response

- Manager member of WAG Transition Party
- Chair of Disability Sub-group Framework Partnership
- Sub-group identified Transition Key working as a priority
- Successful bid to Cymorth for pilot (Jan '08)
- Ceredigion was then well placed when WAG announced applications for Transition Key Working
- August '08, application was made to WAG for Transition Key Worker Pilot funding
- September '08, Ceredigion informed they had been successful in their bid

SWOT Analysis of Cymorth Pilot

Strengths

- Positive to focus on transition 14—25 years
- Key-workers from TPA gained a better understanding of what was available or not in adult services.
- Positive to focus on person- centered transition plans
- TPA key-workers gained a useful insight into the adult disability world from the perspective of the young adult
- Helped shift the focus from parents needs to Young Persons need
- Identified good sources of information/good practice from other areas
- TPA key-workers had a better understanding of assessments required for adult services
- Helpful that key worker from TPA had worked with YP prior to transition
- Supervision sessions with the managers

SWOT Analysis of Cymorth Pilot

Weaknesses/ Difficulties

- We were over ambitious in what we could achieve in relation to the numbers of young people we thought we could work with in the time allocated, consequently some disabled YP identified were not contacted. (Sickness amongst transition workers also impacted on this)
- Management - lack of clarity for key-workers regarding management responsibility and time constraints for managers.
- Unfamiliar paper work /assessments in adult services that TPA key-workers were not familiar with and visa versa
- Handover to transition workers/services not clear.
- Difficulties with key-working systems across adult and children's services

SWOT Analysis of Cymorth Pilot

Threats

- Dearth of services for young adults especially in relation to employment
- Current workload and backlog in adult services
- Eligibility criteria different in adult services
- Duplication of assessments / risk assessments/continuing care process
- Continuing DP form children's to adult services is at risk because of ? around competency

SWOT Analysis of Cymorth Pilot

Opportunities

- Future funding from WAG
- WAG working party addressing transition
- Possible additional funding to review /map current transition services in Ceredigion and make proposal for future service.

WAG Transition Key Worker Bid

Vision of the transition key worker service in Ceredigion would be that

To provide a transitional key worker for every young disabled person 14- 25 with complex needs, working within a supportive multi-agency framework to ensure that young disabled people achieve their goals and aspirations as they move into adult life.

Outline of the WAG bid

Aims and objectives

- Provide two Transition key workers who will:
- Work alongside the young person, their family, key professional and voluntary organisations to coordinate the planning and delivery of services before and during the process of transition.
- Provide information to the young person and their family on access and availability of services, in a clear, easily accessible format, working in collaboration with the Children and Young Peoples Information Service.
- Prepare with the young person a Person Centred Transition Plan, which all key stakeholders are signed up to (this plan will link into the Education Transition Plan, ICS children's plan, Careers plan, and UAP).

Outline of the WAG bid

- Prepare work towards piloting a single assessment and plan.
- Undertake direct work alongside the Children and Young Person's Advocate in supporting the young person to voice their views, make informed decisions and become more independent, whilst also supporting the parents /carers through this sometimes difficult process.
- Review the plan with the young person and key stakeholders 6 monthly in line with the requirement of the Assessment Framework for Children in Need and their Families and termly aged 17-18 in line with requirements of the NSF.
- Collect and maintain aggregated data on the pilot, which will provide information for the Children and Young People's Framework Partnership to inform strategic planning.

Baseline Date

Current Data

2008

116 YP between the ages of 14 and 25yrs
(56 between 14 and 18yrs -TPA)
(60 between 18 and 25yrs -CTLD)

Projected figures based on current data

2009

an extra 18 YP

2010

an extra 21 YP

2011

an extra 15 YP



(an extra 54 between 11 and 13yrs in TPA)

Total 170 YP by 2011

Monitoring and Evaluation

- A Monitoring and Evaluation Group has been established which includes a young disabled person representative, parent/ carers representative, managers from Education, Social Services (both children and adult services), NHS Trust and the LHB, Manager TPA, Pilot Transition Key workers, existing Transition Worker , CTLD Manager Framework Partnership Support Team, DASH, Disability Careers Officer, Advocacy Service worker. (Some members from above have already been meeting on a regular basis.)
- Specific, measurable, agreed, realistic and timed (SMART) Objectives for the Project will be agreed by the group and will be reported on a quarterly basis. This report will feed into the strategic planning systems.
- NSF annual Audit review will be monitoring and evaluating the service within chapter 5 and will be reporting back to WAG

Autism Specific Service - Ceredigion



Background

- Well established disabled children's team in Ceredigion
- Based on a multidisciplinary approach: professionals from health, social services and education
- Implements the key worker model

More Background...

