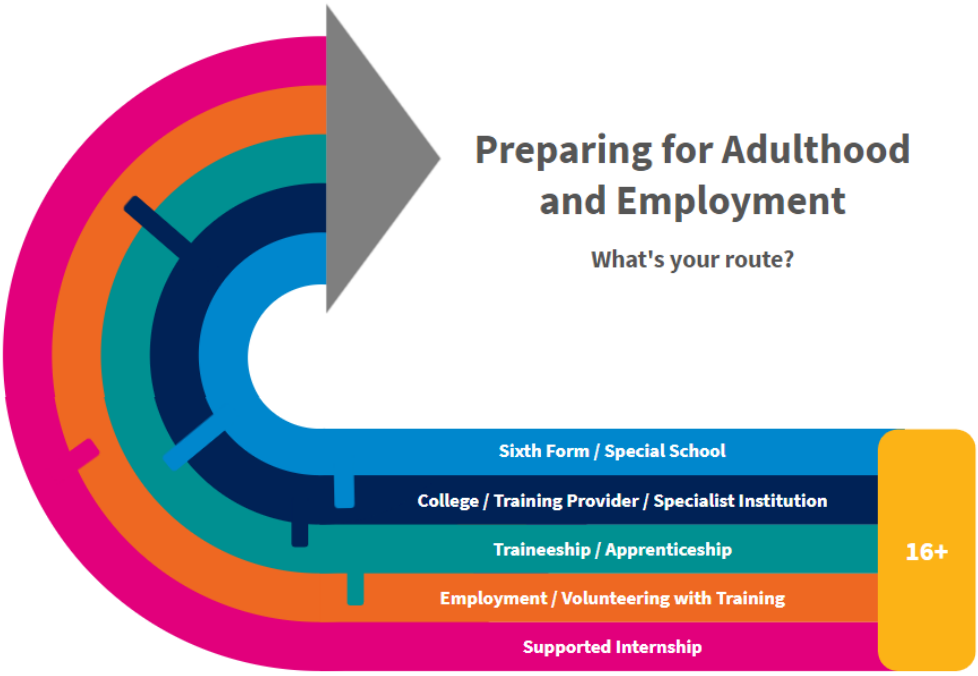
CORNWALL COUNCIL
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Together for Families

Post-16 Education Route Planner

For learners with
Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans



What's preparing for adulthood?

Young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) are supported to think about what they want to do long-term from the earliest age possible. Working with families and professionals, Cornwall Council encourages young people to think about the following:

- employment (and the right education to get there)
- somewhere to live
- having friends and being part of their community
- being happy, healthy, safe and confident about their future.

What's your route?

There is a lot more choice for education after year 11. This is called post-16 education.

All young people have to be involved in post-16 education up to the end of the year in which they turn 18 years old.

This education could include:

- education at a college, school or with a training provider (this is known as a study programme)
- an apprenticeship, traineeship or supported internship
- employment or volunteering, if combined with part-time education or training.

The information in this booklet is just one of the things that can help young people and their families to choose which post-16 education option is best.

Support to develop ideas could come from many people including family members, school staff, school career leads, a CSW adviser and members of the Statutory SEN Service.

Young people aged 16 to 18 who are not in education, training or employment are offered support to take up post-16 education by CSW Group advisers.

What's a study programme?

Post-16 education is known as a study programme. This usually includes

- an academic or vocational qualification (such as an A Level or an NVQ) and,
- continuing to improve English and Maths skills, working towards GCSE grade C / grade 4 and functional skills, where appropriate.

Across the whole county, a full time study programme is, on average, 16 hours per week. This works out at 540+ hours across the academic year; the equivalent of about three days per week.

Post-16 Supplementary Provision Opportunities

For some young people, because of their special needs, Cornwall Council will consider whether provision and support arranged across education, health and care across five days a week is appropriate.

Provision over five days may not involve having teaching all day every day.

