

Post-16 provision on the Isle of Wight for young people with special educational needs (SEN)

For young people with SEN attending post-16 provision
&
For young people transferring to post-16 provision

SEN Service
Children's Services Department

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What you need to know...

Young people preparing to make their own decisions at 16 +

As you develop, and you increasingly form your own views, you should be involved more closely in decisions about your own future. After compulsory school age (the end of the academic year in which you turn 16) the right to make requests and decisions under the Children and Families Act 2014 applies to you directly, rather than your parents. Parents, or other family members, can continue to support you in making decisions, or act on your behalf, providing you are happy for them to do so. It is likely that your parents will remain closely involved.

Your right as a young person to make a decision is subject to your capacity to do so as set out in the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The underlying principle of the Act is to ensure that those who lack capacity are empowered to make as many decisions for themselves as possible and that any decision made or action taken on their behalf is done so in their best interests.

Further information on the Mental Capacity Act can be found at www.gov.uk/government/collections/mental-capacity-act-making-decisions.

Raising the Participation Age

Since the introduction of the Government's Raised Participation Age the arrangements about leaving education and training have changed! All young people must remain in education or training after Year 11 and until the academic year in which they turn 18. Recent legislation means that education is changing to increase the opportunities available Post 16. All young people are required to continue learning for longer. This could be by continuing at school, going to college, going into employment/an apprenticeship or volunteering (with part-time learning). Raising the Participation Age in education and training does not mean raising the school leaving age, nor does it mean that every young person needs to be in full time education.

Young people will be able to participate in:

- Full time education or training e.g. at college or 6th form.
- Work based learning e.g. an Apprenticeship.
- Part time accredited education or training if employed, self-employed or volunteering - minimum 20 hours per week.

It may suit some young people to learn on a part-time basis alongside employment and participation can take place in a range of places.

There is more choice available after the age of 16 because there are no longer compulsory subjects. Some Post 16 courses take a year to complete and others take two, so your child could be making further choices when they are 17.

More information can be found [here](#)

Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan

All young people, including those with an EHC Plan should apply directly to a college/sixth form etc. for the course they want to do. If you do have an EHC Plan, then the local authority will consult with that setting in liaison with the young person to decide which provider will be named in the plan. The local authority has a duty to name a setting by 31st March.

The local authority must agree the place at college. Once it has, the local authority and named college or training provider must put in place the provision detailed in the EHC plan and it must, at least once a year, make arrangements for its review. This provides an opportunity for the learners, parents/carers, the college or training provider and other professionals involved to consider the progress the learner has made over the previous 12 months and whether any changes or amendments need to be made.

Personal Budgets

In the majority of instances the appropriate funding body, eg Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), local authority (education or social care) or health service will arrange and fund the provision agreed within a young person's EHC plan. However, if a young person or their parent/carer wishes, they can request, a personal budget so they can be involved in securing the provision themselves.

Further information:

- Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years, Department for Education / Department of Health_ www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25

To enquire about Personal Budgets with regard to a specific young person, contact the SEN Service (contact details page 9 or click [here](#) for more information about Personal Budgets.

Education and/or training for young people with SEN 19 to 25 years

Young people aged 19 to 25 years with SEN, but without an EHC plan are funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). Colleges may charge fees for these learners (though fee remission may be available for some learners) but must use their best endeavours to secure the necessary special educational provision that they need.

College learners and apprentices with an EHC plan do not have to pay tuition fees, as these and the learner's support costs are funded by the ESFA, with contributions from the local authority and health. Please be aware that there is no entitlement to an EHC plan beyond 19 years but when considering whether an EHC plan should continue beyond 19 the local authority must take account of whether the education or training outcomes specified in the EHC plan have been achieved. When learners are supported by Adult Services, the local authority should ensure that they are involved in and made aware of the decision to cease the young person's EHC plan.

Study programmes

From year 12, instead of the national curriculum, schools and colleges are expected to offer study programmes that stretch and progress young people to enable the best possible outcomes in adult life. They should enable young people to progress to a higher level of study than their prior attainment, take rigorous substantial qualifications, study English and maths, and participate in meaningful work experience and non-qualification activity. Learners should not be repeating learning they have already

completed successfully. For learners not taking qualifications their study programmes should focus on high quality work experience and on non-qualification activity which prepares them well for employment, independent living, being healthy adults and participating in society. It is anticipated that most programmes will include accredited learning. For further information please visit www.gov.uk.

