

# CHOICES

**LIFE BEYOND SCHOOL**



**MAKE INFORMED CHOICES ABOUT YOUR FUTURE**

**EXPLORE SEND POST-16 PATHWAYS**

**DISCOVER YOUR OPPORTUNITIES**

**USEFUL SIGNPOSTING AND TIPS**

**FUN INCLUSIVE ACTIVITIES**

**INSIDE:**

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# WELCOME TO CHOICES

Welcome to the CHOICES booklet - Life Beyond School. This booklet will help young people, careers leaders and parent/carers understand the options of life beyond school.

## HOW TO NAVIGATE THIS BOOKLET:

This booklet has been split into the following sections:



### Further Education

- Sixth Forms
- Local Colleges
- Independent Specialist Colleges
- Independent Training Providers



### Independent Living and Life Skills



### Health and Wellbeing



### Day and Community Opportunities



### Employment and Volunteering

- Supported Internships
- Getting Employed
- Volunteering



You will find symbols as you move through this booklet. These will help you navigate to the sections you may require.



Paid Provision



Top Tips



Case Studies and Feedback



Signposting



Recreational



Activity

# PATHWAY CODES

Appropriate pathways will be highlighted to the courses that are applicable, these will fall into the following categories:

- PMLD** Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties
- SLD** Severe Learning Difficulties
- MLD** Moderate Learning Difficulties
- SEMH** Social and Emotional Mental Health

## WHAT DO THESE MEAN?

**PMLD** - Pupils with PMLD have severe and complex learning needs. In addition, they may also have other significant difficulties, such as physical disabilities or a sensory impairment.

**SLD** - Pupils with SLD have significant intellectual or cognitive impairments.

**MLD** - Pupils with MLD will have attainments well below expected levels in all or most areas of the curriculum.

**SEMH** - Children and young people with SEMH have severe difficulties in managing their emotions and behaviour. They often show inappropriate responses and feelings to situations.

If you are unsure which category your young person falls into, it's a good idea to speak with their school or class teacher. They can provide valuable insights and guidance to help ensure the young person's needs will be appropriately met in their life beyond school.

# YOUR SEND LOCAL OFFER

A Local Offer gives young people with special educational needs or disabilities and their families information about what support services the local authority think will be available in their local area.

Your local offer will directly link to the council that your EHCP was created by. Ensure that you are looking at the correct area for your local offer; support will vary.



## LOCAL OFFER WEBSITE LINKS:

[Worcestershire SEND Local Offer](#)

[Birmingham SEND Local Offer](#)

[Dudley SEND Local Offer](#)

[Gloucestershire SEND Local Offer](#)

[Herefordshire SEND Local Offer](#)

[Solihull SEND Local Offer](#)

[Warwickshire SEND Local Offer](#)

[Wolverhampton SEND Local Offer](#)

# DISCOVERING LIFE BEYOND SCHOOL

Thinking about your next steps after school can be worrying and confusing when you have additional needs.

We want to give you enough information to solve that confusion and take away some worries.

As you move through this booklet it will highlight some options to choose from.

However, it is important to work out what your likes, dislikes and goals are first before deciding on a plan or next step.



## HERE ARE TWO QUIZZES TO HELP:

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/skills-assessment>

<https://careerswales.gov.wales/buzzquiz>



# FINDING YOUR INTERESTS

## Your perfect hobby would be?

- A** Being outside
- B** Spending time with friends and family
- C** Arts and crafts
- D** Watching TV/films
- E** Reading books

## My friends and family would say I'm..?

- A** Active
- B** Kind
- C** Creative
- D** Funny
- E** Calm

## What fun activity would you like to attend?

- A** Going for a walk
- B** Day out with friends
- C** Pottery painting
- D** Theatre show
- E** Book club

## My idea of fun is...?

- A** Going to the park
- B** Socialising with friends and family
- C** Making something
- D** Going to the cinema
- E** Visiting the local library or book shop

## How do you work?

- A** I like to work practically
- B** I like to help others
- C** I like to be creative
- D** I like to work in a team
- E** I like to work by myself

## I'm most likely to help my family with...?

- A** Gardening
- B** Looking after my siblings
- C** Decorating
- D** Choosing the TV/film to watch
- E** Recommending books to read

## If you worked at your school, what job would it be?

- A** Caretaker
- B** School nurse
- C** Art teacher
- D** Teacher/Teaching Assistant
- E** Librarian

## My favourite activity at school was/is...?

- A** PE or Forest School
- B** PSHE
- C** Art
- D** Drama
- E** Reading



Once you have finished selecting one letter for each question, count how many of each letter you got. Which letter do you have the most of? Look below to see your likes:

**Mostly A** You enjoy working outside and being active, being practical, and spending time with nature. Have you thought about a career where you could spend time in the countryside and with nature? An example of this could be a Gardener.

**Mostly B** You are a kind person who likes to help others. There are many different careers where you can help look after people. You may like to work with the elderly or with young children. There are lots of options for you to choose from. An example of this could be a Care Assistant.

**Mostly C** You are a creative person who likes to make and create things to express your personality. There are many different opportunities that you can pursue that allow you to showcase your creativity. An example of this could be an Artist.

**Mostly D** You like to make others laugh and put on a show! It may be a hobby, but did you know there are lots of ways you can turn this hobby into a career? An example of this could be an Entertainer.

**Mostly E** You love reading and everything to do with books! You might even enjoy writing your own books. There are multiple ways you can use your love of literature in your future career. An example of this could be a Librarian.

**If you have the same score for two letters, look at how you can combine the two areas.**



## FURTHER EDUCATION

Young people are now required to remain in learning until they are 18 years old. Students with Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCP) are entitled to support in education until they are 25 years old, if they remain in education. The following information will show some options on how and where to stay engaged in education.

We have broken education down into smaller sections, allowing you to dig a little deeper into the courses available. These sections are:

- Sixth Forms
- Colleges
- Independent Specialist Colleges
- Independent Training Providers



### IMPORTANT

Not all settings are applicable to all SEND needs, so ensure you follow the code highlighted at the start of the magazine to determine if it is an option for yourself.



## FINDING A SUITABLE COURSE

In the vast majority of cases, students will be able to find a suitable course at an educational provider within their local area. Very occasionally, if a student has very complex needs, they may need to consider an Independent Specialist Placement (ISP) which may be further away. The student must have an EHCP to access one of these placements, and the Local Authority will only consider funding an ISP once all local options have been exhausted. Please note that the Local Authority cannot agree to place a pupil at an ISP if there is an equivalent course/provision available locally.

For those young people requesting residential specialist college placements, the Local Authority will require evidence demonstrating that the proposal for a placement has been made as a result of appropriate assessment and guidance involving collaboration between relevant agencies, including adult social care and health.

*(Caption taken directly from Worcestershire County Council's website)*

Further education, training providers, and sixth form colleges offer a wide range of courses for young people at all levels of achievement. Colleges offer supported courses for students with special needs at a range of levels. These can be accessed from age 16 (after Year 11) and remain available for students if they leave school / sixth form after Years 12, 13, or 14.

Courses include vocational work-related learning and general courses, which can include preparation for adulthood, such as life skills, work skills, and independence skills. There are progression routes from one course level to another, provided the student has achieved the entry requirements for the next level course, including the appropriate level of English and Maths.

**The usual progression steps are:**

**Pre-Entry Level**

**Entry Level 1, 2, 3**

**Level 1 (GCSE 1-3)**

**Level 2 (GCSE 4 and above)**

**Level 3 ('A' Levels, Btec, NVQ and T Levels)**

Courses at colleges and training providers help students gain qualifications and develop work skills, giving them the best chance of gaining employment. There are courses with work experience options and other courses that are mainly work-based learning, such as supported internships, traineeships, and apprenticeships.

**The Education, Health, and Care plan can remain in place for full-time courses or training at college or with training providers. Colleges and training providers are required to make reasonable adjustments for learning and personal support to enable students with support needs to access learning.**



## SIXTH FORMS

Many of the schools in Worcestershire have Sixth Forms, so you can remain in school after Year 11. In some schools, this is up to Year 14 (up to 19 years old).

The following is a list of local schools that welcome Post-16 (after Year 11) students with EHCP plans. Simply search for the school in your chosen internet browser for more information. It is always advisable to call the school/setting to find out if there are places available, along with liaising with your local authority SEND Caseworker.