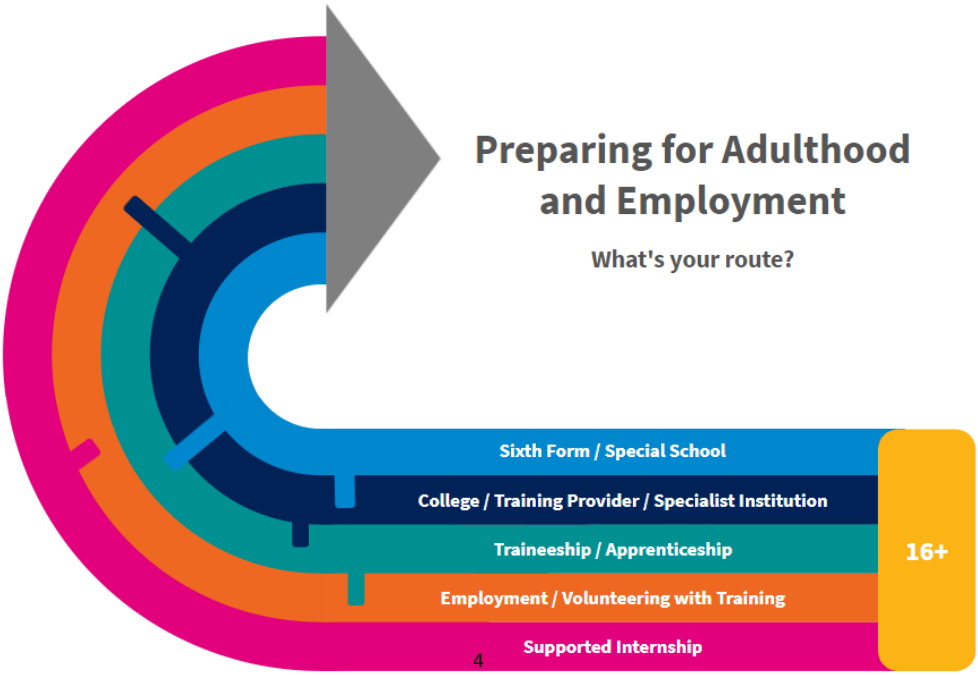
If you want to know more about this, please contact your Statutory SEN Caseworker.

What types of post-16 education are available?

There are different types of post-16 education options available, which can help young people move onto the next stage of their lives. It is possible to move between routes, for example, someone may start in a sixth form, then move on to a specialist training provider, before employment.

Think of the routes like a journey: one person may choose to travel by bus, another person may walk and another may drive. All can end up at the same destination, and all may choose to change how they travel at any point along their journey based on their need or preference.

No option is better than the other. It all depends on what is best for the individual.



Mainstream Sixth Form = Part of a mainstream school, offering a wide range of academic subjects (for example GCSE, and A Levels) as well as some vocational options (for example BTEC and NVQs). Many also offer a small learning environment with support.

Special School Sixth Form = Part of a special school, offering offer specialised provision for special educational needs, with qualifications to recognise progress.

Training Provider = A smaller group environment offering vocational subjects and often specialising in a small number of industries.

College = A college offering a wide range of vocational and academic subjects. Many also offer a small supported learning environment and specialist provision.

Traineeships, Apprenticeships and **Supported Internships =** These offer work based learning in a work environment. It is a practical way of learning in a real organisation while you work towards a relevant qualification.



Work-based Learning Options

Traineeships

Participating in a traineeship allows a young person to develop skills and gain qualifications (including English and Maths for those who need it) whilst benefitting from high quality work experience.

They can last from 6 weeks to 6 months and can be a stepping stone to an apprenticeship or employment.

The work experience placement is not paid, but the costs of travel and meals might be supported by the training provider or employer.

Traineeships are suitable for those working at around Level 1 (e.g. GCSE grades D-G or 3-1, NVQ) and who might benefit from additional support to prepare them for work.

Benefits:

- **Short term**—Improve English and Maths skills
- **Medium term**—Participate in work experience which can be added to a CV
- **Long term**—Progress to an apprenticeship or employment

Search and apply for traineeship vacancies at
www.gov.uk/find-traineeship

Supported Internships

Supported Internships are only for young people with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan to achieve sustainable, paid employment.

