



Information for parents and carers of young people with learning difficulties or disabilities, or both.

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About us

We are an information, advice, guidance and support service for all young people aged 13 to 19 (and up to 25 years for young people with learning difficulties or disabilities, or both).

We work closely with other organisations such as:

- ⦿ schools and colleges;
- ⦿ youth services;
- ⦿ children's services;
- ⦿ adult services;
- ⦿ training providers;
- ⦿ employers; and
- ⦿ job centres.

We have staff based in schools, colleges and Connexions centres across Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight. The addresses of our centres are on the opposite page.

We work with young people who live and go to school or college in the area, and also those who live in the area but go to a specialist school or college in other parts of the country.



Personal Advisers

Every young person can go to a Connexions Personal Adviser (PA) for information, advice and support on many issues, including:

- ⊙ education and training;
- ⊙ jobs;
- ⊙ health;
- ⊙ money;
- ⊙ housing;
- ⊙ relationships; and
- ⊙ free time.

If a PA isn't able to help, they will always try to put the young person in touch with someone who can.

How can a Personal Adviser help?

A PA can offer your child a confidential service to:

- ⊙ identify and meet their needs;
- ⊙ help them get involved in education, training and employment;
- ⊙ help them move successfully into adult life; and
- ⊙ help them contact other agencies or organisations who can provide specialist help or services.

All our PAs are checked by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).



Working with young people with learning difficulties or disabilities, or both.

We will work with you, your child and their school or college to work out how we can give them extra support.

Young people with a statement of special educational needs

As well as offering the services set out on this page, PAs offer services which are set out in the Learning and Skills Act (2000) and the Department for Education and Skills Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2002). Personal Advisers will:

- ⦿ go to your child's Year-9 annual review of their statement of special educational needs;
- ⦿ contribute to drawing up the young person's transition plan (explained on page 4) drawn up in Year 9;
- ⦿ go to any other yearly reviews if it is appropriate, especially the final one, and help to update the plan;
- ⦿ assess, with the help of other professionals, such as transition social workers, advisory teachers and educational psychologists, already working with your child, your child's education and training needs and the services needed to meet these needs;
- ⦿ review the Moving On Plan (s140) during college or training;



- ⦿ support your child if they apply for funding for special education provision and services (for example, residential courses for young people over 16); and
- ⦿ help your child to move smoothly to adult services.

Transition support

The transition planning meeting

When your child is in Year 9, the school will arrange a meeting for you, your child, school staff, Connexions staff and any other professionals working with your child to talk about the options available when they leave school.

This is called a 'transition planning meeting'. This meeting should be centred on your and your child's wishes, opinions and hopes for their future. We will ask you and your child for your views. Your involvement in the meeting will be very important.

It is important to prepare for this meeting because this is your chance to tell us and anyone else at the meeting your views, ask any questions, and find out what the options are after your child leaves school.



There may be a number of professionals, such as transition social workers, advisory teachers and educational psychologists, at the meeting, as well as a Connexions Personal Adviser (PA), who will work with you to help plan for the future. The PA will offer you and your child:

- ⦿ support throughout the transition process;
- ⦿ information to help you make decisions; and
- ⦿ professional and unbiased advice.

After this meeting, the school will produce a transition plan document. The PA and other people involved will also assess your child's education and training needs, along with the arrangements that we need to make if your child wants to go on to further education or training. This is called a Moving On Plan or Section-140 Assessment (see page 6 for more information).

We will try to give you answers at the meeting. If this is not possible, your child's PA will find out any answers and continue to work with you in the planning process.

What should I ask at the transition planning meeting?

It is really important to think of the questions you and your child would like us to answer at the meeting. Here are some of the questions you may want to ask.



For children in Year 9 or above at school

- ⦿ Will my child have to leave school at 16?
- ⦿ What can I do to help prepare for the time when my child leaves school?
- ⦿ What qualifications are on offer?
- ⦿ Are there any work-experience opportunities?
- ⦿ What subjects can my child study?
- ⦿ What information about future options can I have?
- ⦿ What happens if my child is on medication or has specialised health treatment?
- ⦿ When is the school leaving date?

For children aged 16 and over

- ⦿ What can I do to help prepare for the time when my child leaves school?
- ⦿ Where can my child go when they reach 16?
- ⦿ What support is available during school holidays?
- ⦿ What benefits are available?
- ⦿ Are there any after-school activities?
- ⦿ Can my child get help with transport?
- ⦿ When does independent or supported living become an option?
- ⦿ What support will we get in making sure the move out of school is a success?



Moving On Plans (Section 140)

When your child is at school, they receive extra support to help them with their learning and cope with the school environment. When they leave school for further education or training, they will often still need similar support to succeed on their new course.

A Moving On Plan, also sometimes called a Section-140 Assessment, describes what your child hopes to achieve, and the support, special equipment or facilities they need to achieve this. The Moving On Plan will be based on:

- ⦿ discussions with you and your child during the transition-plan meeting;
- ⦿ information from teachers, and
- ⦿ information from other specialists who have worked with your child.

Under Section 140 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 the PA has to offer a Moving On Plan to all young people with statements of special educational needs who want to go on to further education or training. We can offer a Moving On Plan to a young person without a statement, who has a specific learning support need.

