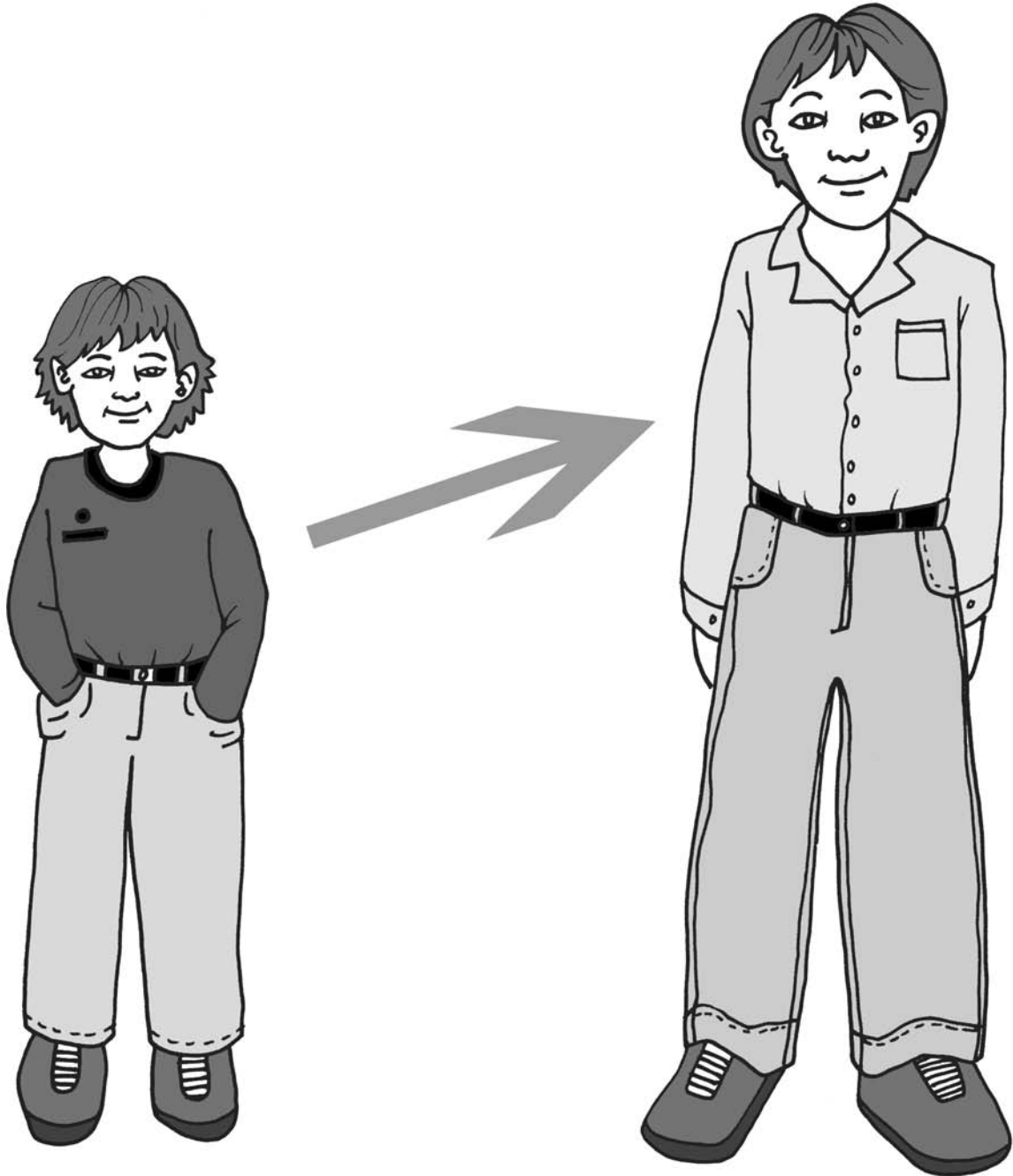
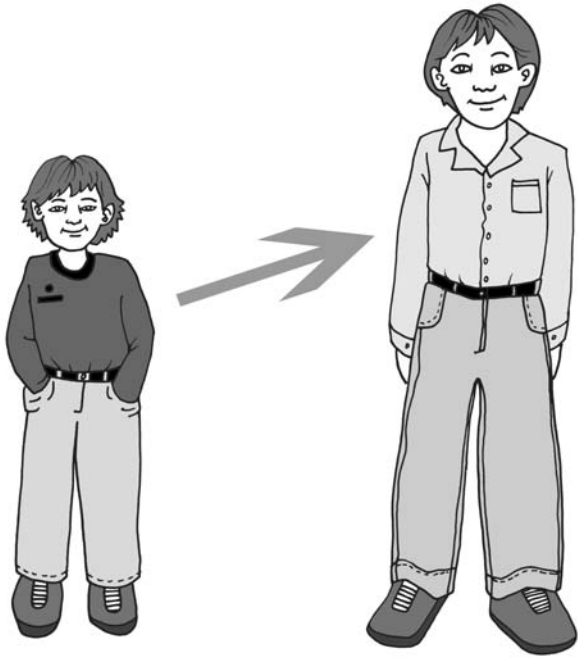