The personalised programme allows the young person to learn in the workplace whilst also having the chance to study for relevant qualifications, if suitable, at an appropriate level.

The internship normally lasts for a year and includes at least six months of unpaid work experience. Although similar to a traineeship or apprenticeship, this type of programme is tailored to those who would require a higher level of support, such as a job coach.

Benefits:

- **Short term**—Improve communication skills
- **Medium term**—Develop confidence and a wider social network
- **Long term**—Progress towards life goals and aspirations, such as getting a job

The Access to Work fund can be used to provide additional support/equipment, including a job coach and/or the extra costs of transport if it is not possible to use public transport.

The Cornwall Ambitions team can assist you, www.ambitionscornwall.co.uk, or www.gov.uk/access-to-work

Apprenticeships

As an apprentice a young person can earn a salary whilst studying for a nationally recognised qualification and getting 'on the job' training. It's a way to gain experience, strengthen their CV and build their career. There is a wide range of apprenticeships available to suit every skill and passion and the training provider will offer support for additional needs.

It's a different way of learning compared to college or university, and young people have the opportunity to get a qualification that will be valued by potential employers.

Apprenticeships don't always require the apprentice to attend a college. Some allow all of the learning to take place in the work place. It is important to choose an apprenticeship that is not only the desired job but also offers the preferred way of learning.

Benefits:

- **Short term**—Earn a wage while learning
- **Medium term**—Gain recognised qualifications and train for a future career
- **Long term**—On average apprentices earn over £100,000 more than unqualified employees over the course of their career

Search and apply for apprenticeship vacancies at:
www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

The Access to Work fund can be used to provide additional support/equipment, including a job coach and/or the extra costs of transport if it is not possible to use public transport.

The Cornwall Ambitions team can assist you,
www.ambitionscornwall.co.uk, or www.gov.uk/access-to-work

Employment or Volunteering

Although young people must be doing some form of recognised accredited education or training until the end of the school year they have their 18th birthday, this does not mean they have to attend college or school. For those that would rather work (whether paid or voluntary) this is still an option, as long as it involves at least 20 hours of work per week PLUS working towards a nationally-recognised qualification.

Benefits:

- **Short term**—Gain valuable work experience
- **Medium term**—Work towards nationally-recognised qualifications
- **Long term**—Develop communication and interaction skills ready in preparation for employment

You can become self-employed and still count as participating, as long as you are doing part-time accredited education or training as well.

Interested in volunteering or employment? Visit www.ambitionscornwall.co.uk or volunteercornwall.org.uk

Vocational

Vocational qualifications, which can be gained by attending Sixth Form, college or a training provider, provide practical learning opportunities, including work experience, and are available at a range of levels to help learners develop their skills.

They enable young people to develop industry skills which can be applied to real life situations to prepare for employment. They also support the development of independence and life skills.

Some courses may require learners to take exams as well as produce evidence of their new skills and knowledge throughout the year.

Benefits:

- **Short term**—Experience a range of jobs or learn skills related to a preferred job
- **Medium term**—Gain qualifications relevant to a specific industry or job
- **Long term**—Learn practical skills related to real life work

A range of providers across Cornwall offer provision for young people with special educational needs and disabilities. They can offer a safe, supportive learning environment with SEND-trained staff.

Most are able to offer suitable levels of wrap around support for those with complex health and physical needs.

Academic

Whether a young person chooses to go to a school sixth form or a college, A Levels provide qualifications that are recognised by employers and universities. They also support the development of independence and life skills.

Assessments usually include exams and the learning style provides good foundations for progression to higher education.

Benefits:

- **Short term**—Develop independence and communication skills
- **Medium term**—The option to gain an in-depth knowledge of a range of subjects
- **Long term**—Get qualifications that support progress to continue in education and access higher education



Specialist Providers

There are a number of Specialist Providers that offer post-16 provision. They have a range of academic and vocational courses as well as a focus on living skills, personal development and employability. Placements at post-16 Specialist Providers are limited and are decided on a case by case basis.