**Here is a list of Worcestershire SEND Specialist Sixth Forms:**

### WORCESTERSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITY SEN SCHOOLS WITH SIXTH FORMS

- Chadsgrove School
- Vale of Evesham School (Academy)
- Regency High School (Academy)
- Pitcheroak School
- Wyre Forest School
- Rigby Hall School
- Kingfisher School

### SPECIALIST SCHOOLS WITH SIXTH FORMS / POST-16 PROVISION

- Cambian New Elizabethan School
- Norton College
- Our Place
- The Bridge School (Malvern)

### POST-19 SCHOOL-BASED PROVISION

- Chadsgrove Post-19
- Victoria School - Post-19 (called Victoria College)



# LOCAL COLLEGES

Colleges offer a broad range of course choices and access to learning opportunities and facilities that are not available through school.

Changing to a college may bring challenges but can also have great benefits, such as a wider range of courses, further supported education, tailored learning to your chosen topic area, and many more benefits. Learning locally can lead to progressive outcomes and links to local employment or volunteering.



To find out more, please visit:

> [Explore Further Education options for SEND | Skills4Worcestershire](#)



HEART OF WORCESTERSHIRE COLLEGE

### SEN BASE HEART OF WORCESTERSHIRE COLLEGE

**Contact:** Sandra Brewer

**Phone:** 01527 572553

**Email:** sbrewer@howcollege.ac.uk

**District:** Redditch and Worcester

**Website:** <https://www.howcollege.ac.uk/>

The SEN base areas provide for young people who wish to move on from school into a supported FE setting to develop further learning and life skills to prepare for adulthood. Students develop skills to support them into their future life and work or volunteering opportunities.

#### Courses, Activity or Support Group available:

- Life Skills: **PMLD SLD**
- Life and Independent Living Skills: **PMLD SEMH**
- Forward Focus: **MLD SEMH**
- Skills For Work & Jobpath: **MLD SEMH**
- Supported Internships: **MLD SEMH**



KIDDERMINSTER COLLEGE

### KIDDERMINSTER COLLEGE

**Contact:** Naomi Yendell

**Phone:** 01562 512 000

**Email:** schools@kidderminster.ac.uk

**District:** Wyre Forest

**Website:** <https://www.kidderminster.ac.uk/>

Kidderminster College has an established reputation for delivering a high-quality learner experience across our vocational courses in a range of subjects. Located in the heart of Kidderminster, the college is easily accessible from Worcestershire, Stourbridge and Birmingham. Positioned right next to the public library and across from the town hall, the college also benefits from the amenities of a city-based college, whilst in the surroundings of a historic market town.

With a rich history of academic excellence and a commitment to providing top-quality education, our college is a place where students from all walks of life can thrive.

#### Courses, Activity or Support Group available:

- Foundation Learning – Life Skills: **PMLD SLD MLD SEMH**
- Vocational Studies – Level 1: **PMLD SLD MLD SEMH**



## WORCESTER SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

**Contact:** Sara Payne  
**Phone:** 01905 362600  
**Email:** sara.payne@wsfc.ac.uk  
**District:** Worcestershire  
**Website:** <https://www.wsfc.ac.uk/>

**Brochure:** <https://www.wsfc.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Prospectus-2024-web-LQ-updated.pdf>

At Worcester Sixth Form College we welcome students with additional support needs. Over the years, we have developed a range of support for students who are neurodiverse, have specific learning or sensory needs, and medical conditions.

We offer the following types of support:

- Personalised transition support and liaison with current setting
- One-to-one support
- In class support (for students with an Education, Health and Care Plan)
- Assessment for exam access arrangements
- Exam support

### Don't forget to also check out:

- > BMet - <https://www.bmet.ac.uk/>
- > Halesowen College - <https://www.halesowen.ac.uk/>
- > South and City College - <https://www.sccb.ac.uk/>
- > Stratford Upon Avon College - <https://www.stratford.ac.uk/>



PERSHORE COLLEGE  
*part of* WCG Worcestershire

## WCG | PERSHORE COLLEGE

**Supported Learning and re-engagement for WCG**  
**Contact:** Jane Griffiths  
**Phone:** 03301357215  
**Email:** jagriffiths@warwickshire.ac.uk  
**District:** Worcestershire  
**Website:** [wcg.ac.uk/page/28/supported-learning](https://wcg.ac.uk/page/28/supported-learning)

Our supported learning programmes are suitable for learners with learning difficulties or disabilities. Each programme is tailored to individual students' needs and helps to develop a mixture of interests and skills in a supportive environment. Learners on the Foundation Skills Programme are offered personalised learning opportunities.

### Courses, Activity or Support Group available:

- Supported Learning: Foundation Skills - Landbased Entry Level/Level 1: **MLD SEHM**
- Supported Learning: Ready for Adulthood: **MLD SEHM**
- Supported Learning: Skillbuilder: **MLD SEHM**
- Supported Internship: **MLD SEHM**



## INDEPENDENT SPECIALIST COLLEGE PROVISIONS

An Independent Specialist College could be a consideration if a local college or training provider is not able to meet your needs. Independent Specialist Colleges can offer individualised learning and support for some learners with high and complex support needs.

It is important to look at all of the options available and discuss specialist college options with school teachers, careers advisers, social workers, and SEN caseworkers. Usually, applications to these colleges should be considered 18 months to 2 years in advance of leaving school. This can be discussed through the EHCP annual reviews.

### For more information, please visit:

- > [Independent specialist colleges | Skills4Worcestershire](https://www.skills4worcestershire.org.uk/independent-specialist-colleges/)

### WEST MIDLANDS INDEPENDENT SPECIALIST COLLEGE PROVISIONS:

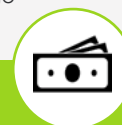
- Chadsgrove Educational Trust Specialist College
- Conover College
- Derwen College
- Glasshouse College (Including Argent College)
- Heart of Birmingham Vocational College
- Hereward College
- Newfriars College
- Queen Alexandra College
- Regent College
- Royal National College for the Blind
- Strathmore College
- The Hive College
- Trinity Specialist College
- Victoria College
- Westminster Specialist College

Natspec

The voice of specialist further education

For more information on Residential Colleges, please see **Natspec Directory**.

**Website:** <https://natspec.org.uk/colleges/search/>







## BANKSIDE COLLEGE

**Contact:** Wayne Heves

**Phone:** 01684 649722

**Email:** info@banksidecollege.co.uk

**District:** Worcestershire

**Website:** <https://www.banksidecollege.co.uk/>

**Brochure:** [https://www.banksidecollege.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/17/2023/05/Bankside\\_Prospectus\\_2023.pdf](https://www.banksidecollege.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/17/2023/05/Bankside_Prospectus_2023.pdf)

Bankside College offers education for young adults aged 16-25 with autism and mild or complex learning difficulties. Many students have experienced significant trauma, leading to breaks in education and placement disruptions. We strive to create a safe environment where students can thrive and achieve more than they thought possible, with personalised learning opportunities tailored to their diverse needs.

### Courses, Activity or Support Group available:

- NOCN Skills for Employment, Training and Personal Development (SETPD): **MLD SEMH**
- ASDAN Personal Progress (PP) and Personal Social Development (PSD): **MLD SEMH**



## BRIDGE SCHOOL MALVERN

**Contact:** Vicky Gundersen

**Phone:** 01684 778400

**Email:** enquiries@bridgeschoolmalvern.org

**District:** South Worcestershire

**Website:** <https://www.bridgeschoolmalvern.org/sixth-form-centre>

**Brochure:** [https://www.bridgeschoolmalvern.org/files/ugd/e955d3\\_5e3534e7af-454e60ba933e7c5c9f2814.pdf](https://www.bridgeschoolmalvern.org/files/ugd/e955d3_5e3534e7af-454e60ba933e7c5c9f2814.pdf)

The Bridge Business Centre, based in the heart of Barnards Green, Malvern, gives young adults aged 19-24, with an EHCP, the opportunity to develop employability skills, vocational skills, confidence and self-worth to be able to successfully take their next steps in life - employment, training or further learning.

### Courses, Activity or Support Group available:

- Catering: **MLD SEMH**
- Retail and Business: **MLD SEMH**
- Manufacturing: **MLD SEMH**
- Art: **MLD SEMH**
- Enterprise: **MLD SEMH**
- Functional Skills: **MLD SEMH**
- Employability Skills & Work Experience: **MLD SEMH**
- Wellbeing, Fitness & Healthy Living: **MLD SEMH**



## CHADSGROVE EDUCATIONAL TRUST SPECIALIST COLLEGE

**Contact:** Bec Gayden

**Phone:** 01527 871511 (option 3)

**Email:** info@chadsgrovespecialistcollege.org.uk

**District:** Bromsgrove

**Website:** <https://www.chadsgrovespecialistcollege.org.uk/>

**YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/W5H0-Xh9ejl>

We're a small college providing extended learning opportunities for students aged 19-25 with physical disabilities and/or complex medical needs.

Highly trained staff are employed to deliver bespoke, personalised educational packages that are tailored to suit each student's individual needs.

Our mission is for all students to thrive; maximising their physical and emotional health in an environment where they feel, safe, happy and confident to learn; fostering life skills, communication and independence enabling them to have an active voice and become more independent in adulthood.

### Courses, Activity or Support Group available:

- Preparing for Adulthood: **PMLD SLD**



## DERWEN COLLEGE

**Phone:** 01691 661 234

**Email:** admissions@derwen.ac.uk

**District:** Shropshire

**Website:** <https://www.derwen.ac.uk/>

**Brochure:** <https://issuu.com/derwen-college/docs/derwen-prospectus-2022>

Derwen College is a vibrant and exciting College with a determination to enable young people to achieve their goals.

We deliver exceptional programmes and a rich learning environment for young people, aged from 16 to 25 years, with special educational needs and disabilities. We empower our students by focussing on work-related skills and independent living skills to enable them to contribute to the wider community in the future.

### Courses, Activity or Support Group available:

- Hospitality & Food: **SLD MLD SEMH**
- Horticulture: **SLD MLD SEMH**
- Nurture: **PMLD**
- Retail & Enterprise: **SLD MLD SEMH**
- Performing Arts: **SLD MLD SEMH**
- Hospitality, Housekeeping & Customer Service (Telford): **SLD MLD SEMH**
- Work & Independence: **SLD MLD SEMH**

**FURTHER EDUCATION  
INDEPENDENT SPECIALIST  
COLLEGE PROVISIONS****HEART OF BIRMINGHAM  
VOCATIONAL COLLEGE**

**Contact:** Emma Clark (Exec. Principal)  
**Phone:** 0121 809 0666  
**Email:** info@hbvc.ac.uk  
**District:** Redditch & Birmingham  
**Website:** <https://www.hbvc.ac.uk/>  
**Brochure:** <https://www.hbvc.ac.uk/about-us/prospectus>

Heart of Birmingham Vocational College (HBVC) is a specialist college for young people aged 16-25 with additional needs. We offer full-time study programmes and Supported Internships that provide individualised learning experiences, developing key employability and independent living skills.

Through 'Foundations for Learning and Life' and 'Preparation for Work', you will gain practical skills and experience to increase your independence and prepare for employment.

**SLD MLD SEHM**

**Don't forget to also check out:**

- > Hereward College - <https://www.hereward.ac.uk/>
- > National Star College - <https://www.nationalstar.org/>

**QUEEN ALEXANDRA  
COLLEGE**

**Phone:** 0121 428 5050  
**Email:** info@qac.ac.uk  
**District:** Birmingham  
**Website:** [www.qac.ac.uk](http://www.qac.ac.uk)  
**Brochure:** <https://www.qac.ac.uk/college-prospectus-guides.html>

QAC empowers young adults with learning difficulties and disabilities to achieve their ambitions and to lead fulfilling lives through an innovative and holistic approach to learning and support. The charity achieves this by offering a comprehensive range of services, including residential support, specialised education, community engagement, and enterprises.

**Courses, Activity or Support Group available:**

- Preparation for Life: **SLD MLD SEHM**
- Learning, Employment and Progression (LEAP): **MLD SEHM**
- Vocational programmes: **MLD SEHM**
- Access to Pathways: **MLD SEHM**
- Supported Internship Programme: **MLD SEHM**

**INDEPENDENT  
TRAINING  
PROVIDERS**

Independent training providers offer further education in a range of different training center locations across the county. They offer courses in various vocational subjects and work preparation, such as traineeships, apprenticeships, and supported internships.

Individual training providers often focus on a particular type of course or vocational/work option and offer an alternative to college for further education, helping young people progress in learning and move towards employment.

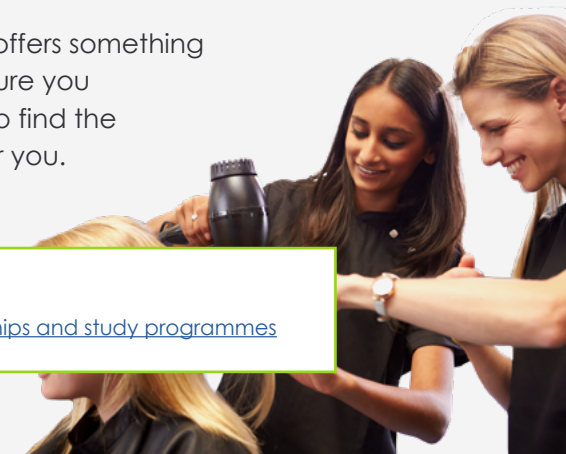
Each training provider offers something slightly different, so ensure you research your options to find the most suitable match for you.

**To find out more, please visit:**

- > [Training providers, traineeships and study programmes](#)

**Don't forget to also check out:**

- > GLP Training - <https://www.glptraining.co.uk/>
- > HWGTA - <https://www.hwgta.org/>
- > Workpays - <https://www.workpays.co.uk/>
- > Find the full list of Worcestershire Training Providers here: <https://worcapprenticeships.org.uk/training-providers/>





## NOVA TRAINING

**Contact:** Jessica Farnell

**Phone:** 01562 746234

**Email:** [jessica.farnell@novatraining.co.uk](mailto:jessica.farnell@novatraining.co.uk)

**District:** Worcestershire

**Website:** <https://novatraining.co.uk/>

Nova Training offers a wide range of options to help you gain practical skills, explore career opportunities, and improve your abilities in Mathematics, English and ICT.

We offer a wide range of training courses and apprenticeships in Kidderminster for young people aged 14 to 25, regardless of exam results. When attending our training centre you will have an individual learning plan, matched to your future aspirations which allows you to learn, earn, gain qualifications and progress to an Apprenticeship or employment in your chosen career.

### Skill areas we cover:

- Hospitality
- Business Admin
- Customer Service
- Early Years
- Construction
- Motor Vehicle
- Warehousing
- Retail



## YOUNG ADULT LEARNING

**Contact:** Kelly Champion

**Phone:** 01905 845519

**Email:** [kchampion@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:kchampion@worcestershire.gov.uk)

**District:** Worcestershire

**Website:** <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/learning/learning-services-worcestershire/young-adult-learning>

Our Young Adult Learning programme is a great choice for those aged 16-19 (16-24 with an EHCP) who want to continue their learning in a small, specialist centre where each learner co-designs their own pathway with us. No two learners follow an identical timetable. Our team work with learners to design a programme which best fits their personal needs, interests and aspirations.

### Courses, Activity or Support Group available:

- Supporting teaching and learning in schools: **MLD SEHM**
- Women's Hairdressing: **MLD SEHM**
- Hair and beauty: **MLD SEHM**
- Employment and Personal Development: **MLD SEHM**
- Health and Social Care: **MLD SEHM**
- Tailored Traineeships: **MLD SEHM**



# APPRENTICESHIPS FOR ALL

Nothing should hold someone back from applying for an apprenticeship! Where appropriate, apprenticeships can be made inclusive, depending on the student's learning level.

Areas that can be adjusted to meet students' needs include lowering the required English and Maths levels to Entry Level 3 and extending the duration of the apprenticeship to allow the student more time to complete their work.

The training provider can access additional funding to provide the student with 1-2-1 support during the training when needed.

The employer also has a duty of care to make reasonable adjustments in the workplace and the employer can access funds above reasonable adjustments through Access to Work.

However, adjustments to an apprenticeship can only happen if the vocational part of the learning is an appropriate level for the student to achieve.

It is worth noting that there is no list of inclusive apprenticeships, they are simply advertised as apprenticeships and conversations around inclusivity need to be continued on an individual basis. So don't be put off, apply for the apprenticeship and start those conversations with the training provider.

For more information, contact:  
**[info@worcsapprenticeships.org.uk](mailto:info@worcsapprenticeships.org.uk)**

Or visit: [Apprenticeships For All](#) | [Skills4Worcestershire](#)





## SIGNPOSTING FOR FURTHER EDUCATION

### FOLLOW THE LINKS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Careers Worcs Information Advice and Guidance service](#)

[Worcestershire Training Providers](#)

[Hereford and Worcestershire SENDIASS](#)

[Aspiration Training](#)



## TOP TIPS...

- > Do your research
- > Make sure you can get to the location
- > Ensure that they know what your needs are so they can fully support you
- > Ask for help when you need it
- > A pre-visit to the site is always helpful
- > Look into Supported Living opportunities



### TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

**Contact:** Linda Quainton

**Email:** [LQuainton@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:LQuainton@worcestershire.gov.uk)

**Phone:** 01905 844038

Finding your way to college can also present itself as a challenge. Post-16 travel assistance is not automatically offered to all students who have an EHCP. There are eligibility criteria, including attending the closest college that meets your needs. For further information, you can either speak to Linda Hemming at Worcestershire County Council, your SEN caseworker, or look at the SEN Transport Policy. It is important to take this information into consideration when looking for a college placement.

