
FACTSHEET

November 2009

Ministry of Children and Family Development

TRANSITION PLANNING PROTOCOL FOR YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

- The [Cross-Ministry Transition Planning Protocol for Youth with Special Needs](#) was developed to:
 - Address concerns expressed by families for better cooperation and coordination across all service sectors (education, employment, health and social services)
 - Improve access to existing resources and supports
 - Ensure that a coordinated transition planning process occurs for youth with special needs and their families.
- This Protocol is focused on young people between the ages of 14 and 25, and who require significant additional educational, medical/health and social/environmental support, beyond that required by youth in general, to improve his/her health, development, learning, quality of life, participation and community inclusion.
- The Protocol is an agreement between nine government organizations on how they will work together to support the transition of youth with special needs to adulthood – it is not about creating a new program or service. The agreement is between:
 - Six ministries: Advanced Education and Labour Market Development, Children and Family Development, Education, Health Services, Housing and Social Development and the Public Safety and Solicitor General
 - Service delivery partners: BC Housing and Community Living BC
 - The Public Guardian and Trustee
- The Protocol outlines the guiding principles to support a collaborative approach to transition planning and the components of a process that starts by age 14.
- It also provides consolidated information about existing government supports and services for young people between the ages of 14 to 25 and clarifies the types of resources made available through the nine government organizations.
- Roles and tasks associated with the transition planning process from age 14 and beyond are identified in the Protocol and can also be found in the [Roles and Tasks for Transition Planning Team Members](#) chart.
- This Protocol provides the foundation to jointly develop:
 - Resources such as information guides for youth with special needs, their families and services providers (e.g., Your Future Now)
 - Other tools to facilitate the transition to adulthood such as local inter-agency agreements or operational agreements between two organizations (e.g., Ministry of Children and Family Development and Community Living BC – Services for Transitioning Youth Operating Agreement)

For more information, visit the ministry website: www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/spec_needs/index.htm

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