The Road Ahead?



This is about the information young people with learning difficulties and their parents need during transition.



Transition is when young people grow up and become adults.



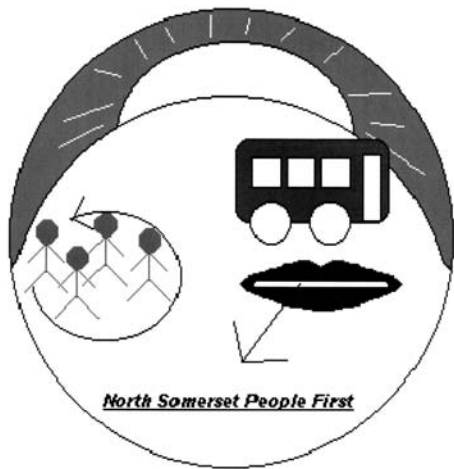
Meetings about a young person's transition should start when they are 14.



The meeting should help the young person and their parents think about the choices they have.



This project wanted to find out what young people and their parents want and need to know during transition.



The project was done by young people from North Somerset People First.



Norah Fry Research Centre
University of Bristol

They worked with the Norah Fry Research Centre and the Home Farm Trust (HFT).

The Norah Fry Research Centre does research.

It finds out things.

HFT provides services and helps carers.

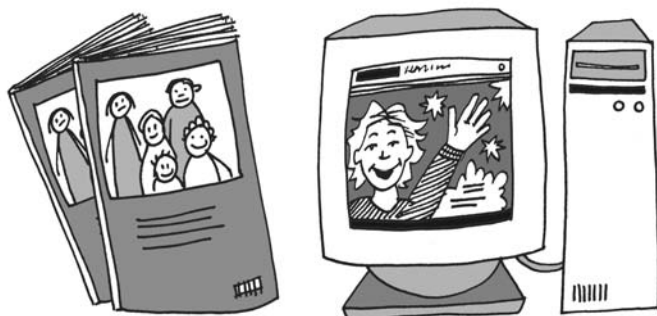




We talked to young people, parents and supporters in four different areas of the country.



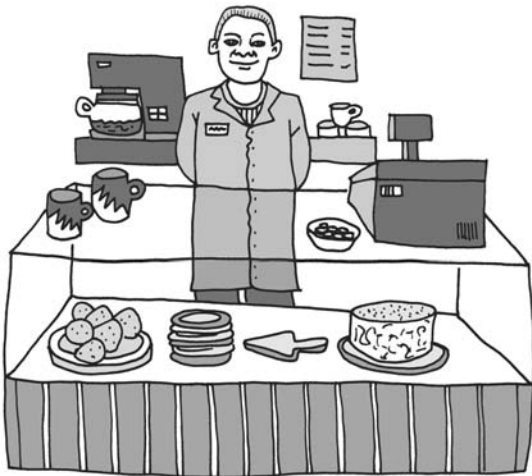
We looked at what has been written by professionals about transition.