All students, regardless of need, have to pay a post-16 parental contribution towards travel assistance. The amount currently stands at £547.00 per year, although this could change, and it is payable for 2 years. You will get options on how to pay this.

The travel assistance that you are offered will not automatically be a taxi. Other options may be offered to you, such as a Direct Travel Payment, bus pass, or train pass.

- > [Special Education Needs and Disabilities travel assistance](#)



## HIGHER EDUCATION

Every year, over 60,000 students with physical and/or mental health conditions and learning differences apply through UCAS to study at university or college. (UCAS, 2023)

Higher Education (HE) refers to any provision that is undertaken in order to gain a qualification that is a level 3 or higher. Degree courses are usually studied at university, but HE courses are also available at some Further Education Colleges and are open to all students who meet the entry requirements of the individual course.

Although EHCPs can continue to 25, if a young person goes to university, their EHCP ends. It is important to ask questions, when looking at universities, for example, what mentoring, what 1:1 support, and what study skills are there and raise questions based on the EHC Plan, even though it is ceasing.

To support all students, most universities have a dedicated Student Support Service that will provide information, advice, and support to anyone who may require it. As part of this team, they will have disability advisers, sometimes called disability co-ordinators, who will be able to provide additional guidance.

University disability advisers are available to offer support to students with a range of services, such as supporting with transition, liaison with academic staff, and support with applying for DSA and other funding.

Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) is support to cover the study-related costs you have because of a mental health problem, long-term illness, or any other disability. This can be on its own or in addition to any student finance you get. The type of support and how much you get depends on your individual needs – not your household income and does not need to be repaid.

#### For more information:

- > [Disabled Students | Advice And Financial Support | UCAS](#)
- > [Disabled Students Helpline | Disability Rights UK](#)
- > [Funding for disabled students | Disability charity Scope UK](#)
- > [Options when leaving school or college | Disability charity Scope UK](#)
- > [How accessible is university for learners with SEND? | UCAS](#)

#### Discover your local HE options:

- > [University of Worcester](#)
- > [Heart of Worcestershire College](#)
- > [Kidderminster College](#)
- > [Warwickshire College Group](#)



We have created a Transition booklet to help you prepare for Higher Education.  
[Download it here](#)



## CASE STUDY

Diagnosed with Friedreich's Ataxia at 11, Henry has overcome challenges in education to pursue his goal of independent living. Now at university, he enjoys his independence with live-in care and plans to travel after graduation. Read on to discover how Henry's resilience has shaped his university journey.

**Tell us a bit more about yourself and your journey through education**

"I was diagnosed with Friedreich's Ataxia when I was 11 and just starting secondary school, I found adjusting to my newly diagnosed disability and navigating through high school challenging. For my A Levels I considered moving to another school, however, I decided to stay at my school and studied hard. I always knew I wanted to go to university to explore independent living."

**What do you enjoy most about university life?**

"Independence. I enjoy living on my own and cooking for myself. I have got involved with the social side and going to clubs in Worcester, however, do not really enjoy that part of uni life. I have worked at the uni throughout last summer term in Student Services and really enjoyed that experience."

**What support do you receive?**

"I started uni with no care, however, due to the nature of my progressive condition, I now have live-in care. This is great and has helped with getting ready for lectures and travelling into Worcester. I have powered wheels on my chair and that is a great help with getting around campus."

**What would you say to someone else considering going to university?**

"Choose a degree in a subject that interests you and do not let any disability hold you back. The University of Worcester has a great support network."

**What are your plans for the future?**

"I am hoping to travel once I graduate and continue independent living."

**Any comments from parent/carers?**

"I am very proud of H; in the face of adversity, he has continued to push for an independent life."



## NEXT STEPS CHECKLIST

Use this tick list to ensure you have all the information and are properly prepared for your next steps.

NEXT STEPS CHECKLIST 

## NEXT STEPS CHECKLIST...

- Have you thought about how you are travelling to college?
- Do you know the times of each day? And how many days a week you will go to college?
- Do you know the term dates of the course?
- Will there be food provided during your day?
- Do you know if any of your friends are going to the same place?
- Is there funding available to support you?
- Does the course cater for your needs?
- Do you need to take anything with you?

# HOW YOUR SPECIAL QUALITIES CAN SUPPORT YOUR EMPLOYABILITY

The following 10 skills set you above the rest, you may find you have a few barriers however, these skills strengthen your employability level.



### See things through different eyes

- > View the picture from a different angle
- > See the details



### Creativity

- > Inventive ideas
- > An original view



### Ask questions

- > Able to ask questions
- > Happy to ask for help



### Accepting of differences

- > Unlikely to judge others
- > Welcome others with Additional needs



### Positive

- > Positive out look
- > Always smiling



### Integrity

- > Committed to the job
- > Loyal, trustworthy, and honest



### Attention to detail

- > In-depth Knowledge
- > Thoroughness



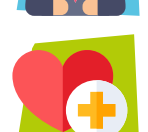
### Resilience

- > Determined
- > Dedicated



### Novel Approaches

- > Varied solutions
- > Outside the box thinking



### Willing

- > Happy to help others
- > Will follow instructions

# CAREERS WORCS

## Aged 16-24?

## Not sure what the next step is?

## Job? Education? Training?



**Not in work, training, or education? Don't worry!  
We're here to help you kick-start your journey!**

[www.careersworcs.co.uk](http://www.careersworcs.co.uk)



@careersworcs



# EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEERING

If employment and volunteering is an option for you, then you could also think about the following information.

There is plenty of provision in the local community to guide, coach and support you through the journey. If you have a career/job in mind, it is worth seeing if there is an educational course that will support you to the next step. These can be found in the previous section of the magazine.

## WHAT IS AN APPRENTICESHIP?

### An apprenticeship is a real job

Available to individuals aged 16+ (with no upper age limit), apprentices are typically employed for at least 30 hours per week.

### Apprentices are paid a salary

All apprentices will earn a salary of at least the National Minimum Wage for apprentices. Many employers pay more!

### Apprenticeships last a minimum of 12 months

Most apprenticeships take between 1 - 4 years to complete. It will depend on the level and delivery model of the apprenticeship.

### Apprenticeships range from level 2 to level 7

There are apprenticeships at levels equivalent to GCSEs right up to Master's Degree level, see the table on the next page for details.

## Key facts you need to know

### Apprentices will receive 20% off-the-job learning

20% of an apprentice's paid time will be spent undertaking off-the-job learning, gaining valuable skills and qualifications.

### Apprentices will spend 80% of their time on-the-job

80% of an apprentice's paid time will be spent on-the-job, working with colleagues to learn new skills and gain experience of the workplace.

### Apprentices do not pay for their training

All apprenticeship costs are paid for by the employer and/or the government meaning that an apprentice will never have to pay for their training.

### There are thousands of apprenticeships in more than 170 industries

New apprenticeships are advertised each week covering a wide range of jobroles. You will be amazed at the variety and breadth available!

worcsapprenticeships.org.uk  
info@worcsapprenticeships.org.uk  
0300 666 3 666

@worcsapprentice /worcsapprenticeships

Search apprenticeships at  
[worcsapprenticeships.org.uk](http://worcsapprenticeships.org.uk)

## SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS

A supported internship is a type of study programme specifically aimed at young people aged 16 to 24 years old with an EHCP, who wish to move into employment. Supported internships can bridge the gap between education and the world of work or volunteering. These courses can help you get ahead as you move into adulthood.

