

Preparation for Adulthood –  
Dorin Park Special School Coffee  
Morning  
25<sup>th</sup> September 2025–  
Laura Ellis



Early Help and  
Prevention Service



Cheshire West  
and Chester

# Agenda

- SEN Team (Preparation for Adulthood)
- Planning for Transitions
- Preparation for Adulthood – Year 9 upwards
- Supported Internships – Route to employment
- Successes
- Conclusion
- Health notes

# SEN PFA team

- Area based – Caseworkers work in Chester, Ellesmere Port and Northwich/Winsford.
- Team will attend Annual Reviews if they can
- Liaise with Health and Care professionals if provision required

# Manager - Paul Arista

- Experience – background
- Operational/Strategic Role
  - Manager of the SEN team from Year 7 upwards – focus on Preparation for Adulthood
  - Develop provision that meets learner's needs in our borough.
  - Champion PFA for young people with SEN

# Planning for Transitions

- The aim is to start preparation early – as early as Year 7
- Use your Annual Reviews to discuss options
- We have support from agencies within the Local Authority such as Young Peoples Service.
- Use the Local Offer and the information in there. [Home | Live Well Cheshire West \(cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk\)](https://cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

# Preparation for Adulthood

## Year 9 –

- Research local offer – Live Well
- Transition map – provides comprehensive options available
- Annual Reviews – led by the Russett and here you can discuss your YPs aspirations.
  - Employment, Education etc
- Visit Colleges and Training Providers and go to College websites.

# Preparation for Adulthood

## Year 10 –

- Continue to visit providers and use the Annual review to note options.
- Plans are maintained in Year 10 unless major changes are required
- Continue research and keep discussing with schools.

# Preparation for Adulthood

## Year 11 –

- If young people are moving to Further Education (FE), Annual Reviews should take place in the Autumn Term. The Russett will organise the reviews.
- Final Plans need to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March. Last year we had over 97% completed in time.
- That is not the end, young people may and can change their mind, and so changes can happen in the summer term.



# What is a Supported Internship?

An SI is a full-time 1-year study programme that includes tailored employability training alongside an extended unpaid work placement for young people 16-24 years with special educational needs (SEN) in receipt of an education, health and care plan (EHCP).



Tailored programme designed to meet the **young Person's requirements, needs and aspirations.**

Work experience with a range of employers - **learning on the Job opportunities.**

A real possibility of paid employment at the end of the Internship.

# What is a Supported Internship?

- The aim for the programme is to give each learner the best opportunity of securing paid employment at the end of the programme.
- Cheshire West and Chester Council's Skills & Employment team launched its new Supported Internship programme in October 2020.
- Other providers such as Cheshire College, Pettypool, Reaseheath, Warrington Vale Royal and Wirral Met also deliver this programme.

# Preparation for Adulthood

## Successes:

- Lots of Post 16 College Options
- Only LA provider directly delivering Supported Internships
- Positive links with the PCF
- The Post 16 Pathway – Transition Map on Livewell
- Strong College Network – sharing best practice across the LA area.

# Preparation for Adulthood

## Conclusion

- Regular information sessions and events are organised if schools request this – communicating and helping parents/carers
- The Post 16 Pathway – on live well site.
- Young People's Service support parents and young people - highlighted by Ofsted as good practice.

# Conclusions (cont'd)

- Transition as early as possible
- Use support agencies and school
- Supported Internship – more employment opportunities.
- Remember help is available

# Learning Disability Definition

- A **learning disability** is a “significantly reduced ability to understand complex information or learn new skills; a reduced ability to cope independently; and a condition which started before adulthood with a lasting effect on development” (Valuing People, 2001). A learning disability, is not to be confused with a learning difficulty such as dyslexia and dyspraxia, it is a label given to a group of conditions that are present before the age of 18. These conditions impacts on the way individuals develop in core areas, how they live their lives and access healthcare.
- **All 3 criteria** below are needed to meet the definition of a learning disability:
- **1.** Significantly reduced ability to understand new or complex information, to learn new skills (significantly impaired intelligence)
- **2. AND** a reduced ability to cope independently (impaired social/adaptive functioning)
- **3. AND** the above started before adulthood (before 18) with a lasting effect on development.
- [What is a learning disability? | Mencap](#)

# Role of the GP.

- The GP is often a constant figure as young people transition between services. Young people with SEND with a learning disability should be included on the GP register of learning disability, where appropriate. This means they are automatically called for an annual health check from the age of 14.

0-25 SEND code of practice: a guide for health professionals

- Please speak to your GP if you feel your young person should be on this register

# Annual Health Check for LD

- They must be:
  - aged 14 and over
  - on the practice learning disability health checks register
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- Learning disability annual health checks are different from the wider NHS health check scheme. The learning disabilities health checks are designed to pick up a wider range of unmet health needs whereas the latter is intended to help individuals reduce their risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease.
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- Learning disabilities health checks can help people with learning disabilities to use health services better by understanding what their local GP service can provide for them and learning how to use it.