

Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise

Ministear airson Clann, Daoine Òga is An Gealladh

Natalie Don-Innes MSP

Natalie Don-Innes BPA

T: 0300 244 4000

E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Douglas Ross MSP

Convener

Education, Children and Young People

Committee

Via email: ecyp.committee@parliament.scot

19 December 2024

Dear Mr Ross,

National Transitions to Adulthood Strategy for disabled young people

Thank you for your response to my letter of 28 October 2024, regarding the National Transitions to Adulthood Strategy for young disabled people.

I appreciate that the Committee are disappointed to hear that the publication of the Strategy has been pushed back from December 2024 until Spring 2025. Improving transitions for young disabled people remains of critical importance to the Scottish Government, and the Minister for Equalities and I continue to work across Government to ensure continued focus and urgency around this agenda.

In my [statement to Parliament](#) on Wednesday 20 November I was clear that I remain committed to ensuring that each and every response we received during our recent period of engagement is given the consideration it deserves as we develop possible actions for the Strategy.

I am also committed to continuing to work with all parties in Parliament, to ensure we are doing everything we can to support young disabled people as they move into adulthood. I will be writing to cross-party spokespeople to invite a discussion on this in the coming weeks, and I would like to extend a similar offer to the Committee members.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with Committee members to discuss your key priorities for the National Transitions to Adulthood Strategy, with a view to

identifying collective solutions to improve transitions to adulthood for young disabled people in Scotland.

With regards to finances, the Scottish Budget, published on 4 December 2024, contains an additional investment of up to £500,000 for 2025-26 to work with partners to progress actions which deliver on the Strategy's priorities, as set out in the Statement of Intent. As you know, the Budget Bill is still subject to cross-party support and Parliamentary approval.

Furthermore, I want to reassure the Committee that we are not waiting until we publish our Strategy to take forward actions needed to improve the experience of transitions for young disabled people. Some of the work we are already delivering includes:

- Implementing the Additional Support for Learning Review's recommendations and updating the additional support for learning statutory guidance, including strengthening the section on transitions and co-ordinated support plans (CSPs) to include clarity on the relationship between the CSP and other types of plans. In addition, we are taking forward work from a 2021 review of the use of CSPs to develop national learning resources and accessible information to ensure CSPs are understood and used appropriately.
- Over the past three years, more than £1 million has been provided to Capability Scotland to support the Corseford pilot for young people with complex additional support needs, delivering bespoke learning, physical therapies and life-skills development. An independent evaluation of the pilot will allow us to explore a sustainable approach to specialist provision going forward.
- As part of our work to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) Scotland Act 2024, the Scottish Government has funded NHS Education for Scotland to support health boards and the Improvement Service to support local authorities in implementing a children's human rights approach in their practice.
- We are also co-designing Getting It Right For Everyone (GIRFE) with place-based pathfinders who are aligned to five thematic areas, including young people transitioning from Children services to Adult Services. The primary element of this practice model in development is the GIRFE 'Team Around The Person' toolkit. It will include tools to support positive early conversations around transitions for young people, with a focus on early planning, accessible information, and the join-up of professionals around the person. The toolkit was published in December this year and is now available to support and embed GIRFE within a wider national context.

- Providing funding in 2024-25 for Enable Scotland's 'Stepping Up' transitions programme, which connects young disabled people to fair work, education and productive activities designed to support a successful transition into adult life and work.

These examples represent just a small part of the work which is already being taken forward by officials across the Scottish Government which support the objective of improving transitions for our young people. Publishing the Strategy will also support this objective, and I look forward to updating you on actions we intend to take forward.

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Don-Innes
Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise