

National Transitions to Adulthood Strategy:

Summary of analysis of engagement on the statement of intent

May 2024

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Introduction

In the 2021 [Programme for Government](#), Scottish Ministers committed to introducing Scotland's first National Transitions to Adulthood Strategy in this Parliamentary term, to ensure there is a joined up approach so that all disabled young people can experience a positive and supported transition to young adult life. This was reaffirmed in the First Minister's [Policy Prospectus](#), published in April 2023.

In March 2023, an [external strategic working group](#) was set up to support the development of the strategy. This group, comprising key representatives of parents/carers, the third sector, local authorities, education, employment, health and social care co-developed a [statement of intent](#) which set out the proposed vision, scope and priorities for the strategy. This was published on 28 September 2023.

Alongside the statement of intent, an online Microsoft Forms survey seeking feedback on the statement of intent from young people, parent/carers and others with a role or interest in transitions was also published. The survey was open between 28 September 2023 and 30 November 2023.

In total, there were 151 online survey responses, of which 144 were submitted via Microsoft Forms and 7 via email. In addition to the online survey, 9 engagement events were held (6 online and 3 in person) to seek feedback on the statement of intent. [Table 1](#) and [Table 2](#), which can be found in the Annex, provide the profile of respondents and events held.

In responding to the online survey via Microsoft Forms, participants indicated their agreement to their anonymous responses being shared in our published analysis of responses. Therefore, the quotes contained within this report are only from responses submitted via Microsoft Forms.

It is important to note that public consultation of this kind means anyone can express their views. This self-selection means the views of respondents do not necessarily represent the views of the wider population. However, the views which were received will contribute to future considerations and decisions on the development of the strategy.

For the purpose of producing this summary version, a list of the main themes which emerged from all the responses received have been presented, but only those which recurred in responses across 3 or more questions within the survey have been expanded on. Therefore, this summary report does not provide a full overview of all of the responses which were analysed and reported on; these are however detailed in the [full report](#).

The Scottish Government would like to thank everyone who took the time to respond to our statement of intent through the survey, email or by attending - or facilitating - an engagement event.

We asked

Respondents across all engagement platforms were invited to answer the following four closed questions by selecting one of five response options¹:

- Do you agree that the meaning we have given to ‘transition to adulthood’ is the correct one for the strategy?
- Do you agree that the meaning we have given to ‘disabled young people’ is the correct one for the strategy?
- Do you agree that the vision is correct for the strategy?
- Do you agree that the priorities are the correct ones for the strategy?

Following each of the questions above, respondents had the option to explain their answer. For the online survey, this was via an open text response. Some respondents used the open text box to reaffirm their response to the preceding closed question, for example, by writing ‘agree’. Other respondents used the open text box to expand on their answer to the preceding closed question.

Respondents across all engagement platforms were also invited to answer an additional open text box question:

- Do you have any other comments on the statement of intent?

¹ Response options were: Strongly agree; Agree; Neither agree nor disagree; Disagree; Strongly disagree

You said

The responses to the closed questions were analysed by calculating the total counts for each response option. A thematic analysis has been carried out for the open text responses, with responses allocated to common themes.

In reporting on the analysis of responses to the open questions, the following descriptors have been used to report on the number of respondents to each question raising a particular issue or theme:

- 'A small number' - up to 5 respondents
- 'A few' - between 6 and 9 respondents
- 'A small minority' - more than 9 respondents but less than 10%
- 'A significant minority' - between approximately 10-24% of respondents
- 'A large minority' - more than a quarter of respondents but less than half
- 'A majority' - more than half

This summary document reports on the quantitative analysis of responses to each of the questions in turn, and also notes the themes emerging through the qualitative analysis of open-text responses. A full description of what is meant by each of these themes can be found in the [full report](#).

This summary version concludes by highlighting the themes which recur across responses to three or more survey questions. These were:

- Role of parents/carers
 - Access to services and support
 - Young people with complex needs
 - Transitions between children's and adult's services
-

Question 1

Do you agree that the meaning we have given to 'transition to adulthood' is the correct one for the strategy?

There were 150 responses to this question. As shown in [Table 3](#) at the Annex, the vast majority of respondents either 'strongly agreed' (59 respondents; 39%) or 'agreed' (86 respondents; 57%) that the meaning given to 'transition to adulthood' is the correct one for the strategy. Only a very small minority of respondents 'disagreed' (2 respondents; 1%) and none 'strongly disagreed'.

For the follow up question ('Please explain your answer'), a total of 112 responses were received. A significant minority of respondents used this opportunity to make a number of general comments supporting the proposed definition of 'transition to adulthood'.

No transition is a set thing even if there is a date that 'marks' the move – it is a process and the definition acknowledges this.

