



**STOKE-ON-TRENT
PARENT PARTNERSHIP**

Post-16 Arrangements

This leaflet explores some of the options that young people with learning difficulties have once they reach 16, the assessments that your child may undertake and where to get additional information and support.

Options

These pages are a quick guide to the options available once a young person with learning difficulties and/or a disability reaches 16.



For more information visit
www.cxstaffs.co.uk/parents/publications.cfm
and download the 'Future Choices' magazine,
published by Connexions Staffordshire.

**Thank you to Connexions Staffordshire for
their support in compiling this leaflet.**

School

Some schools offer sixth form provision up to the age of 19. There is a range of courses that can be offered by schools. For more information on the range of courses that your child's school or other schools in your area offer talk to your child's Connexions Personal Advisor (PA) or teacher.

College

Colleges offer a range of courses including foundation, practical, vocational and general education courses. For more information on the courses available in your area contact your child's Connexions PA.

For information on some local colleges please visit:

Newcastle-under-Lyme College
www.nulc.ac.uk/pages/default.aspx

Stoke-on-Trent College
www.stokecoll.ac.uk/

Stoke-on-Trent 6th Form College

www.stokesfc.ac.uk/

Reaseheath College

www.reaseheath.ac.uk/

South Staffordshire College

www.southstaffs.ac.uk/

Leek College

www.leek.ac.uk/

Foundation Learning

Foundation Learning is a flexible programme of learning for young people aged 14 - 19. It is personalised to meet the individual learner's needs and supports the learner to progress at his/her own pace. For more information contact your child's Connexions PA.

For more information on foundation learning visit the Department for children, schools and families website:

www.education.gov.uk/16to19/qualificationsandlearning/foundationlearning

or the Excellence Gateway website:

www.excellencegateway.org.uk/foundationlearning

Independent Specialist Colleges

Only a small number of young people with a learning difficulty and/or disability will move onto an independent specialist college. Specialist colleges are only an option for young people who's needs cannot be met by any other further education provider. For more information talk to your child's PA

For more information on independent specialist colleges and the provision that they provide visit

www.natspec.org.uk/

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are where a young person works with an employer for four days per week and then attends training for the remaining day. Whilst attending training the young person will study towards an NVQ Level 2, which is equivalent to four GCSEs at grades A-C. Some young people on apprenticeships will be paid a wage by their employer. For more information on apprenticeships speak to your child's Connexions PA.

For more information on apprenticeships visit the National Apprenticeships Service website:

www.apprenticeships.org.uk/

Employment

For young persons who do not want to continue in education or training, job vacancies can be found in newspapers, on websites via word of mouth or through your local job centre. Your local Connexions Centre will also be able to give you a list of current vacancies.

For young persons with a disability, extra support can be given by a Disability Employment Advisor - ask your local job centre for more information. These advisors can arrange for an employment assessment if appropriate.

For more information on the support available for young people with learning difficulties and/or a disability entering employment visit the government's information website:

www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/Employmentsupport/LookingForWork/DG_4000324

or download the information booklet produced by Skill: National Bureau for Students with Disabilities:

www.skill.org.uk/uploads/emp_jobcentre.doc

General information on support available for disabled persons going into employment is featured on the direct.gov.uk website:

www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/Employmentsupport/index.htm

Support

Connexions

The Connexions service offers information, advice and guidance for young people aged 13 - 19 (13 - 25 for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities). Personal Advisors (PAs) provide information to help young people to make informed decisions about their future.

For more information on the support that Connexions can provide for young people with learning difficulties and/or a disability visit Connexions Staffordshire's website:

www.cxstaffs.co.uk/parents/idd/

Transport

All young people may be eligible for help with transport costs to and from college. This is dependent on household income.

For young people with Learning difficulties and/or disabilities, the Admissions and Transport team at the Local Authority will assess the level of support required according to their individual needs. This can range from a subsidised bus pass to an individual taxi - please refer to Stoke-on-Trent City Council's transport policy below.

For more information on possible funding for transport for young people over 16 with learning difficulties and/or a disability visit the Young People's Learning Agency website:

transportpartnerships.ypla.gov.uk/

Or visit Stoke-on-Trent City Council's website for Stoke-on Trent's Travel Policy Statement:

www.stoke.gov.uk/ccm/content/education/general-education-pages/financial-support-for-students.en

Funding

Further education for young people aged 16 - 19 (16-25 if the young person has a disability) is currently funded by the Young People's Learning Agency.

For more information on how funding for post 16 education or training for young people with learning disabilities and/or a disability works visit the Department for children, schools and families website:
www.education.gov.uk/16to19/studentsupport/learnerswithlearningdifficulties

For young people with severe or medical needs who will require additional support when attending further education, the college will identify the level of support needed and apply to the Local Authority for additional funding to enable them to provide this support.

