

Transition and beyond - A guide for parents or carers of young people with a disability (part 2)

Leaving school – What next?

This guide provides information on the various options that young people have once they leave school.

Some schools provide education for a young person until they are 16, others until they are 19. Whatever age the young person you care for leaves school, you and they will need to make decisions about what they will do next.

Some of the options include:

- further or higher education;
- employment;
- work training (government schemes such as Entry to Employment (E2E), apprenticeships, job introduction schemes, local supported employment);
- voluntary work;
- leisure and supported day opportunities; or
- a combination of the above.



How to get help from Services for Adults

Staying on at school after 16 can give young people the time they need to prepare for adult life. This may mean going to a further education college, independent specialist college or higher education setting.

Local further education colleges offer a wide variety of courses at a range of levels. Most schools provide a link programme of taster days that give young people an idea of what college life is like and help them find out which courses interest them.

The Connexions personal adviser will be able to give advice on the courses colleges offer. Richmond upon Thames College is the local college and there are others close by. Further information can be obtained from their prospectuses and open days.

Most colleges offer courses in life and work skills, communications, numeracy, literacy and computing, as well as a wide range of vocational courses such as hair and beauty, small animal care, horticulture and construction.

The Council feels that it is important that people are supported locally. Young people will be supported to find suitable options available following their education in the borough.

Where a person has needs that cannot be met in a local mainstream college, a specialist college placement may be sought. You can look at the Natspec Directory for a full list of specialist education colleges. This option will need to be discussed as early as possible with your Connexions personal adviser and social worker as applications for funding may need to be made.

Employment and training

There are a number of different organisations in Richmond upon Thames that provide support and guidance to people with a disability.

The local organisations include:

- Connexions
- the local Jobcentre Plus
- specialist health services
- Disability Advice & Action Centre
- Power Employment
- Children's Services Social Workers
- Adult Services care managers



Local providers can offer training programmes and apprenticeships at various levels and may be suitable for the young person you look after. The types of training available vary, but may involve training on the job to achieve a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ).

Unpaid voluntary work can be a useful way into work for people with disabilities. Welfare benefits are not affected by the number of voluntary hours that are worked. Organisations can also arrange work trials and work experience placements for those wishing to take a more gradual approach to employment. Contact: www.do-it.org.uk

There are Government schemes, which can be accessed from Jobcentre Plus, to help disabled people to secure employment. These include New Deal for Disabled People, job introduction scheme, Workstep, access to work and modern apprenticeships.

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 makes it unlawful to discriminate against disabled people. Employers have to make reasonable adjustments when employing a person with a disability.

Day opportunities and leisure

Leisure options for young people and adults with disabilities can be specialist or mainstream. Many local sports and leisure services have accessible premises and support people with disabilities joining their sessions. They may run specialist sessions for people with disabilities. For more information contact centres directly.

There are some activities and clubs run by Crofters and the Three Wings Trust for people under 19 years of age. A fuller list of local activities for young people aged 0 to 19 years can be found in the Three Wings Trust services guide.

For people 18 years and over, there are additional options such as day opportunities or individualised support packages.

There is help for people to plan the things they want and need to do and support for them to carry out those plans. The day opportunities help people to learn independence skills, do the things they enjoy and, be part of the community. Day opportunities are different for each individual. For more information about support planning contact the transition coordinator or services for adults.

To access Crofters contact the Disabled Children's Team.

To attend youth or social clubs and the Three Wings Trust activities contact them directly. Contact details are at the end of this leaflet.



Money

Benefits

There are recent changes that allow people more flexibility when considering moving from benefits into work. For more information on benefits contact your local Jobcentre Plus, or the Benefits Enquiry Line on 0800 882200.

The national minimum wage

Whatever a person's disability or the number of hours they work they are still entitled to the national minimum wage. This regulation is always adhered to.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

This is a means tested payment of £10, £20 or £30 a week paid directly into a young person's bank account if they stay on in education or training after year 11 (age 16) for up to two or three years. The amount received depends on your household income. The money is intended to help with the day-to-day costs (travel, books and equipment) when a student or trainee stays on at school, college or training provider.

EMA helpline 0808 101 6219 <http://ema.direct.gov/ema.html>

See the 'Money matters' leaflet in this series for further information and helpful contacts.



Local contacts

Three Wings Trust

Advice, information and guide with useful contacts.

16 Windham Road, Richmond TW9 2HP

Phone: 020 8831 6175 www.threewingstrust.org

Richmond Connexions Service

1 Ilex House, 94 Holly Road, Twickenham TW1 4HF

Phone: 020 8891 6162 E-mail: tdavies@cfbt.com

www.wayahead-careers.co.uk

Jobcentre Plus

59-63 London Road, Twickenham TW1 3SZ

Phone: 020 8250 4600

www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk

Special Educational Needs Team

42 York Street, Twickenham TW1 3BW

Phone: 020 8891 7541



Richmond AID

4 Waldegrave Road, Teddington TW11 8HT

Advice Line: 020 8831 6070 Textphone: 070 8831 6078

E-mail: advice@richmondaid.org.uk

National contacts

Natspec

An on-line directory of specialist colleges including residential colleges.

Phone: 01691 661234 www.natspec.org.uk

Volunteering

Phone: 020 7278 6601 www.csv.org.uk
www.do-it.org or
www.millenniumvolunteers.gov.uk

Student financial info

www.dfes.gov.uk/financialhelp

Contact a family

Free help.

Phone: 0808 808 3555 www.cafamily.org.uk

Skill

Information and advice on higher education for disabled young people.

Phone: 0800 328 5050 www.skill.org.uk

What did you think of this leaflet?

Do you need more information?

Contact the Public Information Officer on

Phone: 020 8487 5093

Visit us online at www.richmond.gov.uk

Translation advice

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إذا كانت لديك صعوبة في فهم هذا المنشور، فنرجو زيارة الإستقبال في العنوان المعطى أدناه حيث بإمكاننا أن نرتب لخدمة ترجمة شفوية هاتفية.

Arabic

اگر در فهمیدن این نشریه مشکلی دارید لطفاً به میز پذیرش در آدرس قید شده در زیر مراجعه نمایید تا ترتیب ترجمه تلفنی برایتان فراهم آورده شود:

Farsi

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਪਰਚੇ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਲ ਪੇਸ਼ ਆਉਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਪਤੇ ਉੱਪਰ ਰਿਸੈਪਸ਼ਨ 'ਤੇ ਆਓ ਜਿੱਥੇ ਅਸੀਂ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਤੇ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਇੰਟਰਪ੍ਰਿਟਰ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ।

Punjabi

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Phone 020 8891 7500 or Minicom 020 8891 7539

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