Six overarching themes were identified through other open text responses to this question. They were:

- Flexibility within the age range
- Transitions as an ongoing process
- Transitions practices
- Access to services and support
- Role of parents/carers
- Specific conditions

Question 2

Do you agree that the meaning we have given to 'disabled young people' is the correct one for the strategy?

There were 150 responses to this question. As shown in [Table 4](#) at the Annex, the vast majority of respondents either 'strongly agreed' (57 respondents; 38%) or 'agreed' (78 respondents; 52%) that the meaning given to 'disabled young people' is the correct one for the strategy. A very small minority either 'disagreed' (3 respondents; 2%) or 'strongly disagreed' (2 respondents; 1%).

A total of 103 responses were received for the follow up question ('Please explain your answer'). A large minority of respondents made general comments in support of the proposed definition under 'disabled young people'.

The use of the definition set out within the Equality Act (2010) seems appropriate and this definition encompasses people with a wide spectrum of disabilities, including complex health needs such as those with life shortening conditions.

However, there were a small number of respondents who commented on whether a young person would necessarily identify as 'disabled'. Examples given included neurodiverse and deaf young people. There were also some reflections on perceived negative connotations associated with the terminology of 'disabled'. Similar to the proposed definition of 'transition to adulthood', some respondents acknowledged that no single definition would cover all individual preferences.

The meaning you have given is broad and inclusive. We particularly like the recognition that some people may not define themselves as disabled.

Five overarching themes were identified through responses to this question. They were:

- Access to services and support
 - Interaction with other policies and legislation
 - Role of parents/carers
 - Intersectionality
 - Language
-

Question 3

Do you agree that the vision is correct for the strategy?

There were 150 responses to this closed question. As demonstrated in [Table 5](#) at the Annex, the vast majority of respondents either 'strongly agreed' (59 respondents; 39%) or 'agreed' (70 respondents; 47%) that the vision is correct for the strategy. Only a very small minority of respondents 'disagreed' (4 respondents; 3%) or 'strongly disagreed' (2 respondents; 1%).

106 respondents provided additional information for the follow up question ('Please explain your answer'). A large minority of these respondents were supportive of the proposed vision. However, a few respondents expressed concerns on the relevance of the vision to all disabled young people and the practicalities and challenges of realising it.

This definition is appropriate and describes an empowering vision.

This entirely misses out a group of disabled young people who lack the capacity to make decisions for themselves.

Through responses to this question, the following four overarching themes emerged:

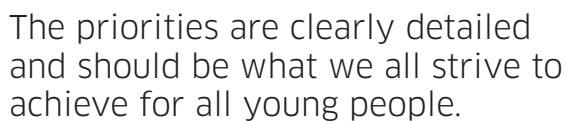
- Aspiration of the vision statement
 - The vision versus reality
 - Interaction with other policies and other legislation
 - Role of parents/carers
-

Question 4

Do you agree that the priorities are the correct ones for the strategy?

There were 146 responses to this question. As demonstrated in [Table 6](#) at the Annex, the vast majority of respondents either 'strongly agreed' (56 respondents; 38%) or 'agreed' (71 respondents; 49%) that the priorities are the correct ones for the strategy. Only a small minority either 'disagreed' (5 respondents; 3%) or 'strongly disagreed' (2 respondents; 1%).

A total of 130 responses were received for the follow up question ('Please explain your answer'). Whilst a significant minority indicated their support for the proposed priorities as set out, a few respondents felt it was difficult to comment on the priorities without understanding how they would be delivered in practice.



The priorities are clearly detailed and should be what we all strive to achieve for all young people.

The following seven overarching themes were identified from responses to this question:

- Envisioned priorities versus reality
 - Choice, control and empowerment for the young person (relevance to Priority 1)
 - Clear and coherent information (relevance to Priority 2)
 - Coordination of individual support and communication across sectors (relevance to Priority 3)
 - Consistency of practice and support across Scotland (relevance to Priority 4)
 - Collection of data to measure progress and improvements (relevance to Priority 5)
 - Other
-

Question 5

Do you have any other comments on the statement of intent?

From the 108 responses received on this final open question (the only available response type for this particular question), the overarching themes which emerged echo much of what has been expressed in responses to previous questions. The following main three themes were identified:

- Aspiration versus reality
 - Access to services and support
 - Involving young people and parents/carers
-

Recurring Themes

A number of themes have been identified as recurring across responses to multiple questions. For the purpose of this summary document, we highlight and explain the four themes which emerged in responses to three or more questions. These were:

- Role of parents/carers
- Access to services and support
- Young people with complex needs
- Transitions between children's and adult's services

Role of parents/carers

The role of parents/carers as key advocates and partners in their young person's transition to adulthood was highlighted, and some respondents felt that their role should be strengthened within the strategy. This was felt to be particularly important for young people with complex needs or who may otherwise lack capacity for decision making.