Full-time courses and five-day packages of support

A full time course, as defined by the ESFA, typically ranges between 540 and 600 guided learning hours per annum. This equates to approximately 16 hours per week and many college full time programmes are run over 3 or 4 days. It is recognised that for a small number of young people with an EHC plan, a five day package of support is required.

Five-day packages of provision and support can be offered outside educational settings and could involve amounts of time at different health and care providers for different activities.

Full-time education providers

Mainstream secondary school sixth forms and local authority maintained special schools with post-16 provision

Some young people with SEN, attending either a local mainstream or special school for their secondary education, will continue into the sixth form or post-16 provision of the school, if this is available. Other young people may join these schools for year 12, place dependent. Others may leave and attend a local further education or sixth form college.

- Details of special schools with post-16 provision can be found in the [here](#)
- Details of mainstream secondary schools with sixth forms can be found [here](#) or with their SEN information [here](#)

Further education, sixth form colleges and Work Based Learning Providers

The majority of young people with SEN leaving school after year 11, with either SEN Support or an EHC plan, will access local further education, sixth form college or a Work Based Learning Provider. Across the island they offer a wide variety of courses from pre-entry to at least level 4 (Higher Education); academic, vocational, work preparation and independent living; all support young people with SEN and many, offering personal care, medical and therapy support, are equipped to support learners with complex and multiple learning difficulties and disabilities.

Statutory duties: Further education and sixth form colleges have a statutory responsibility to meet the needs of young people with SEN. The governing body should ensure a named person has oversight of SEN provision to co-ordinate support similar to the role of the school SENCo. Colleges must use their best endeavours to secure the special educational provision a learner needs and to make reasonable adjustments to prevent them being placed at a substantial disadvantage. Colleges should offer an inclusive approach to learning and teaching, with high quality teaching, differentiated for individuals.

SEN Support: The majority of young people with SEN will have their needs met in local further education and sixth form colleges without the need for an EHC plan. This is known as SEN Support (previously known as School Action or School Action Plus).

Examples of the type of support young people can expect to receive under SEN Support is detailed in *SEN Support – guidance for early years providers, mainstream schools and colleges* available to view and download at: <http://documents.hants.gov.uk/education/sen-support.pdf>

To ensure young people receive the support they need, colleges should:

- gather information about the support received in school/required in college from schools, students and those working with them closely
- meet with young people to discuss their aspirations, the courses and support young people think will help them best
- agree written plans with young people that prepare them for work and independence and detail the support they will put in place
- ensure the agreed support is put in place and that it is provided by appropriately qualified staff
- regularly review the support to consider its effectiveness, taking into account progress and changing aspirations; agreeing changes required.

Annual reviews and progress - when a young person holds an EHC plan, there will be an annual review, and the young person should be an active part of this process. The annual review will consider the progress made against the EHC plan outcomes, as well as the support needed to achieve these. It is important that there is evidence of clear progression against these outcomes being made.

An EHC plan will cease if a young person aged 16+ leaves education to take up full-time employment.

EHC plans will also cease if a young person enters higher education. Moreover, an EHC plan may be ceased if the local authority has taken the view that their education and training outcomes specified in the EHC plan have been achieved.

Supporting transition: From year 9 colleges should work proactively with schools to enable young people to explore their aspirations; understand how different post-16 options can meet them; explore specific courses; firm up plans for their post-16 options and familiarise themselves with the expected new setting. From year 9 an EHC plan should have outcomes that reflect your Preparation for Adulthood, see [Preparing for Adulthood: EHC Planning - NDTi](#)

Travel to college: Although the government RPA policy requires young people of sixth form age to remain in education or employment with training there is no requirement for a local authority to provide transport. The authority must provide an annual transport policy statement, this can be viewed at

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/azservices/documents/1380-Post-16-Transport-statement-September-2016.pdf>

The majority of learners either walk to college, use college transport if available or public transport. Working with parents/carers, colleges should do everything possible to enable learners to travel to college alongside their peers. All post-16 settings administer the government's 16-19 Bursary Fund which can be accessed by families meeting low income criteria, this fund may be used to support travel costs.

Learners with an EHC plan may request travel support from IW Council but to qualify for this, learners must attend the closest college to their home, able to meet their needs. This entitlement will be discussed with families and learners at the time of writing the EHC plan. Our post 16 transport statement can be found [here](#).

Young people aged 19 years or over with an EHC plan may continue to receive travel support through Children's Services, others who meet Adult Services criteria, may also be able to receive transport support to college funded by Adult Services.

My local colleges: There is one General Further Education College and five secondary schools with sixth form provision on the island, in addition there is one Special School which also offers sixth form provision. All offer support for young people with SEN. Details of these colleges are available by clicking [here](#). Some young people might attend a further education college or sixth form in a neighbouring authority, eg Hampshire, Portsmouth or Southampton.

