

FAST Team

Information for parents/carers with pupils soon to leave Selworthy

Some young people will have been at Selworthy for many years and the thought of transitioning to a new place can be worrying for both students and their parent/carers, but with change comes new opportunities. With that in mind, the FAST team have put together some basic information about what to expect.

Transition

Moving from school to another setting is referred to as 'Transition'. There are a variety of options to choose from and what will suit one learner and their parent/carers will not necessarily be ideal for another. It is a very personal choice but one that hopefully as a school we can help you make.

Learners can stay at Selworthy until the end of year 14 (up until they are 19 years old), if it is appropriate. Young people must be in some form of education or training to age 18, but this could be at an alternative provision. All young people can legally move on to a college setting after year 11 when they are 16 or in their 16th year. However, please note that the details of a young person's Education, Health and Care Plan (needs/outcomes/provision) will need to be considered by any education provision as part of their admission process and an offer of a place is not guaranteed.

Some learners are ready to leave Selworthy before they turn 19 years old.

Below are some of the choices available to you and the options you might want to think about. This is not an exhaustive list but hopefully will give you a starting point for your decision making.

After Selworthy

Colleges

Local FE College – Bridgwater and Taunton College

They offer a range of programmes at all levels including specially tailored study programmes for those with special educational needs and disabilities. Courses are delivered from various sites across the Taunton and Bridgwater area, so it is important to check with the college to ascertain what is delivered at each site. College may only be 3 or possibly 4 days a week, depending on the study programme. To look at possible options for the other days you would need to contact your social worker.

Contact Information:

Website: www.btc.ac.uk

Telephone: 01278 441234

Residential Colleges

There are many residential colleges throughout the country. A directory which lists them all called Natspec is available from the LSC or via their website www.natspec.org.uk.

Funding for this option will not be automatic. The college you wish to attend, school and your case work officer will gather information, including from you and your son/daughter to present to the local authority panel at County Hall through the EHCP annual review process.

The nearest residential colleges are Luffton in Yeovil, Oakwood in Dawlish and Foxes Academy in Minehead which offers specific training in the Hotel and Catering Industry.

For information and support about the process of applying to a residential college contact the college itself, your SEND caseworker or Independent Support.

Not Choosing College?

Training

- Supported internships - these are a structured study programme based primarily at an employer although they are still considered full time education. They are aimed at young people aged 16-24 with an Education, Health and Care plan. Bridgwater and Taunton College currently offer the Supported Internship as well as Project Search, a supported employment programme for young people with an Education and Health Care Plan set up with Musgrove Hospital.
- Traineeships may be available locally - a traineeship is a course with work experience that gets someone ready for work or an apprenticeship. It can last up to 6 months (see www.gov.uk/find-traineeship).
- Apprenticeships are available in a wide range of vocational areas (see www.gov.uk/find-apprenticeship).

Employment – paid or voluntary may be an option for some of our learners.

You may also want to speak to your social worker about alternative community options, particularly for the days your son/daughter are not engaged in education, employment or training. These could include services such as My Days, Green Days or Meadowbank but there are others as well as the potential to establish a bespoke provision through Direct Payments (see below). **However, it is important that your social worker is the first point of contact as needs will be assessed, may not include paid provision and the picture of what is available locally is constantly changing.**

Residential Living

You may want to look at the possibilities for your young person to live independently now or in the future. There are a range of options from 'shared lives' to a residential setting and again the social care team will be able to assist you to investigate this.

Other Provision

Somerset Choices: This is a Local Authority Website listing local care and services to help you choose the right care, support and community options. It includes Somerset's "Local Offer". The Local Offer is a Local Authority's publication of all the provision "they expect to be available across education, health and social care for children and young people in their area who have SEN or are disabled, including those who do not have Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans." www.somersetchoices.org.uk.

Other useful information

EHCP

If your young person continues into further education then the EHCP Education and Health Care Plan will transfer with them. If they are moving into residential living or community options, then the EHCP will cease.

The EHCP will continue to be reviewed annually whilst in education and will continue to be reviewed annually prior to finishing at Selworthy with your teachers at school, yourselves and other relevant individuals such as social worker and respite settings, as appropriate. The Casework Officer from Education Department at County Hall will also be involved in this process.

Benefits Post-16

At 16 a young person with a disability can be assessed for benefits in their own right.

It is a complicated calculation whether you would be better off for your son or daughter to claim benefits themselves or you to continue with child benefit and Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit, if you receive it. In the FAST team we have produced a leaflet on this and will be happy to help you with those calculations.

Additionally, the Contact a Family Charity for Families with a Disability has a useful guide to Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and other benefits at 16.

www.cafamily.org.uk/media/741263/personal_independence_payment_and_other_benefits_at_16.pdf

Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit are being phased out and superseded by Universal Credit over a period of time. We have further information in the FAST team on claiming Universal Credit should you need this.

Being an Appointee

Some 16 year olds with a disability may not be able to manage their own finances. If you feel that this is the case with your young person then you can become their Appointee.

When a young person reaches 16 years old the DWP will contact you about this. If you are made an Appointee for your child's benefits, this means you are responsible for making any claims, giving any information required and telling the Department for Work and Pensions about any changes that may affect their benefits. Benefits will be paid to you on their behalf. The DWP who will arrange a home visit to verify that you can become an Appointee. This is usually straight forward and should not delay any funds.

PIP

In Somerset now all 16 year olds are being transferred from DLA Disability Living Allowance to Personal Independence Payment (PIP). One main difference to DLA is that you may be called to an interview. If you need any help completing the forms or understanding the process then the FAST team can help.

Transfer to Adult Social Care

Young people transfer to adult social care age 18 although you will usually have contact with an adult social worker as part of the transition process. As part of adult social care you may receive a direct payment package. Managing this can be quite complicated if you have never done this before. Support is provided by Social Care and this is also something that the FAST team can support you with.

If you have any questions, please contact the FAST Team at Selworthy Special School.