

Hospice UK Transition Conference 2026

**Wednesday 9 September 2026, thestudio,
Manchester**

08:30	Registration, exhibition and refreshments
09:30 - 09:45	Welcome and introduction Amanda Whateley, Clinical Advisor - Transition, Hospice UK
09.45 - 10:30	Session 1 - Getting involved in Transition: The role of adult hospices Speakers: • Dr Andrew Fletcher, Medical Director, St Catherine's Hospice • Dr Debbie Box, Speciality Doctor, Martin House Hospice
10:30 - 11:15	Session 2 - Deprivation of liberty safeguards & deputyship when caring for young people Speaker: • Ben Troke, Partner, Weightmans
11:15 - 11:45	Refreshments and exhibition
11:45 - 12:30	Session 3 - Effective communication with young people with a learning disability, and their families, in palliative care Speaker: • Sheila Brill, author of <i>Can I speak to Josephine please?</i>

12:30 – 13:15	Session 4 – Transitions for people with learning disabilities: Insights from The DAPPLE Project The DAPPLE Project (Developing effective service models for Adult Palliative and end-of-life care for People with a Learning disability) aims to improve palliative and end-of-life care for people with learning disabilities. The project involves ethnographic case studies across four sites in England. Through participant observation, informal conversations, and interviews with people with a learning disability and their families, peers, and staff, the study explores facilitators and barriers to delivering high-quality, accessible palliative care. The transition from paediatric to adult palliative care services has been described as particularly challenging. Participants have shared positive experiences of paediatric palliative care services highlighting its person-centred approach, coordinated service delivery, and close involvement of families. However, these features are often not maintained following the transition to adult services. Drawing on ethnographic findings from The DAPPLE Project, this session will explore these transition challenges and discuss what services can do to mitigate and overcome them. Speaker: • Dr Andrea Bruun, Research Fellow, University of Kingston	
13:15 – 14:15	Lunch and exhibition	
14:15 – 15:45	Session 5A - Symptom management for doctors and clinicians Roundtable hosted by: • Dr Emma Husbands, Consultant Palliative Medicine, Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Session 5B - Navigating adult social care in the context of young people’s palliative care (with interactive group discussion) Speakers: • Gemma Deely, Social Worker, Acorns Children’s Hospice • Ann Morgan, Neuromuscular Care Advisor, North Bristol NHS Trust

15:45 - 16:15	Refreshments and exhibition
16:15 - 16:45	Session 6 - Supporting the dignity of young people through transition Focusing on the role of dignity therapy in amplifying the voices of young people Speakers: • Dr Michael Tatterton, Head of Nursing Education/ Clinical Associate Professor, University of Bradford • Dr Alison Rodriguez, Associate Professor Child and Family Health, University of Leeds
16:45 - 17:30	Session 7 - "We'd rather talk about death than sex": Providing holistic support for young people in palliative care Speakers: • Sarah Earle, Professor of Social Sciences, Nottingham Trent University • Sharon Warner, Transition Lead, Rainbows Hospice
17:30 - 17:35	Final thoughts & conference close