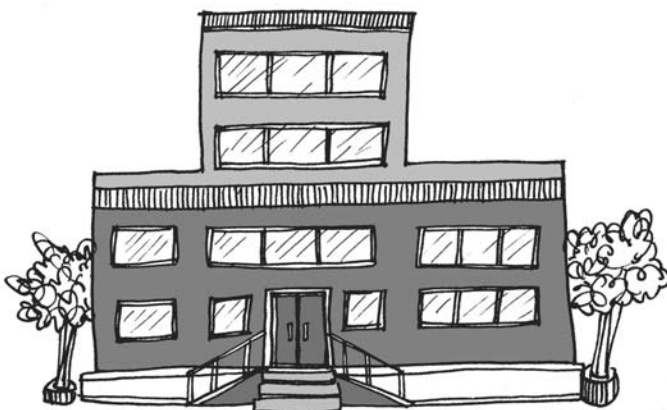
We looked at packs and resources about transition.



We found that young people with learning difficulties want to do the same things as other young people as they grow up.



Some people want a job



Other people want to go to college.

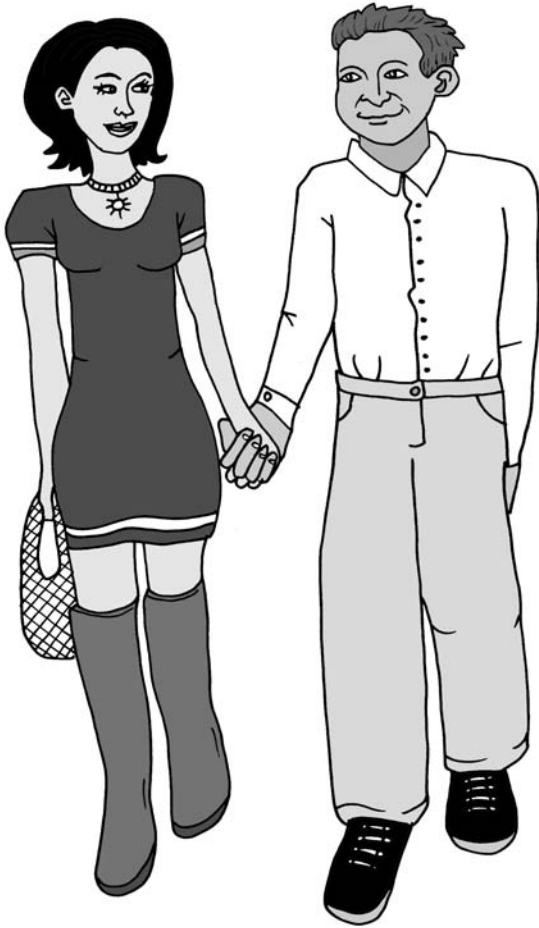


They want a choice about where to live.

They might want to live with friends, on their own or stay with their family.



Young people want to have friends and to go out and have fun.