To find out more, visit our website:

[Skills 4 Worcestershire - Supported Internship](http://Skills4Worcestershire-SupportedInternship)





**EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEERING SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS**



**DFN PROJECT SEARCH**

Delivered through Young Adult Learning and NHS Worcester Royal Hospital

**Contact:** Kelly Champion

**Phone:** 01905 845519

**Email:** youngadultlearning@worcestershire.gov.uk

**District:** Worcestershire

**Website:** <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/learning/learning-services-worcestershire/young-adult-learning>

**MLD SEHM**



**HEART OF WORCESTERSHIRE COLLEGE**

**HEART OF WORCESTERSHIRE COLLEGE**

**Contact:** Annette Gardner

**Phone:** 01527 572834

**Email:** agardner@howcollege.ac.uk

**District:** Redditch and Worcester

**Website:** <https://www.howcollege.ac.uk/>

**MLD SEHM**



**EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEERING SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS**



**KIDDERMINSTER COLLEGE**

**Contact:** Natasha Allmont

**Phone:** 01562 543538

**Email:** Natasha.Allmont@kidderminster.ac.uk

**District:** Worcestershire

**Website:** <https://www.kidderminster.ac.uk/>

**MLD SEHM**



**MENCAP SUPPORTED INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME**

**Contact:** Diane Hughes

**Phone:** 07941 377734

**Email:** diane.hughes@mencap.org.uk

**District:** Worcestershire

**Website:** <https://www.mencap.org.uk/advice-and-support/mencap-training-academy>

**Brochure:** <https://www.mencap.org.uk/sites/default/files/2017-10/2016.112%20Interns%20%20Outcomes%20A4%20Booklet.pdf>

**MLD SLD SEHM**



**WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE GROUP**

**Contact:** Alan O'Neill

**Phone:** 0330 135 7170

**Email:** aoneill@warwickshire.ac.uk

**District:** Worcestershire

**Website:** <https://wcg.ac.uk/page/1027/supported-internships>

**Brochure:** <https://blob.wcg.ac.uk/pdf/web-version-supported-internship-leaflet-parent-student-worcs-4pp-a5-web-c457c97e44379c0025f0da4308f646d8.pdf>

**MLD SLD SEHM**







Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

## DEPARTMENT FOR WORK & PENSIONS

**Contact:** Claire Gilkes, School Adviser

**Email:** [clare.gilkes@dwp.gov.uk](mailto:clare.gilkes@dwp.gov.uk)

**Phone:** 07585882180

**Website:** <https://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/disability>

As you turn 16, your DLA (Disability Living Allowance) will change to PIP (Personal Independence Payment). This payment will not be affected by your employment or education status.

Use the link for more information to ensure your funding entitlements continue. Additional support and information can be found here:

<https://www.jobcentreguide.co.uk/jobcentre-plus-guide/34/about-disability-employment-advisors>

DWP also works directly with schools through workshops and provides high-quality impartial information and advice.



**Access to Work**  
Making work possible

## ACCESS TO WORK

Access to Work is a government incentive to help you get or stay in work if you have a physical or mental health condition or disability.

The support offered varies depending on your needs, including assistance for your employer to ensure reasonable adjustments are made to make your working day achievable.

You can find out more information about Access to Work here:

> <https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work>

This page will also give you further information on the Job Help campaign:

> <https://jobhelp.campaign.gov.uk/>



## TRAVEL



Finding your way to work can be challenging. Access to Work is a discretionary grant scheme delivered by DWP that helps disabled people or those with health conditions overcome workplace barriers.

For supported interns, Access to Work can fund:

- Travel to and from work if the intern cannot use public transport or drive themselves.
- Access to Work awards are tailored to individual needs, so they vary depending on the intern's circumstances.

A traineeship is a training program, not a job. Employers are not required to pay you for the work placement but can support you with expenses such as:

- Transport expenses from your employer
- Financial support for travel from your training provider





# INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYMENT



## SIGNPOSTING FOR EMPLOYMENT

- > [Routes into Work Guide](#)
- > [Looking for work if you're disabled](#)
- > [Worcestershire Help to find work \(SEND\)](#)
- > [Scope Employment Support](#)
- > [Government list of Disability-Friendly Employers](#)
- > [Disability Job Site](#)
- > [Careers with Disabilities](#)
- > [Princes Trust](#)
- > [Base - British Association for Supported Employment](#)
- > [Employment Autism](#)



## TOP TIPS FOR EMPLOYMENT:

- Be on time or, even better, be early.
- Be polite and respectful.
- Be helpful to others without forgetting to do your own jobs.
- Don't use your mobile phone unless it is an emergency or on a break.
- Know your working times for the week ahead.
- Bring lunch or money if you have a lunch break.
- Ask questions.
- Make friends; a happy working environment is a productive working environment.
- Inform your manager of any additional support you need.
- Find a safe place to store your belongings throughout the day.
- Be proactive.
- Ensure you know what is expected of you in the job.
- Check your eligibility for benefits while working. You may be entitled to DLA or PIP, which are not means-tested or affected by employment.

**DLA:** Disability Living Allowance for under 16-year-olds.

**PIP:** Personal Independence Payment.



## EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEERING INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYMENT



## SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

The Supported Employment Service supports people that have a disability to access structured work activity placements and employment. The Supported Employment Service also supports organisations and businesses with the process of recruitment and providing work opportunities for our candidates.

> [Worcestershire County Council | Supported Employment Service](#)

## YOUR FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Search through our accessible jobs directory to explore a range of jobs. You can find out information such as entry requirements, what salary you would earn and so much more.

> [Your Future Opportunities | Skills4Worcestershire](#)

## USEFUL LINKS

- > [Getting a Job guide by the Foundation for people with learning disabilities](#)
- > [LearningDisabilities.org](#)
- > [Worcestershire Jobs](#)
- > [Internship Works](#)
- > [Prospects](#)
- > [National Career Service](#)



## YOUR PATHWAYS

Discover routes into employment and support available to you.

[Read our latest issue here.](#)



# VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering can be a wonderful way for you to experience new environments and try new skills, without the pressure of a paid position.

Volunteering can help you build up your skills developing you to be work ready. It is also a great way to work out what career you may wish to work in. You may also meet new people and make new friends within your local community.

## WHY VOLUNTEERING?

- Volunteering can connect you with other people
- Volunteering builds self-confidence and self esteem
- Volunteering can be important for physical and mental health
- Volunteering gives you purpose
- Volunteering helps others and gives back
- Volunteering can give you a more positive outlook on your life
- Volunteering can help you find a job and build skills



## EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEERING 'VOLUNTEERING'

## HOW TO FIND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES?

Finding opportunities in your local area may take a little bit of investigation.

Firstly, if you are still in an education setting, speak with your Key worker or Careers leader/advisor for help.

Secondly, write a list of local places you would like to volunteer at, things that you have an interest in or places you have a skill that would match. Approach these places (with parent/guardian support) to see if they have any opportunities for you.

Thirdly, you can follow the links in the signposting sections for contacts for volunteering in Worcestershire.



## TOP TIPS FOR EMPLOYMENT:

- Look for something that you are interested in
- Make sure you can travel to the location
- Ensure they know what your needs are so they can fully support you
- Ask questions
- Be prepared for the day ahead
- A pre-visit to the site is always helpful

A high percentage of charity shop workforce is voluntary.

> [Find local charity shops near you](#)



## SIGNPOSTING FOR VOLUNTEERING

- > [Worcestershire Community Volunteering](#)
- > [Scope Volunteering](#)
- > [Evesham Volunteer Centre](#)
- > [Skills4Worcestershire Volunteering Support](#)



**CASE STUDY**

Bridge School Malvern



Theo had been a student at the Bridge school for 5 years and the Bridge Business Centre for 2 years. Theo has a real passion for being creative and is a very hands-on learner and felt an apprenticeship would suit his needs and interests best.



In Year 12, he secured a work placement at Designs in the Shires, a local web design and marketing agency. Initially, Theo started with a 1-week placement, however, they were so pleased with his work that he began attending once a week, which increased to two days a week. Theo's commitment resulted in the employer offering him an apprenticeship.

To support Theo in finding the right apprenticeship, we started by looking for Level 2 apprenticeships. Unfortunately, we were unable to find a suitable course within the area of his interest. We found an apprenticeship in business administration, but as this was not linked to the work placement Theo was attending, we all felt this might not be suitable.

After finding out the benefits of an accessible apprenticeship, this started us on a journey which led him to securing a level 3 apprenticeship which fitted perfectly to the needs of Theo and the needs of the employer.

We were able to support a local provider to understand how apprenticeships can be made accessible for any learner and, after outlining the amazing skills of Theo and the employer's commitment, they were keen to support Theo and help him in beginning his content creator level 3 apprenticeship.

Throughout this process, Theo's welfare has been paramount and all parties were happy that Theo was successful in securing an apprenticeship in his passion. He will no doubt go forward doing what he does best and achieving his goal to become a professional graphic designer.

**YOU CAN READ MORE ABOUT THEO'S JOURNEY HERE:**

[A Q&A session with Theo Prince.](#)  
[Our Fantastic Apprentice | Design In The Shires](#)

**INDEPENDENT LIVING & LIFE SKILLS**

As you grow older you will be wishing to become more independent where you can. This short section will signpost and guide you to some ways you can start doing just that.

It is important not to rush this transition and take guidance from those around you.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Technology Enabled Care Services provide a wide range of easy to use technologies that help keep people safe, independent and reassured inside and outside of the home.

Find out more information at [Community Housing Technology Enabled Care Services](#)





## LIFE SKILLS

Preparing for adulthood can be daunting however, if it is broken down into chunks or sections, it can become more achievable.