Further details and information can be found through the individual college website or the IW Local Offer website <https://www.iow.gov.uk/localoffer>

Independent special school sixth forms and independent specialist colleges

Placements at independent providers are generally by exception, eg if a sixth form or further education college is unable to meet a learner's complex education support needs. Any young person and/or parent considering an independent school or college is asked to speak to the SEN Service as a priority (contact details page 9). Formal consultation with a range of providers, eg further education, sixth form and independent, as agreed with the local authority, is essential as part of the local authority's consultation process, to enable the young person to make an informed request to the local authority and the local authority to fulfil its duties when naming the placement on the EHC plan.

Work based learning

Work based learning opportunities are offered by the IW Colleges and training providers across the island. These include:

Apprenticeships: These are paid jobs that incorporate training, leading to nationally recognised qualifications. Apprentices earn as they learn and gain practical skills in the workplace. Many lead to highly skilled careers. Young people with EHC plans can retain their plan when on an apprenticeship.

Traineeships: These are education and training programmes with work experience, focused on giving young people the skills and experience they need to help them compete for an apprenticeship or other jobs. Traineeships last up to one year and include core components of work preparation training, English and maths is also offered unless you have achieved GCSE Grade 4-9 and a high quality work experience placement. They are currently open to young people aged 16 to 24, including those with EHC plans. Young people with EHC plans can retain their plan when undertaking a traineeship.

Supported internships: These are structured study programmes for young people with an EHC plan, based primarily at an employer. Internships normally last for a year and include extended work placements. Wherever possible,

they support the young person to move into paid employment at the end of the programme. Learners complete a personalised study programme which includes the chance to study for relevant substantial qualifications, if suitable, and English and maths to an appropriate level. Young people with EHC plans will retain their plan when undertaking a supported internship.

Other programmes of support: For young people who find themselves out of education, training or employment, a range of short programmes of training and support may be available to help people re-engage. These can be found in our 14 Strategy

For further information on work based learning and details of training providers on the island, please click [here](#).

CHANGE

What help can Isle of Wight SENDIASS give?

SENDIASS provides free and confidential service offering impartial information, advice and support on issues relating to a child or young person's special educational needs or disability. We work with parents carers and with children and young people from 0-25 years on the Isle of Wight.

If you have a question about special educational needs and/or disability you can contact us for:

- a confidential telephone helpline
- a website where you can see information about our service and about educational issues/Facebook page.
- one to one support by telephone or email, or face to face if appropriate
- someone to listen to you and help you look at your options
- help to understand your rights around education
- help with discussions with your school/college, the local authority and other agencies so that your views are heard
- help to express your views in writing and at meetings
- someone to explain jargon and help you understand forms and documents
- support through the statutory assessment process towards an EHC plan
- information about other agencies and organisations who can support you
- support and advice on fixed term and permanent exclusion
- information about the independent mediation services offered by the local authority
- annual Special Needs Information Days.

Tel: 01983 825548 (a 24 hour answerphone is in operation when there is no one in the office and so please leave a message)

Email: sendiass@iow.gov.uk

Website: www.iowsendiass.co.uk/

Contact the SEN Service

Please contact the SEN Service team for your area.

SEN Team	Email	Telephone number
Isle of Wight	SEN.General@IOW.GOV.UK	01983 823470

Useful links

- IW Local Offer www.iow.gov.uk/localoffer
- Island Futures (Advice, education, training, working and local youth support) <https://www.iow.gov.uk/Residents/Schools-and-Learning/Isle-of-Wight-YouthTube/Island-futures/Island-Futures1>
- List of post 16 education providers on the Isle of Wight <https://www.iow.gov.uk/localoffer/View/Local-Offer-Growing-Up-16-25/Starting-post-16-Education>
- List of mainstream schools on the Isle of Wight with sixth forms <https://www.iow.gov.uk/localoffer/View/Local-Offer-Growing-Up-16-25/Starting-post-16-Education>
- List of special schools on the Isle of Wight with post-16 provision <https://www.iow.gov.uk/localoffer/View/Local-Offer-Growing-Up-16-25/Starting-post-16-Education>
- Checklist for visiting colleges – a guide for parents/carers (Add Link)
- Checklist for visiting colleges – a guide for young people (Add Link)
- [Post 14 SEND Strategy](#)
- [Post 16 Transport Statement](#)
- [Accessibility Strategy](#)
- [Transition Strategy](#)