Leverhulme Trust

Disabled Young People and Enabling Transitions

A Symposium

Apex International, Edinburgh, 19th January 2015

Navigating the Choppy Waters of Transition-

A Personal Perspective

Proposed structure-

1. Background
- 3 different transitions
    - Special school to mainstream school
    - School to work to Uni (Independent living 1- PA)
    - Moving to own property (independent living 2)

2. What has aided transition

3. What holds disabled people back

4. Independent living approach to good transition
- Empowerment and informed choice through needs of independence
- Freedom, choice and control
- LCIL and thats what we do (Braidburn)

Link back to what makes transition possible to end.

1. **Mindset**
2. **Event**
3. **Process**
4. **Phase**

Presentation detail

Transitions-

- **Rochdale (special school) to Edinburgh (mainstream)**
- **School to work to Uni (PA) to job centre to work**
- **Moving from parents to own home (still in phase of transition)**

**process hinders the transition. Even though trying to keep positive it is hard as the process makes it difficult to stay positive.

What has aided your transition?

1. Mindset- myself and my parents always had an aspiration to be as independent as my disability allows.

2. Financial support of parents for mortgage deposits etc allowed for doors to be opened.

3. Event- education and move from Rochdale to Edinburgh
- Special school v mainstream
- Supportive teachers
- University

4. Education- independent living movement/models of disability

5. Independent living movement
   - freedom, choice and control
   - employing my PA changed my whole outlook on life
   - LUCK!!

What holds disabled young people back?

1. **Attitude**
- Family background
- Culture
- Extended family

2. **Confidence**
- Social exclusion/society models
- Special schools in relation to transition (societal barriers)
- Internal confidence- how long it took to come to terms with the idea of moving out

3. **Process**
- Social/healthcare system- SDS medical model

- Benefits/welfare system

Independent living approach to good transition

- Empowerment and informed choice through needs of independence
- Freedom, choice and control
- LCIL and thats what we do
- In relation to certain needs of independence
    - o **Equal opportunities for employment**
    - o **An adequate income**
    - o **Inclusive education/training**

What makes transition to adulthood possible

- Process whether it is good or bad
- Event (phase)- still in a transition and stuck in that phase due to process of SDS
- Mindset (phase)- relate it to first job

** it can encompass one or all of the above in my case talk about change.