Break it into the following sections:

- About the home
- Money management
- Talking to others and socialising
- Education / work / volunteering

Visit the [Scope website](#) for more information.

[Barclays life skills website](#) is also a great tool to work with.

## CASE STUDY



Worcestershire County Council |  
Supported Living | Anne's Story  
1K views · 8 years ago

Worcestershire County Council

Worcestershire County Council | Supported Living | Anne's Story  
Ann is a 56 year old lady with a learning disability who has lived ...

Watch [Anne's experience with Supported Living](#) in the YouTube video.



## SUPPORTED LIVING

Supported living is where a person with a disability gets the support they need to live in a home they own or are a tenant in. They can live alone or with friends or in a community. The support people receive is personalised and centred on their needs.

Here in Worcestershire, the main choices are:

- supported living in your own home, or one rented from a council, housing association or privately
- supported living schemes, such as cluster flats or a shared house
- Shared Lives scheme
- residential care

For more information, please see:  
[Housing options for young people with a disability in Worcestershire](#)



## MONEY MANAGEMENT

It is important to understand and manage your money, again this can be something you and your parents/guardians worry about, if you follow the links below you will find wonderful support and guidance on how to keep your money safe, budget and afford the things you want.

[Dosh](#) has a great easy read website to help you manage your money.

Watch this [Dosh video](#) for more information.

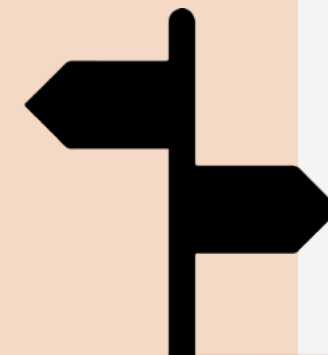
Other helpful resources:

- > [NatWest My money website](#)
- > [Kiddie Matter Life skills website and downloadable checklists](#)
- > [Why not try the Life Skills Checklist](#)



## SIGNPOSTING FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING & LIFE SKILLS

- > [Encouraging Independence](#)
- > [Supported Living in Worcestershire video](#)
- > [Supported Living Worcestershire information](#)
- > [Worcestershire Preparation for Adulthood](#)
- > [Worcestershire Care Choices Booklet](#)
- > [National Preparation for Adulthood](#)
- > [Disability Support Project](#)





# LIFE BINGO

Join in this simple game of bingo to see how independent you are and find out more ways to support yourself into independency from the previous section.

Do you know your address?	Can you use public transport safely and alone?	Do you use a mobile phone or telephone?	Can you tell the time and time keep?
Do you look after your own money?	Do you have any responsibilities, like looking after a pet?	Do you use a calendar?	Do you make some of your own food and drinks?
Do you communicate well with others?	Can you operate technology?	Can you prepare for going out day to day?	Do you know what to do at the shops?

## TOP TIPS FOR INDEPDENT LIVING



- Be organised
- Keep yourself and your accomodation clean and tidy
- Ask for help when you need it
- Know who your support staff are and where to find them
- Follow the money management tips and advice
- Don't put yourself in unsafe situations
- Always have your phone on you in case of emergencies
- Learn your address if possible
- Get to know the local area with support



## CASE STUDY

Frazer, a young man with chronic epileptic seizures, was determined to live independently. To qualify for local Supported Living Accommodation, he needed assistive technologies to maintain his independence while ensuring access to care.

One challenge was that Frazer required hourly temperature checks, even during the night, which disrupted his independence and caused anxiety. The Technology Enabled Care Service (TECS) team introduced automated temperature and pulse rate monitoring sensors, along with a falls sensor. These devices would alert carers when needed, reducing the need for constant intervention.

With these technologies, Frazer felt safer, eliminating the need for night-time visits and significantly reducing his anxiety. The data collected on temperature spikes and seizure times also helped clinicians manage his condition more effectively.



Hannah, another resident in Supported Living Accommodation with cerebral palsy, received smart lights, plugs, a lifeline, and a falls detector through the TECS package, which greatly improved her independence and quality of life.

Frazer and Hannah's stories highlight how assistive technologies from the Technology Enabled Care Service can transform lives, allowing individuals to live more independently while ensuring they have access to the necessary support.



# HEALTH AND WELLBEING

In preparation for adulthood and thinking about your next steps, it is important that you also think about your health.

If you move on to college, supported work placement, volunteering etc, you will need to keep your physical and mental health in check to ensure you enjoy, complete and achieve in the activities. See information on the next few pages for more ways you can keep yourself healthy and happy.



### Don't forget to also check out:

- > Snozelen - <https://snoezelen.info/>
- > Worcester Warriors Foundation - <https://www.worcesterwarriorsfoundation.org/>



## HOW TO KEEP YOURSELF HEALTHY

There are many ways to keep yourself healthy in body and mind. Use the link to find out some more information:

[The School Run | Keeping yourself healthy](#)

## LOCAL YOUTH CLUBS AND SPORTS CLUBS

There are many different youth clubs and sports clubs available in Worcestershire for young people with SEND.

[Directory](#) for local activities in your area



## INSPIRED BY THE PARIS PARALYMPIC GAMES?

Every Body Moves powered by Toyota is a fresh campaign to connect disabled people with more opportunities to get active than ever before.

For more information, please visit: <https://everybodymoves.org.uk/>



## SIGNPOSTING FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- > [Worcestershire Preparing for Adulthood](#)
- > [Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing](#)
- > [Worcestershire Health Services for Children with SEND](#)
- > [Send Personal Health Budget](#)
- > [Contact Family | Growing up, Sex and Relationships](#)
- > [Aspie](#)
- > [Gig Buddies](#)



## CASE STUDY

Watch a compilation of the wonderful talent on display for the Snoezey Showcase.

[Snoezelen 30 Year Showcase 2023 | YouTube](#)



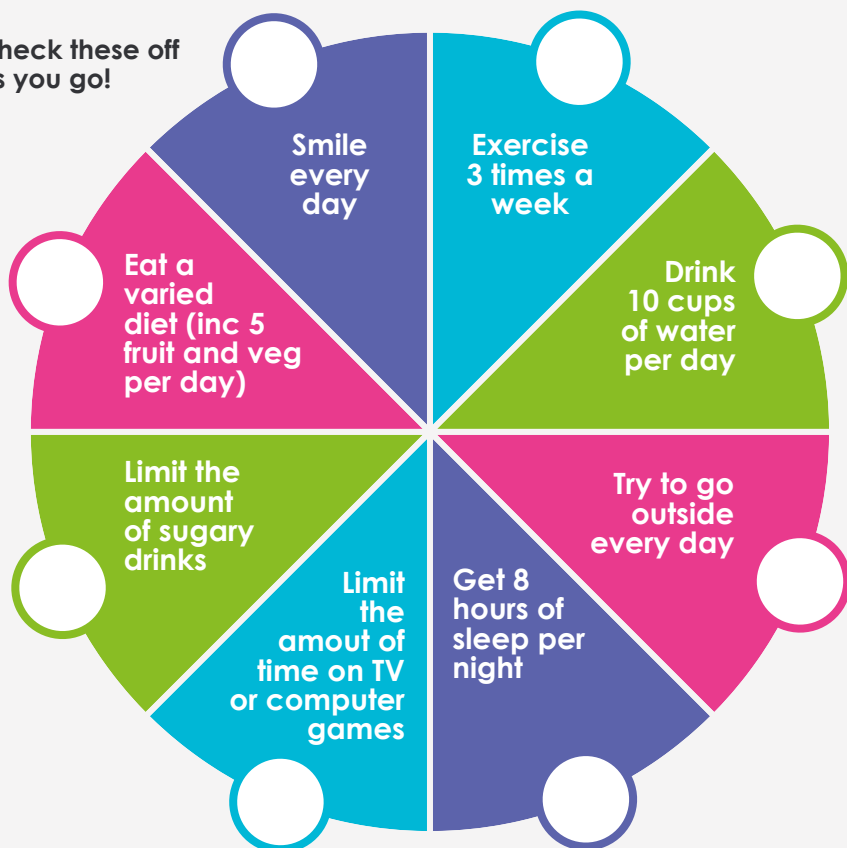


# MY HEALTH WHEEL

Your health wheel is a fun way to keep track of healthy habits! It has 8 important tasks that help you stay healthy and happy.

How many of the 8 tasks on the health wheel are you already doing each week? Count them up! If you're missing any, pick one new task to start this week. Keep going each week until your health wheel is complete!

Check these off as you go!



# DAY & COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

Life would be a little empty without friends and family around you, so as you move forward through your journey it is important to keep a strong network of friends and family.

Getting involved with your local community through groups, volunteering and activities is a great way to make relationships, build confidence and have fun.