For more information on the financial support available to young people in further education visit:

www.stoke.gov.uk/ccm/content/education/general-education-pages/financial-support-for-students.en

Section 139a assessments

Young people with special educational needs are entitled to an assessment of the support he/she will require when making the transition from school to further education. This assessment is called a Section 139a Learning Difficulty Assessment and will be completed by your child's Connexions Personal Advisor (PA).

What is a Section 139a assessment?

Formally called Section 140 assessments, Section 139a Learning Difficulty Assessments were introduced when the Learning and Skills Act (2000) was revised by the Education and Skills Act in 2008.

The aim of a Section 139a Learning Difficulty Assessment is to make the transition into further education/training as easy and successful as possible. The information it contains gives the college time to prepare any additional provision or funding that may be required to meet the young person's needs.

Section 139a Learning Difficulty Assessment will include information on a range of aspects including:

- Background information - where they are currently receiving education, how they are progressing in school (including predicted grades where appropriate) details of any work experience
- Future ambitions
- Family details (if appropriate)
- Transport and skills for independent travel
- Summary of physical/medical/special educational needs
- Support needed in the classroom (small groups, a reader etc)
- Communication needs (including how easily he/she makes friends)
- Personal Care needs

- Additional Equipment or support that is needed
- List of contact details for relevant professionals' working with the young person

Your child's Connexions PA will use as much information that already exists about your child's needs as possible. This may come from your child's statement of special educational needs, transition plan and the school's assessment data.

The assessment will result in a written report that gives details on the young person's education and training needs and the provision that is required to meet those needs.

Who will have a Section 139a assessment?

Section 139a Learning Difficulty Assessments have to be completed for all young people with a statement of special educational needs who are either in their last year of compulsory education or who have stayed at school post-16 and are now looking to attend further education or training.

These assessments are also offered to all young people with a learning difficulty who will require additional support with their further education/training, including those who are currently receiving help under School Action Plus. This also covers young people with a learning difficulty up to the age of 25 who did not go into further education or training after leaving school but who are about to start further education or training.

What if my child doesn't want a Section 139a assessment?

Connexions will only complete the assessment if the young person agrees to it. Even if the parent gives their consent, the assessment will not go ahead without the young person's agreement. For young persons who are unable to make an informed decision themselves, parental consent for the assessment is all that is required.

When will the Section 139a assessment take place?

A Section 139a assessment will be completed in the young person's final year of school, whether this is at 16, 18 or 19 years of age.

For young people with a statement the Section 139a assessment would usually coincide with the annual review. This will happen before the Easter holidays of Year 11. For young people with SEN but without a statement of special educational needs the assessment would be completed at around the same time of year.

For young people up to the age of 25, who were covered by a statement of special educational needs whilst at school, and are in or have been in employment and are planning to return to training, the section 139a assessment should be completed as soon as possible.

Who will receive a copy of the Section 139a assessment?

The Connexions PA who completes the assessment will send a copy to the young person and keep an electronic copy in the young person's Connexions file. A copy would also be sent to the college that the young person will be attending once they have left school. Parents can ask for a copy of the assessment but this will only be given if the young person gives permission. Similarly, if the young person does not want the assessment to be shared with the college that they will be attending then Connexions will not send a copy to the college.

Will the Section 139a assessment be revisited?

The Section 139a assessment will be reviewed once the young person has begun attending their further education setting. This will involve the Connexions PA, the young person and a representative from the further education establishment. The review will focus on how successful the transition has been and any further support or adjustments that are needed.

For further information on Section 139a assessments visit:

The Education and Skills Act 2008. Section 80 gives details of the Section 139a assessments and the changes to the Learning and Skills Act 2000:

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/contents

The Department for Education's publication 'Supporting young people with learning difficulties to participate and progress - incorporating guidance on Learning Difficulty Assessments':

www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/SpecialEducationalNeeds16/Page1/DCSF-00378-2010

Downloadable brochure for professionals about s139a assessments:

easyread.connexionswest.org.uk/information-for-professionals/

Guidance for Connexions PAs in Northamptonshire on how to complete Section 139a assessments:

www.connexions-northamptonshire.org.uk/.../Section%20139a%20How%20To%202009-2010%20v2.doc

Information Section 139a assessments from the Transition Support Network:

www.transitionsupportprogramme.org.uk/pdf/NTST_Briefing_S139A.pdf

Information on Section 139a assessments from Connexions Staffordshire:

www.cxstaffs.co.uk/partners/1419providers/sen/Responsibilities.cfm

The Stoke-on-Trent Parent Partnership Service

**Mount Education Support Centre
Mount Avenue
Penkhull
Stoke-on-Trent
ST4 7JU**

Tel: (01782) 234701

Fax: (01782) 236858

E-mail: parent.partnership@stoke.gov.uk

Website: www.parent-partnership-stoke.co.uk

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