- TPA accepts referrals for all children with an autistic spectrum disorder (including Asperger Syndrome.)
- Autism Strategy Group in existence: considers services for children and young people with ASD. Identified need for increased resources for direct work with these children This group feeds into the Children's Partnership.

New money...new post

- Funding(£1.7 m recurrent) from Welsh Assembly Government made available to local authorities to support autistic specific services for children
- Ceredigion received £25,000
- Money was used to fund an autistic specific project development post
- Commenced in January 2008.

Autism Project Development Worker

- DCT already identified approx 40 children with an ASD (3:1000). But according to expected levels of incidence, WAG figures and Ceredigion population we should have double the amount of children(6:1000)
- Issues raised: 1) we needed to improve our data collection 2) diagnostic process needed addressing

Autism Project Development Worker...

- I set out to visit as many children and families as possible and met with over 70%
- Set format to my visits and used a questionnaire to assure uniformity
- Very quickly common themes emerged:

Common themes

1. Diagnosis process:
 - long wait
 - multiple assessments
 - early support lacking
 - issues relating to follow up

There's a need to be mindful that local diagnostic team is set up as an 'add on' to current work plan of professionals involved and not a separately commissioned service.

Common themes

2. Transition from primary to secondary school :

- A significant area of concern by many parents (7 out of 7 in year 6)
- Demands long term planning
- Need for over-riding transition plan
- Must be child focused

Common Themes

3. Out of county placements :
 - 21% children with ASD are excluded from school at least once.
 - Ceredigion have 13 children placed in independent schools- 7 of these are ASD/AS
 - in house provision needed improving to meet the needs of these children

Common Themes

4. Service Provision:

- Very positive ...BUT
- Short breaks not autistic specific
- In-house education placement not autistic specific
- Early years intervention critical but could only access if child has early diagnosis (AS often later)

Common Themes

5. Making and keeping friends:

- many children able to express a desire to make friends but main difficulty was keeping them
- Parents and children wanted more opportunities for the children/young people to go out in groups

Common Themes

6. Environment:

- home
- school

Priorities for Development

1. Diagnosis process
2. Autistic Specific service provision/ support database:
now has 56 children
3. Education: placements, transition, in-house skills
4. Friendships: direct work.....
.....what do we do now? !

The Autistic Spectrum Disorder Strategy Action Plan for Wales

- Timing was great!!!
- In children services we were just at the point of identifying the priorities for autistic children , across all agenciesmany are mirrored in the WAG guidelines and in the main body of the action plan itself

What will the WAG strategic action plan enable us to do on a local and regional level?

Short Term Actions:

- identified lead officers in post: knowledge, direct work, work across agencies, liaise with statutory and voluntary organisations, ability to provide WAG with the data they require by 3/09
- identified lead officers will liaise with regional coordinators and implementation manager

More short term actions...

- children and adult services will be linked by the 2 individual lead officers and also by the transitional workers. Ensure clearer transition of services for the service users and their families.
- develop our local action plan across all agencies to include all people with autism living in Ceredigion
- start addressing some of our local priorities e.g. data collection

even more short term goals...

- provide for some 'tools' to produce user friendly material to support service users in consultation and participation in a more effective way.

Medium term goals

Build on our existing diagnostic service:

- commission separate service,
- purchase specific training for existing members,
- develop early counselling service,
- structure our follow up support,
- develop parent/carers groups.

More medium term goals

Education

- training for identified school staff to raise awareness and improve schools 'autism' friendly environment
- develop clear transition planning to secondary schools
- improve in - house educational options for children and young people.

...more medium term goals

- develop 'social' opportunities for children and young people with ASD
- develop more direct work programs for children and young people with ASD in relation to their specific difficulty

Regional Planning

- regional networking and co-ordinating will be supported by the lead officers and the appointed regional strategic posts.
- this will strengthen existing regional planning, information sharing across regions, encourage regional commissioning of some services as appropriate e.g. education placements , short breaks.

Good news.....

- For children and young people with an identified autistic spectrum disorder the WAG strategic action plan could not have timed itself better.
- The aim is to improve services for these identified people, engaging with all agencies, services and more importantly the individuals and their families themselves
- Service provision should continue for as long as the need is identified

.....support and structure

- The Strategic Action Plan will support and give structure to the autism planning framework
- It will help us to reach the needs of individuals affected by ASD and raise awareness of these needs in local communities and on a more regional level.

The end!!



Thank you for your time