

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 This session will provide a reflection on the work undertaken between St Catherine's Hospice and Derian House Children's Hospice, and between Martin House Children's Hospice and St Gemma's Hospice, exploring how services can better support young adults moving from children's to adult palliative care. Drawing on our local experience, we will describe the transition arrangements that were in place, strengths, and challenges identified through the review process, and the areas highlighted for consideration and development. We will outline the future-state model, including the importance of early planning, collaborative working across children's and adult services, personalised care, workforce development, and system leadership. The session will also explore practical approaches to reducing gaps in care and improving the experience of young people and families during transition. Finally, we will reflect on the impact achieved so far, including strengthened partnerships, increased awareness of transition needs, and the steps being taken to translate the developments and recommendations into meaningful service improvement and sustainable change.

	Speakers: • Dr Andrew Fletcher, Medical Director, St Catherine's Hospice and Consultant in Palliative Medicine, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals • Dr Debbie Box, Speciality Doctor, Paediatric Palliative Medicine, Martin House Hospice
10:30 - 11:15	Session 2 - Legal issues in transition hospice care This session will look at some of the legal issues at the frontline of patient care in transition to adulthood in a hospice setting, including: • The role of family in making decisions about treatment • Children, parental responsibility and deputies • Deprivation of liberty issues Speaker: • Ben Troke, Partner, Weightmans LLP
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 My daughter had a life limiting condition. Understanding the path to a premature end to her life was often painful, sometimes combative and always exhausting. Early on, the families of Josephine's peers spoke highly of the children's hospice. To me, it was end-of-life stuff, irrelevant. I did not comprehend that palliative care was different. So, we spent her life battling to keep her alive, to reduce her pain and make her life just a little bit more fulfilling. Later someone described Josephine as frail and I was shocked. It was only when doctors called time on her treatment (aged 23) that we finally had to accept hospice care. This session will look at: • Whether early hospice support would have changed the medical interventions along the way? Whether we would have considered a different path? • How hospices build trust, develop relationships and navigate attitudes and expectations built over many years? • How hospices communicate effectively with families? Speaker: • Sheila Brill, author of 'Can I speak to Josephine please?'

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, Kingston University London	
13:15 - 14:15	Lunch and exhibition	
14:15 - 15:45	Session 5A - Symptom management for doctors and clinicians This session will reflect on common symptom management challenges for young people with complex conditions. We will learn more about movement disorders and gastrointestinal symptoms and discuss some of the cases seen and approaches to management that can be considered.	Session 5B - Navigating adult social care in young people's palliative care: Rights, relationships and real life As more young people with life-limiting conditions survive into adulthood, adult palliative care services are increasingly supporting individuals with complex health, social care, and legal needs. However, transition is about far more than transferring care—it is about supporting young people as they navigate adulthood, identity, independence, and changing rights. Drawing on three real-life case studies from social work practice, this interactive session explores key issues including the Mental

	Roundtable hosted by: • Dr Emma Husbands, Consultant Palliative Medicine, Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust • Dr Megumi Baba, Consultant Paediatric Palliative Medicine, Lead for Transition in Palliative Care, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board	Capacity Act, best interests' decision making, positive risk-taking, safeguarding, family relationships, and person-centred care. Delegates will consider the ethical and practical challenges of balancing autonomy, safety, and dignity while ensuring young people's voices remain central to decision-making. The session will provide practical insights to help adult hospice and palliative care professionals better understand transition and strengthen their confidence in supporting young adults and their families through this important stage of life. Speakers: • Gemma Deeley, Hospice Social Worker, Acorns Children's Hospice • Elizabeth Morgan-Williams, Child, Young Person and Family Support Specialist, Acorns Children's Hospice
15:45 - 16:15	Refreshments and exhibition	
16:15 - 17:00	Session 6 - "We'd rather talk about death than sex": Providing holistic support for young people in palliative care Drawing on more than a decade of inclusive research and practice with young people, carers, and professionals, this session explores what sexuality means in the context of young people's lives. Through case studies and the lived experiences of young people, participants will be encouraged to reflect on their own values and consider potential barriers to open and meaningful conversations about sex and sexuality. The session will examine the impact of life-threatening and life-shortening conditions on young people as they navigate relationships, intimacy, and their developing sense of self. Emphasising sexuality as a fundamental component of holistic care for people of all ages, the session will provide opportunities for discussion, shared learning, and reflection on how we can all better support young people in this important aspect of their lives. Speakers:	

	• Prof. Sarah Earle, Professor of Social Sciences, Nottingham Trent University • Sharon Warner, Transition Lead, Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young People
17:00 - 17:30	Session 7 - Supporting the dignity of young people through transition In this session, Michael and Alison will explore how dignity-centred approaches can help meet the emotional, psychological, and relational needs of young people transitioning from children's to adult hospice and palliative care services, amplifying young people's voices and supporting person-centred transition planning. Speakers: • Dr Michael Tatterton, Head of Nursing Education and Clinical Associate Professor, University of Bradford • Dr Alison Rodriguez, Associate Professor Child & Family Health (Psychology) and Director of Postgraduate Research Studies, School of Healthcare, University of Leeds
17:30 - 17:35	Final thoughts & conference close