Many of these post-16 providers will have a specialism and are equipped to support certain levels and types of need. This can include severe and complex needs, physical disabilities, Autistic Spectrum Disorder and challenging behaviours.

Benefits:

- **Short term**—Access to a high level of support within a structured environment
- **Medium term**—Successful transition to a mainstream environment, with support, for many
- **Long term**—Develop independence skills and progress into employment and/or a form of supported living

What support is available?

Adult Social Care Services

Young people who are known to the Disabled Children and Therapy Service will be referred to Adult Social Care around the age of 16. An adult social care worker will shadow relevant meetings and share information about adult social care with the young person and their family.

At an appropriate time the Adult Social Care worker will complete the Needs Assessment. This will determine eligible social care needs. The assessment focuses on what the young person can do, which will lead to as much independence as possible and help them to connect with their local community.

The aim is to complete an assessment of eligible social care needs by 17 years and agree the Support Plan the young person can expect to receive when they reach 18 years. At this point the statutory responsibility transfers from Children's Services to Adult Social Care.

Any young person with a disability (or their parents or carers) can request an assessment of their adult social care needs, regardless of whether they are already known to children's services.

Cornwall SEND Local Offer

Information about all the services available in Cornwall for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) aged 0 to 25 and those outside of the county that Cornwall Council is also responsible for can be found on the Cornwall SEND Local Offer— **www.supportincornwall.org.uk/localoffer** (search for Preparing for Adulthood)

Things you need to know

- Full time students will be supported to continue developing their literacy and numeracy skills. They may be enrolled on to a functional skills qualification at an appropriate level or, if applicable, a GCSE qualification.
- Young people with an EHC Plan will continue to have an annual review which will monitor progress towards their agreed outcomes.
- A Levels are not the only route to university. Vocational qualifications and apprenticeships also offer routes to higher education.
- It is possible to claim child benefit for a young person after their 16th birthday if they continue in full-time approved education or training. This includes traineeships but not apprenticeships. The Child Benefit Office must be informed otherwise payments will stop on 31st August. For full details go to **www.gov.uk/child- benefit-16-19**.
- Transport arrangements are different after Year 11. Visit **www.cornwall.gov.uk/schooltransport**
- Parents/guardians will not be prosecuted if their young person does not participate in approved education or training after Year 11.
- EHC Plans cannot continue for young people who move on to Higher Education. A higher education student living in England can apply for a Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA). The support received depends on individual needs and not income. Visit **www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas** for information on eligibility and how to apply.

- After the year in which they are 18 (academic year 2013) it is an individual's choice about whether to continue in education.
- Some young people may be electively home educated in Year 12 and Year 13.
- If you have any questions about EHC Plans and placements, please contact the Statutory SEN Service via email at **statutorysen@cornwall.gov.uk** or phone 01872 324242 or through direct contact with your caseworker.

CSW advisers work with young people who have special educational needs and disabilities, as well as their parent and carers, across Cornwall, supporting them to move forward.

These advisers work with students offering impartial guidance and support on their options in terms of education, employment and training. Advisers attend Education Health and Care Plan meetings and liaise with schools, colleges and training providers to help support transitions.

They will also help you identify the support you will need as you move on to your next educational course, traineeship, or apprenticeship.

Telephone: 0800 97 55 111
Email: tolvaddon@cswgroup.co.uk

Useful links

Special Educational Needs or Disability:

supportincornwall.org.uk/localoffer

cornwall.gov.uk/schooltransport

preparingforadulthood.org.uk

gov.uk/access-to-work

Careers advice:

nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk

notgoingtouni.co.uk

careerpilot.co.uk

cswgroup.co.uk

Supported Internships, Traineeships & Apprenticeships:

preparingforadulthood.org.uk

gov.uk/find-traineeship

gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

cornwallapprenticeship.com

Volunteering & Employment:

do-it.org.uk

ambitionscornwall.co.uk

volunteercornwall.org.uk

If you would like this information in another format please contact:

Cornwall Council County Hall Treyew Road Truro TR1 3AY

Telephone: 0300 1234 100

Email: enquiries@cornwall.gov.uk

www.cornwall.gov.uk