We normally work out the Moving On Plan in your child's final year of school. It can be later if, for example, they stay at the same school for an extra period.



Your Personal Advisers will always work with your child when they produce a Moving On Plan. We will always try to agree with your child how we will assess their needs. Sometimes, we will need to involve you or your child's carers as well, particularly if your child has very complex learning difficulties and disabilities.

Why have Moving On Plans?

Moving On Plans are important documents. Colleges and training organisations use them to make sure they provide the right kind of support for their students and trainees. Colleges will need to see Moving On Plans with the young person's application, or at an interview if they have one, so that they have time to make changes to meet the person's specific needs. In some cases we can use Moving On Plans to support applications for funding for places at specialist colleges.

Once your child has started their new course, their PA will regularly review the Moving On Plan to check that the support continues to meet their needs. The college or training provider will also be involved, as well as any other agency, such as children's or adult's services, already working with your child.

While your child is in education we review their plan at least once a year so we can make sure it is up to date.



Supporting young people with learning difficulties or disabilities, or both, aged 20 to 24

We provide services for all young people from 13 to 19 years old. Many young people with learning difficulties and disabilities may not be ready to move on to adult services until they are 20 or older.

If necessary, we will continue to work with you and your child, until their 25th birthday, to help them make the move to adult services. We review the support at least once a year, and we like you to be involved in this.

We will involve other agencies and local organisations such as Jobcentre Plus or local voluntary agencies who offer adult services your child may need or want. We may also give you information to help you to go to specialist organisations for help.

When we agree with you that your child is ready to use these adult services, we will pass support to the adult agency.

Useful contacts

www.parentpartnership.org.uk

This site contains information on the work of the National Parent Partnership Network (NPPN), how to contact a local parent partnership organisation as well as various publications.



www.trans-active.org.uk

The trans-active site is for young people with disabilities and uses multimedia to explore different issues.

www.e.volve.org.uk

e.VOLve is an interactive website for community and voluntary sector organisations who work in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

www.direct.gov.uk/DisabledPeople

Information and support for people with disabilities.

www.prospects.ac.uk

This is a careers website for graduates. It includes a section for graduates with a disability.

www.bild.org.uk

This is the website of the British Institute of Learning Disabilities

www.choices-advocacy.org.uk

The Advocacy Projects supports adults with learning difficulties living in Southampton.

www.cafamily.org.uk

Contact a Family provides support for parents and carers.

www.skill.org.uk

This site has information covering a range of topics for people with disabilities.



Your local Connexions Centre

Aldershot
Unit 6/7 Low Walk
Wellington Centre
Victoria Road
Aldershot
GU11 1DB
Phone: 01252 324037

Andover
Winchester House
Winchester Street
Andover
SP10 2EA
Phone: 01264 369947

Basingstoke
Sun Alliance House
37-41 Wote Street
Basingstoke
RG21 7NF
Phone: 01256 819576

Bordon
Bordon Youth Centre
Mill Chase Community School
Mill Chase Road
Bordon
GU35 0ER
Phone: 01420 488235



Cosham
53A High Street
Cosham
PO6 3AX
Phone: 023 9222 1278

Eastleigh
24 High Street
Eastleigh
SO50 5LD
Phone: 023 8065 3619

Fareham
189-199 West Street
Fareham
PO16 0TB
Phone: 01329 827504

Farnborough
39 Victoria Road
Farnborough
GU14 7PA
Phone: 01252 548434

Gosport
I-Stop
St Vincent College
Mill Lane
Gosport
PO12 4QA
Phone: 023 9250 2456



Havant
1 George Court
11 North Street
Havant
PO9 1ET
Phone: 023 9248 4365

Isle of Wight
29 High Street
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 1SS
Phone: 01983 525927

New Forest
Claypits Lane
Applemore
Dibden
SO45 5TN
Phone: 023 8087 7960

Portsmouth
Connexions
at Go For It
Station Road
Portsmouth
PO1 1EQ
Phone: 023 9273 2450



Southampton
126 Above Bar Street
Southampton
SO14 7DU
Phone: 023 8022 8557

Waterlooville
256 London Road
Waterlooville
PO7 7HG
Phone: 023 9226 7815

Winchester
4 St George's Street
Winchester
SO23 8BG
Phone: 01962 877386

Contacting us

Connexions Personal Advisers offer a service to all young people in school, in college or at your local Connexions centre.

Visit www.connexions-southcentral.org for your nearest centre. Or contact Connexions Direct. Connexions Direct advisers are available from 8am to 2am, seven days a week.



Our commitment to you

We want to make sure that the service we provide meets your needs. If you would like to make a particular comment, suggestion or complaint, please write to:

Pamela Charlwood
Chief Executive - South Central Connexions
West Wing - Eagle Point, Little Park Farm Road,
Segensworth West, Fareham, Hampshire, PO15 5TD.

Or, visit our website and fill in an on-line comment, complaint, or compliment form.

Connexions Direct

Phone: 080 800 13 2 19

Text: 07766 4 13 2 19

Website and e-mail:

www.connexions-direct.com

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Association www.roseroad.org

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