Some of these settings provide day activities which can be accessed through adult care funding and individual budgets. These budgets are agreed for eligible young people through adult care assessments undertaken by social services.







## AMBER SUPPORT SERVICES

**Contact:** Gary Ives

**Phone:** 01905 917900

**Email:** hello@ambersupportservices.co.uk

**District:** Bromsgrove

**Website:** <https://www.ambersupportservices.co.uk/>

Supporting people with learning and physical disabilities to live the life they want to live, achieving positive outcomes beyond their own expectations. Uniquely able to offer a single support solution linking Day Opportunities with Community Support and Respite.

### Courses, Activity or Support Group available:

- Day Opportunities – Monday to Friday 7:30am – 6:00pm: **PMLD SLD MLD**
- Community Support: **PMLD SLD MLD**
- Amber Seasons – Monday to Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm: **PMLD SLD MLD SEMH**
- Community Activities – Monday to Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm: **PMLD SLD MLD**



## BROMSGROVE RESOURCE CENTRE

**Contact:** Tracy Hodges

**Phone:** 01527 578093

**Email:** thodges@worcestershire.gov.uk

**District:** Bromsgrove

Bromsgrove Resource Centre supports adult with a learning disability for a day service, 5 day a week Monday to Friday 09:00-15:00. We run activities within the centre based on a person centred approach. We also access the local and wider community to ensure that individuals are at the forefront of their local community.

### Courses, Activity or Support Group available:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing Week: **PMLD SLD MLD SEMH**

During this week, we ran a range of activities to incorporate wellbeing. We gave a taster of many different wellbeing activities. We had a morning and afternoon activity and a staff activity within the daily debrief. Examples of the weekly activities were Tai Chi, smoothie making, health walk, knit and natter, worry worms, dance sessions, positivity cards, positivity tree, check it bingo, conversation cards/dice and much more.



## GARAGE ART GROUP

**Contact:** Nicky Margetts

**Phone:** 07443 124565

**Email:** garageartgroup@live.co.uk

**District:** Wychavon

**Website:** [www.garageartgroup.com](http://www.garageartgroup.com)

Garage Art Group aims to promote health and wellbeing for all members of society through the visual arts. We aim to provide groups for all ages and abilities, including sessions for adults with additional learning needs and anyone looking to improve their mental health. Professional tutors run sessions in Evesham if you are looking for a friendly place to get involved with art and learn new skills.

### Courses, Activity or Support Group available:

- Art: **PMLD SLD MLD**
- Craft and Textiles: **PMLD SLD MLD**
- Art: **SEMH**
- Craft and Textiles: **SEMH**



## MIDLAND MENCAP

**Day Opportunities Service**

**Contact:** Pam Johnson

**Phone:** 07472 638 704

**Email:** Pam.johnson@midlandmencap.org.uk

**District:** Worcestershire

**Website:** <https://midlandmencap.org.uk/>

We provide Day opportunities service for adults with disabilities and additional needs from the age of 18+.

Our service moves away from the traditional style of supporting adults in day centres with not much variation of what to do. We want everyone to feel included in their communities, so we provide day opportunities such as community café, art & music sessions, bowling, cinema, Parkride, rock climbing and many more.

There are free taster sessions that can be booked onto to see if the person we will potentially be supporting is interested in our service. Assessments would take place to ensure the people we support were well supported and safe during their activities in the community.

### Courses, Activity or Support Group available:

- Day Opportunities Service: **SLD MLD SEMH**



## MUDDY BOOTS GROUND CARE CIC

**Contact:** Lesley Tite

**Phone:** 0757 207 5555

**Email:** muddybootsgroundcare@yahoo.co.uk

**District:** Stourport-on-Severn

**Website:** [www.facebook.com/muddybootsgroundcare](http://www.facebook.com/muddybootsgroundcare)

Muddy Boots Ground Care CIC was established in 2016. We provide services for people with learning disabilities and mental health in various workshops and woodlands both on and off site.

We pride ourselves on offering a welcoming and nourishing environment where our workshop leaders wide range of skills are used to help grow our clients confidence and enjoyment in the tasks they undertake while with us.

The team is always at the heart of what we do and something everyone here is passionate about.

### Courses, Activity or Support Group available:

- Ground Care: **MLD SEMH**
- Woodwork Project: **MLD SEMH**
- Multiskills Inc Arts & Crafts: **MLD SEMH**



## THE MYRIAD CENTRE

**Contact:** Helen Broadfield

**Phone:** 01905 729190 (Option 1)

**Email:** hbroadfield@myriadcentre.co.uk

**District:** Worcester

**Website:** [www.myriadcentre.co.uk](http://www.myriadcentre.co.uk)

Our aim is to set the gold standard of care for adults with PMLD, providing a truly person-centred service in a safe and stimulating environment to enable the people we support achieve their potential in life.

We offer proven interventions e.g. music and art therapy, physiotherapy, rebound therapy and hydrotherapy, alongside a full programme of inclusive and enriching activities and trips.

We work closely with parents, carers, social workers, and other professionals to help our clients thrive and attain their aspirations.

At Myriad, everything we do centres around 'possibility, not disability'.

**PMLD SLD**



## MY STEPS

**Support To Enhance Personal Skills**

**Contact:** Sarah Duffin

**Phone:** 07934 902020

**Email:** sarah@mysteps.org.uk

**District:** Stourport-on-Severn

**Website:** [www.mysteps.org.uk](http://www.mysteps.org.uk)

A day opportunity for young adults aged 16+. My STEPS offers practical lifelong learning activities including cookery, shopping, healthy living, arts, crafts and woodwork, animal care, gardening, sports and day trips.

We are based on a farm / activity centre and can get involved with some farming activities too including collecting eggs, mucking out donkeys, feeding goats, grooming the pony, bottle feeding lambs, fruit picking, potato collecting and much more.

Transport is available from Redditch and Bromsgrove each day.

We operate Monday to Thursday 9.00am – 4.00pm

Costs are £60 per day.

**PMLD SLD MLD SEMH**



## PERSHORE RESOURCE CENTRE

**Contact:** Annie Longhurst

**Phone:** 013865 53889

**Email:** [alonghurst@worcestershires.gov.uk](mailto:alonghurst@worcestershires.gov.uk)

**District:** Pershore

Pershore Resource Centre is a day service for adults with learning disabilities. The service offers a wide range of activities both within the centre and in the community. We access the local leisure centre for swimming and gym sessions.

Additionally, we support individuals with volunteer work, shopping, physiotherapy, sensory activities, and crafts, among other things. The centre also has a sensory room and sensory garden, and is fully equipped with tracking hoists.

### Courses, Activity or Support Group available:

- Pershore Resource Centre Day Service  
Monday to Friday: 9:00am - 3:15pm  
**PMLD SLD**

### Don't forget to also check out:

- > Emily Jordan - <https://www.theemilyjordanfoundation.org.uk/>
- > Where Next - <https://www.where-next.org.uk/>



## REACH

**Contact:** Alison Coley-Smith

**Phone:** 07841524316

**Email:** [ali@reach4support.org.uk](mailto:ali@reach4support.org.uk)

**District:** Worcestershire

**Website:** [www.reach4support.org.uk](http://www.reach4support.org.uk)

'REACH' provides support and opportunities for individuals with learning difficulties, disabilities and mental health needs. We are based in the heart of the picturesque Georgian town of Bewdley at the cricket club, set in idyllic surroundings with just a short distance from the riverside, town and local amenities.

We aim to provide a friendly, creative, safe environment, offering a wide range of positive and meaningful activities which encourage self-advocacy, choice making, confidence building, the development of communication and skills for life, friendships and fun!

### Courses, Activity or Support Group available:

- REACH – Day Service: **PMLD SLD MLD SEMH**
- Disco "Groovy Nites" **PMLD SLD MLD SEMH**
- Rock 'n' Pop School **PMLD SLD MLD SEMH**



## REDDI SUPPORT

**Contact:** Jo Darrow

**Phone:** 0152761638

**Email:** [info@reddisupport.com](mailto:info@reddisupport.com)

**District:** Redditch

**Website:** <http://www.reddisupport.com/>

Reddi Support provides opportunities for adults with learning disabilities and autism to take part in a range of activities, which include cooking and domestic skills, dance, arts and crafts, football, multi-sports, Zumba, swimming, bowling, cinema, day trips, discos, and supported holidays to Butlin's. We focus on learning skills, having fun, and creating social and friendship opportunities. We provide support on a group basis within our day service.

We also offer supported work experience in our own café and pre-loved shop, Cups and Saucers, based in Winyates, Redditch, where you can learn how to use the till, card machine, serve customers, prepare lunches and hot drinks, restock the shop, research prices, and organise and store items correctly.