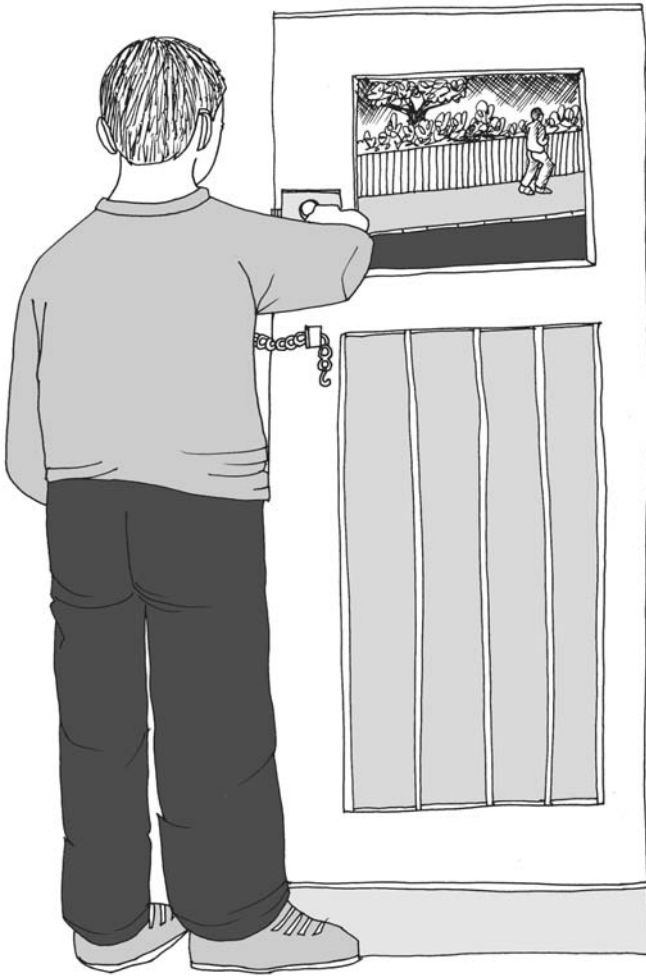
They want to have
boyfriends or girlfriends.

They want to know how
to get a partner.



They want to know
about sex.

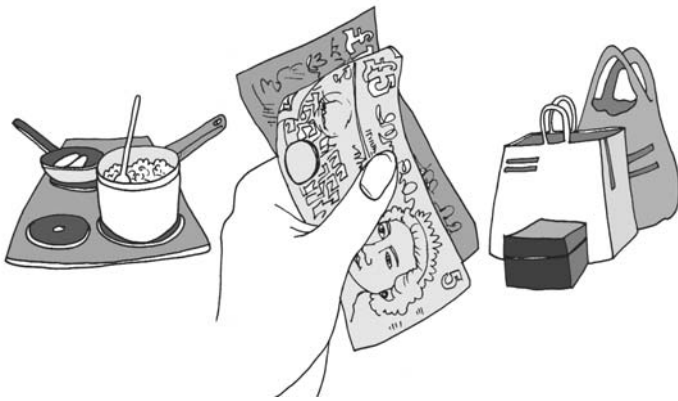
They also want to know
how to not have babies
or how to have a family.



They want to feel safe wherever they are.



They want to be in charge of their lives and make their own decisions.



They want to do things for themselves like shopping, cooking and looking after money.



They want to keep healthy.



They want to know about music and sport.



Some young people want to know how they could help others.



Young people need information about how to do all these things.

Parents and supporters need to know about these things too.



Parents also want to know how 'transition' works.

They do not know how they could help.

They want to know what services there are and how to get in touch with them.



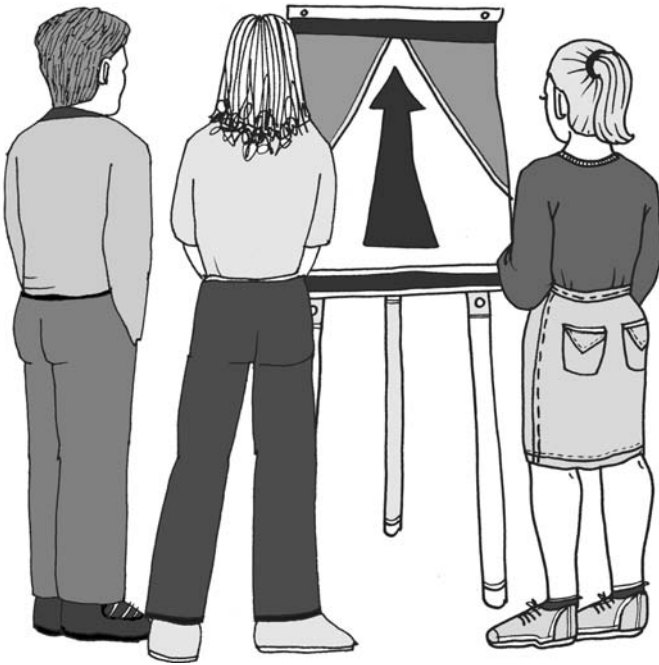
Parents are worried that young people might not get what they dreamed of.

