



# Cumbria County Council Understanding Transition

(By Beverley Weldon and Jonathan Ashworth)

# Transition

## Aims of Presentation:

- To explore transition as a life stage and as a process and identify the goals of Transition.
- To reflect on Beverley's experience of Transition.
- Where next for Transition? Emerging themes and issues.

# Transition as a life stage:

## Adolescence!!!!

- Period of rapid change both physically and emotionally.
- Identity exploration – ‘who do we want to be?’
- Start to make enduring life decisions.

# Transition as a process:

## A stakeholder process:

- Formal planning from Y9 (13 into 14).
- Start to construct the 'Transition plan.'
- Aims of Transition found in numerous documents, procedures and protocols. No definitive Transition CoP.

# Policies

## AIM:

- Disabled Persons (S,C,R) Act (DoH, 1986) Sections 5 & 6.
- SEN CoP (DfES, 2001). *“Planning should be; Participative, holistic, supportive, evolving and Collaborative.”*

# Policies

## Aim:

- Valuing People (DoH, 2001)  
recommends the whole scale adoption  
of PCP across Social Care, Health AND  
Education.

# Policies

## Aim:

- Every Child Matters (HMSO, 2004). 5 Outcomes; Being healthy, Staying Safe, Enjoying and Achieving, Making a Positive Contribution and Economic Well-being.
- All of this gives us a road map for Transition!

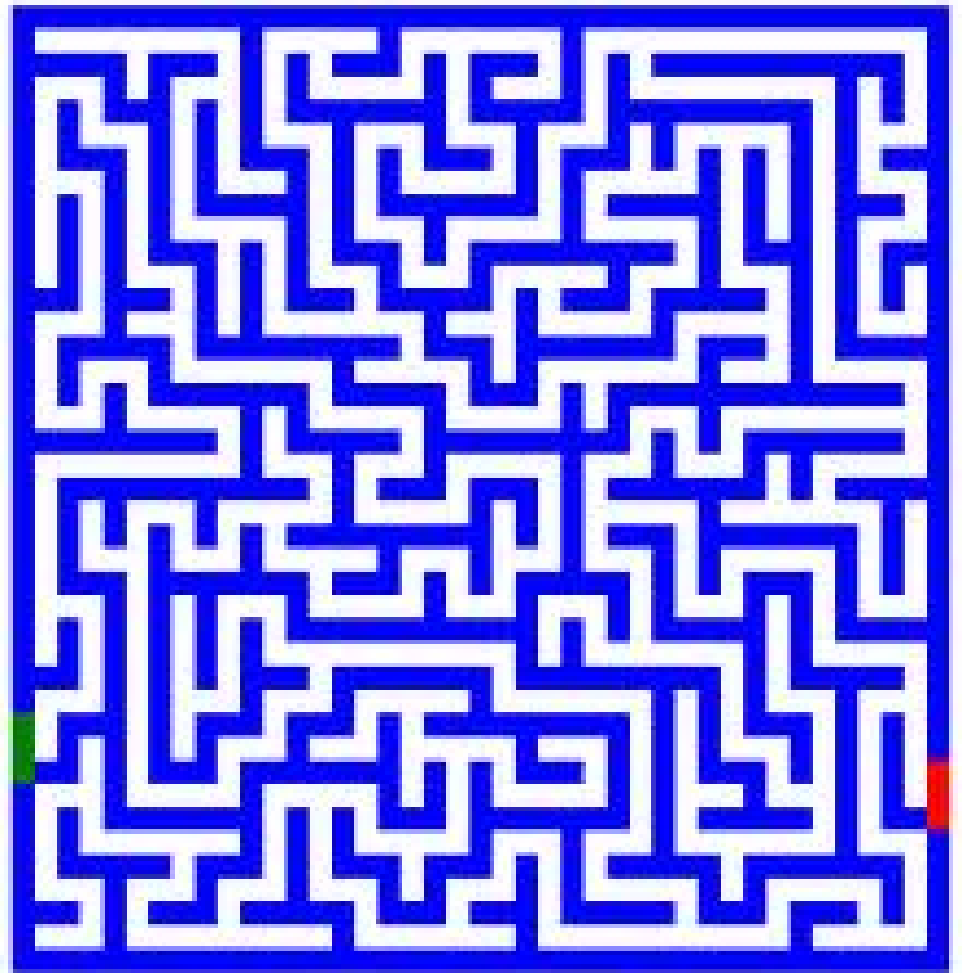
# Beverley's experience of Transition

- Characterised by Stakeholder 'drop off.'
- Change in momentum post 16. Once Beverley went to college formal education reviews did not take place.
- Focus on Soft outcomes not Concrete outcomes, e.g. *"preparing to move on to the next stage."*
- Lack of focus on Concrete outcomes, e.g. employment, housing.
- A sense that local FE college was the inevitable destination.



# Beverley's experience of Transition

- Beverley and her dad were proactive and inquisitive.
- A view that Independent Specialist Residential College was the only way to gain greater independence.
- College reviews were person centred and encouraged support planning. Beverley lead her reviews at college.
- Willingness to try new and inventive ways of meeting established needs.



# Where Next for Transition

## Emerging themes and issues:

- Need to be more Needs lead/Outcome focused as opposed to service lead in nature.
- Local developments and commissioning – collaborative work between Service Providers, Specialist Colleges, Local FE Colleges.
- Combined assessment – The Universal Transition Plan???
- Person centred reviews and support planning.
- Use of re-ablement. Could this be used post 16 not post 18???
- Ensuring Concrete outcomes from Transition. Bringing in new people to support the process – advocacy, employment support providers.