### Courses, Activity or Support Group available:

- Cups and Saucers Café and Shop: **MLD**



## SPECTRUM DAYS

**Contact:** Amy Annis

**Phone:** 01905 773725

**Email:** [aannis@spectrumdays.co.uk](mailto:aannis@spectrumdays.co.uk)

**District:** Droitwich

**Website:** <http://www.spectrumdays.co.uk/>

We provide Day Services to people with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities (PMLD) at our specialist building. We have an innovative approach to service provision, responding to the needs of the family, through a unique combination of Day opportunities, specialist equipment, resources, skills, knowledge and experience.

By pulling a range of specialist services and resources together, high quality, efficient solutions are provided to this marginalised but very special group. We provide a range of activities bespoke to the individual, with therapeutic routines built into the day.

### Some of the course/activities available:

- Hydrotherapy: **PMLD**
- Music and Dance Sessions: **PMLD**
- Sensory Activities: **PMLD**
- Cookery/Baking: **PMLD**
- Community Outings & Trips: **PMLD**
- Volunteering Opportunities: **PMLD**



## WILD GOOSE RURAL TRAINING

**Contact:** Jim Hilderley/ Hollie Burfit

**Phone:** 01905 620840

**Email:** [Enquiry@wgrt.org](mailto:Enquiry@wgrt.org)

**District:** Hallow - Worcester

**Website:** <https://www.wildgooseruraltraining.org/>

Wildgoose rural training offers people from all backgrounds and abilities the opportunity to learn about and experience rural life in a relaxed, happy and nurturing atmosphere. We offer subjects such as: Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Care, Countryside skills, Conservation, Woodworking, Arts and crafts, Cookery and motor vehicle studies.

### MLD SEMH

### Don't forget to also check out:

- > The Emily Jordan Foundation: <https://www.theemilyjordanfoundation.org.uk/>
- > Where Next: <https://www.where-next.org.uk/>



## CASE STUDY

## Ryan's Story

"Our son has been going to Myriad for few years now and really enjoys it. He isn't overly keen on new people and places and struggled with the transition into the new setting. The new routine, new people and the new setting made him feel worried and anxious.

Thanks to the care and patience he receives at Myriad he settled in well and is happier than ever. His social skills have greatly improved and he loves going, which means a lot to us. Although he has no speech, he lets us know by laughing and getting really excited to go every day.

We have found all staff at Myriad are friendly and approachable. We worked collaboratively with the staff to support Ryan as he settled in, and we feel all his needs are well met. We are really thankful that he (and we) have Myriad and would recommend the centre to anyone."



## FUNDING YOUR SOCIAL CARE

DLA is the benefit to which children with disabilities may be entitled. For those age 16 years and over DLA stops and is replaced with PIP.

These guides explain these benefits further:

- > [GOV.UK | Disability Living Allowance \(DLA\) for children](#)
- > [GOV.UK | Disability Living Allowance \(DLA\) for adults](#)

If someone has a child aged 16-18 and they believe they are eligible for support from the Young Adults Team, they should contact the Family Front Door on 01905 822666. If they are over 18 then they should contact the Access Centre on 01905 768053.

If they are assessed as being eligible for support from the YAT team, they will receive a social work assessment which will enable them to access care and support which may include a direct payment. Direct payments are cash payments (rather than directly provided services), which are paid to a young person (age 18 and over), a parent or carer or to a nominated third party. These payments must be used to meet outcomes identified in a care plan or Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan. By receiving direct payments, you are responsible for arranging, managing and paying for the services yourself.



## SIGNPOSTING FOR DAY AND COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

- > [Worcestershire - Groups and Activities](#)
- > [Worcestershire - Day opportunities](#)
- > [Short Breaks](#)
- > [Worcestershire - Specialist Short Breaks](#)
- > [Worcestershire Day Services](#)
- > [Branches Day Opportunities](#)
- > [Freedom Day Centre](#)
- > [Community Catalysts Small Good Stuff Directory](#)



## PICKING THE RIGHT COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR YOU



**Choosing the right social care or community group for you can be a difficult decision as there are so many options to choose from. These questions should help you think things through:**

- What are the options in your area?
- What time and day of the week do the groups and activities happen?
- Is it a hobby or something you like to do?
- Does it make you smile when you take part?
- Do you have any friends there?
- Would you need support with transport?



## HEREFORDSHIRE & WORCESTERSHIRE SENDIASS

### Herefordshire

Phone: 01432 260955

Email: [sendiass@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sendiass@herefordshire.gov.uk)

### Worcestershire

Phone: 01905 768153

Email: [sendiass@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:sendiass@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Support for young people with SEND and their parents/carers to make informed decisions. SENDIASS stands for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice, and Support Service. We provide information, advice, and support on matters relating to children and young people with SEND, including health and social care.



Information, Advice and Support Service  
**Herefordshire & Worcestershire**

### Our advice and support is:

- Free – It does not cost you anything.
- Confidential – We will not share your information with others without your permission.
- Impartial – We won't tell you what to do and don't take sides. We give you the information and support you need to make your own choices.

If you are a young person, we can offer information, advice, and support directly to you. We have Young Person Advisors in Herefordshire and Worcestershire who can support you in accessing information and help on issues that affect you.

We also provide **FREE training workshops for parents/carers within both counties on subjects concerning SEND.**

Download our [SENDIASS Service Leaflet](#).



## WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### The Young Adults Team within adult social care works with young adults who:

- Are aged between 16 and 25 years old
- Live in a Worcestershire postcode
- Have an additional need
- Require support with transition planning

If you are eligible for support from the YAT, they can offer you a wide range of support in organising financial support, supported employment services, and your next steps.

To find more information about the services and support available from Worcestershire County Council, specifically regarding SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities), you can visit their website.

The SEND Local Offer provides detailed information about the local services and support available for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities, and their families.



- > [SEND Local Offer | Worcestershire County Council](#)
- > [All Age Disability \(0 to 25 years\) Service | Worcestershire County Council](#)
- > [Social care support for young adults with disabilities | Worcestershire County Council](#)
- > [Autism and Complex Communication Needs | Worcestershire County Council](#)
- > [Support for SEND children, young people and their families | Worcestershire County Council](#)
- > [Get in contact with Adult Social Care | Worcestershire County Council](#)
- > [Who are the Targeted Adult Support Team | Worcestershire County Council](#)



## INDEPENDENT PROVIDER OF SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVICE

Website: <https://www.ipsea.org.uk/>

Independent Provider of Special Education Advice (known as IPSEA) is a registered charity (number 327691) operating in England.

IPSEA offers free and independent legally based information, advice, and support to help get the right education for children and young people with all kinds of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

We also provide training on the SEND legal framework to parents and carers, professionals, and other organisations.

# CHOICES TRANSITION BOOKLETS

The Inspiring Worcestershire Careers Hub delivery team has created a series of transition support documents, which you may wish your child to work through to help prepare them for life beyond school.

These useful documents provide key information, advice, and guidance your child may need, allowing them the opportunity to complete a variety of activities and tasks each term throughout the school academic year.

These documents are free to use and can be downloaded from the Skills 4 Worcestershire website.

> [www.skills4worcestershire.co.uk](http://www.skills4worcestershire.co.uk)

## DISCLAIMER

Please note that while every effort has been made to ensure the content in this guidance document is accurate, the information has been provided by various external organisations and may be subject to change without the knowledge of the Worcestershire Careers Hub.

The Worcestershire Careers Hub cannot take responsibility for any changes made to this information. Please contact the organisation or provider directly for any further requests for information.

Institutes have been listed in alphabetical order to remain unbiased. The information shared has been provided by the institutes, and therefore we do not hold ownership rights to this information. Providers have been listed upon request, so not all providers are included, as some did not return information at the time of request or are unknown to the editor.

# KEEP IN TOUCH

**Pick your platform! Scan the QR codes to stay updated with our social media accounts...**



**@Inspiring Worcestershire**

All over our socials we will be offering support with your next steps throughout the year.

Whether you're choosing your options, preparing for your GCSEs or beginning your further education journey, our content is designed to give you support when you need it most to help you make the best decisions for your future.

From exam support to job application advice, our socials aim to keep you on the right track all year long. They will act as a milestone reminder, a careers events calendar and a promoter for different training options.

**We also act as a heads up for you about useful Careers Events throughout the year.**



# THANK YOU FOR READING CHOICES

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE INSPIRING  
WORCESTERSHIRE CAREERS HUB

[WWW.SKILLS4WORCESTERSHIRE.CO.UK](http://WWW.SKILLS4WORCESTERSHIRE.CO.UK)

OR EMAIL: [CEC@WORCESTERSHIRE.GOV.UK](mailto:CEC@WORCESTERSHIRE.GOV.UK)



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