Parents want to know who will support their young person to be in charge of their own life.



Supporters think it is important that young people know how to speak up for themselves.

They help them do this.



Supporters think that person centred planning can help young people understand their dreams can become real.

Supporters think parents should know about self advocacy and that young people can have a say in their lives.



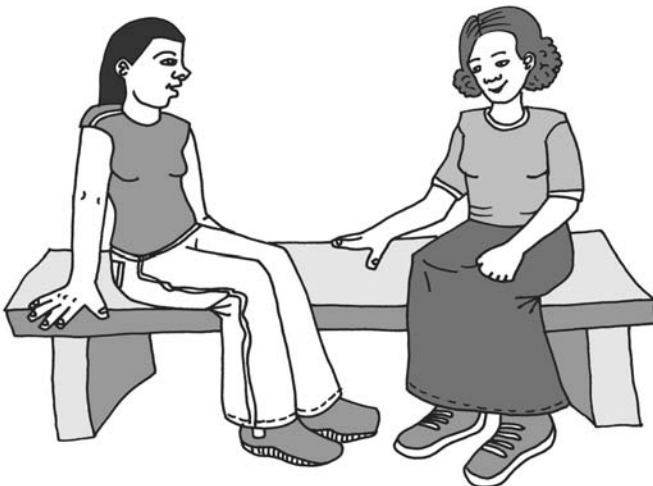
Supporters also help young people work out how they feel about changes.



Parents and supporters need information about transition and how it works.

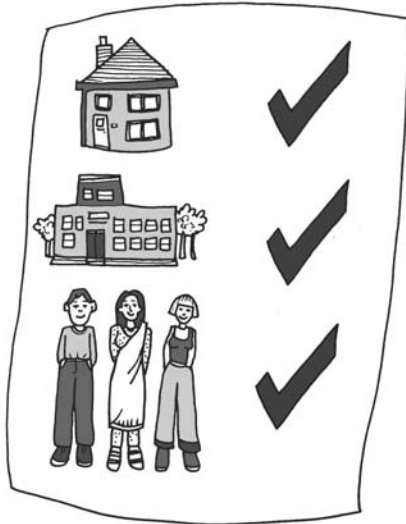
What we read showed that parents really help young people during transition.

Parents need clear, easy information about transition too.



Young people and parents also need someone, like a Connexions personal advisor to help them through transition.

What we read about transition also showed that person centred planning can help young people during transition.



The packs and resources about transition tell young people about most of the things they need to know about.



Some of the resources do not mention sex and relationships.

Some of the resources talk about sex in an unclear way.

This is an easy summary of the key themes from a full report called 'The Road Ahead? Information for young people with learning difficulties and their families during transition'.

It was written by Beth Tarleton from the Norah Fry Research Centre, University of Bristol, 3 Priory Road, Bristol BS8 1TX.
Telephone 0117 9238137 www.bris.ac.uk/Depts/NorahFry

With thanks to the Social Care Institute for Excellence for funding this work. This summary is part of a wider piece of work which also includes a full review of the literature on transition, a review of the transition resources and a report by the Transition Project Team from North Somerset People First called 'The Information World for Young People with Learning Difficulties as they grow up.'

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