Some respondents noted any implications for guardianship should also be reflected within the strategy. Some also highlighted that parents/carers' own support needs should be considered alongside the support needs of their young person.

Access to services and support

Some respondents commented that delivering on the ambition of the statement of intent would be dependent on disabled young people being able to access suitable support and services. Whilst some respondents acknowledged they could have received better support if information had been provided to them, it was generally felt there is not enough choice or availability of support and options across Scotland for disabled young people to transition to. This included in health, social care and further education.

Young people with complex needs

The term 'complex needs' emerged frequently, although no fixed definition of this term was apparent. Respondents used 'complex needs' to describe young people who:

- Have complex or multiple healthcare needs; and/or
- Have significant care needs; and/or
- Have a life-shortening condition; and/or
- Require support for transitions across multiple sectors e.g. education, health, independent living and social care; and/or
- Have a profound learning disability; and/or
- Otherwise lack capacity for decision making.

Some respondents felt that the ambition of the statement of intent did not sufficiently reflect the aspiration or needs of young people with 'complex needs'.

Transitions between children's and adult's services

Some respondents highlighted the challenges presented by the transitions between children's and adult services, particularly in relation to health transitions. Some described a sharp drop – and in some cases gaps – in support, and reflected on challenges impeding smooth transitions such as securing adult service representation during transitions planning.

We will

We published our statement of intent and accompanying survey to sense check the scope, vision and priorities proposed for the strategy. We will now use the feedback obtained to further develop the strategy.

As part of developing the outcomes (the improvements we want to see) and the actions (how we will get there), we aim to engage with more disabled young people, parents/carers and professionals or others with a role or interest in transitions in the spring/summer of 2024. This next phase of engagement proposes taking a solution-focused approach, building on existing good practice to consider possible actions for the strategy. In doing so, we will take account of the key feedback themes outlined in this report.

Annex

Table 1: Respondent profile

Type of respondent	Number
Disabled young person	8
Parents/carers of a disabled young person	49
Individual with a role or interest in supporting disabled young people's transition to adulthood	40
Organisation with a role or interest in supporting disabled young people's transition to adulthood	51
None of the above	3
All respondents to survey	151

Table 2: Event profile

Type of event (by audience)	Number
Disabled young person	2
Parents/carers of a disabled young person	2
Individual with a role or interest in supporting disabled young people's transition to adulthood	1
Professionals with a role or interest in supporting disabled young people's transition to adulthood	4
Total number of events attended	9

Table 3: Level of agreement on whether the meaning given to ‘transitions to adulthood’ is the correct one for the strategy.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Disabled young person	5	3	-	-	-
Parents/carers of a disabled young person	20	28	1	-	-
Individual with a role or interest in supporting disabled young people's transition to adulthood	21	17	1	1	-
Organisation with a role or interest in supporting disabled young people's transition to adulthood	13	35	1	1	-
None of the above	-	3	-	-	-
All respondents to question	59	86	3	2	-
% of all respondents to question	39%	57%	2%	1%	-

Table 4: Level of agreement on whether the meaning given to ‘disabled young people’ is the correct one for the strategy.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Disabled young person	5	3	-	-	-
Parents/carers of a disabled young person	20	27	1	-	1
Individual with a role or interest in supporting disabled young people's transition to adulthood	17	19	3	1	-
Organisation with a role or interest in supporting disabled young people's transition to adulthood	14	28	6	1	1
None of the above	1	1	-	1	-
All respondents to question	57	78	10	3	2
% of all respondents to question	38%	52%	7%	2%	1%

Table 5: Level of agreement on whether the vision is correct for the strategy

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Disabled young person	5	3	-	-	-
Parents/carers of a disabled young person	22	20	4	1	2
Individual with a role or interest in supporting disabled young people's transition to adulthood	13	20	5	2	-
Organisation with a role or interest in supporting disabled young people's transition to adulthood	18	25	6	1	-
None of the above	1	2	-	-	-
All respondents to question	59	70	15	4	2
% of all respondents to question	39%	47%	10%	3%	1%

Table 6: Level of agreement on whether the priorities are the correct ones for the strategy

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Disabled young person	4	-	-	-	-
Parents/carers of a disabled young person	20	22	5	-	2
Individual with a role or interest in supporting disabled young people's transition to adulthood	15	20	3	2	-
Organisation with a role or interest in supporting disabled young people's transition to adulthood	17	27	3	3	-
None of the above	-	2	1	-	-
All respondents to question	56	71	12	5	2
% of all respondents to question	38%	49%	8%	3%	1%



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