

# **SEND Parent / Carers Conference**

## **Connexions Post 16 Options**

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# Your feedback

## What can Connexions help with?

**Your comments covered 3 broad themes:**

### **Awareness of options**

- At 16 and beyond and how to find information on options.

### **Support** (workplace / university / college)

- What support is there especially relating to employment and higher education.

### **Transport**

- Policy currently under review.

# What do Connexions do?

Connexions is a universal service in North Tyneside for all young people aged 13–19 years, and for those who have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) up to 25, or until the EHCP ceases.

Connexions advisers provide independent and impartial careers information, advice and guidance to help young people and their parents / carers to make informed decisions about their future.

Advisers are 'linked' to mainstream and specialist schools across the borough.

# What do Connexions do?

As part of our universal offer to all young people typically we :

Attend parents evening / open evens in schools.

Work with schools to offer individual guidance to young people from year 9 as appropriate. This can take place around the time of option choice or annual reviews.

Deliver group based and assembly led sessions.

# Year 9 and beyond (EHCP)

## **Connexions advisers will:**

Attend annual reviews (wherever possible).

See young people around the time of the annual review to build a clear picture of plans and possible intentions.

Work together with young people, their families, SEND team and other services to provide support in planning for next steps.

# Providing Quality Careers Information, Advice and Guidance

## Post it Note Activity

Can you think back to a time in your younger years ...

- What was it that you wanted to do as a career? Are you doing that now?
- What were the challenges you faced / fears you had?
- What helped you at that time?
- What advice would you give to your younger self?

# Preparing for Adulthood

Preparing for Adulthood has four strands:

- Preparing for and finding Employment (Connexions work fits in this strand)
  - Good Health
  - Independent Living
  - Friends, Relationships and Community
- Further information about Preparing for Adulthood can be found in the Local Offer – North Tyneside Council and the Department for Education's [Preparing for Adulthood – NDTi](#)

# Post 16 options

The main options after Year 11:

- Sixth forms (mainstream and special settings).
- Further education colleges (mainstream and specialist).
- Work-based routes – vocational learning with training providers and employers (work-based study programmes, supported internships and apprenticeships).



# Higher Education/University

- 18+
- EHCP ceases at this point.
- Support is available, funded through the Disabled Students Allowance
- It can include equipment, study support, helpers and extra transport costs.
- Students indicate needs on the UCAS application form.
- They attend a needs assessment and are required to provide evidence of need – this could be a mental health problem, disability or long term illness.
- The Disabled Students Allowance is agreed based on the outcome of this assessment. It is not repayable.
- Each university will have contact details on-line for initial contact to discuss requirements and support that could be made available.
- Details can be found on:
- [www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa](https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa)
- [Disabled Students | Advice And Financial Support | UCAS](#)

# What is a Supported Internship?

- Work-based route – a programme usually runs over a school year and includes:
  - A meaningful work placement (70% of the time) matched to interest of the intern
  - Maths / English / employability skills support
  - Job coach tapered support for learners.
  - High progression rate into employment
  - With the right support young people with SEND can gain meaningful employment
  - Usually seen as a final step within education (EHCP will cease on completion of the Supported Internship)
- Local Supported Internship providers
  - Choices College; TyneMet College; DFN Project Search; NACRO (EHCP needed)
  - North Tyneside Council 'Explore Your Potential' (non EHCP route)

# Developments in Supported Internships in North Tyneside – Internships Work

- National project from National Development Team for Inclusion (NTDI) to increase SEND employment in each Local Authority area. In North Tyneside Council the project is within the Employment & Skills service.
- Positive developments locally to date:
  - Working more closely with the Parent / Carer Form to hear your voice
  - Video created of an intern – we'd like to develop this further with more young people, parents/carers, employers and job coaches
  - Attend the SEND Young People Forum – work to create a poster which can be displayed around schools and colleges
  - Graphic Facilitator event with SEND Young People to share visually what they wanted to say
  - Work with all providers offering a Supported Internship
  - Arranged and hosted training twice in North Tyneside to increase number of Job Coaches in our area

# Developments in Supported Internships in North Tyneside

## Explore Your Potential

- North Tyneside Council were successful in their bid to deliver a Non EHCP Supported Internship pilot. Learners needed to be between 16-25, have SEND needs, but not an EHCP.
- 7 young people are taking part from September 2024–July 2025.
- All elements are within the council.
  - Job coaches/pastoral, education, work placement

# Where can I find information about these options?

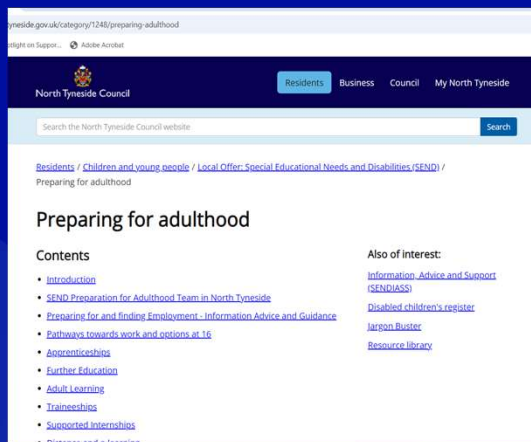
- Visit the Local Offer – lots of useful information about the Post 16 options.
- Talk to your child's Connexions Adviser.
- Speak with the school careers or transitions team.
- Attend the Future Focus event held annually at the Parks Leisure Centre

# North Tyneside Local Offer Post 16 SEND Directory

The Local Offer has lots of useful information, which includes the main Post 16 pathways for students with SEND.

A Post 16 Directory is on the Local Offer. This directory aims to outline the opportunities for further education, training and work-based learning for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) when they leave school.

# What does the Local Offer information look like?



## Preparing for and finding Employment - Information Advice and Guidance

[Connexions](#) is part of the North Tyneside Council's Employment and Skills Service, and provides impartial careers information, advice and guidance to young people from year 9 at school. Connexions work with young people who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), up to the age of 25.

Connexions Advisers work with young people in school to provide careers guidance and information on post 16 options, and pathways into the world of work. They also work with young people who have left school and need help to explore career ideas and options.

Connexions Advisers attend EHCP reviews from Year 9 onwards, and meet with young people, their families and professionals to support transition from school, college, or training.

Connexions Advisers help young people to develop their decision-making skills, vocational strengths and interests, and make sense of information about careers and future options.

## Post 16 SEND Directory



# Raising awareness of the Post 16 Directory on the Local Offer

The SEND Young People Forum are finalising a poster that can be displayed in schools / college / Post 16 providers to signpost to the Post 16 SEND Directory.

Your Connexions Adviser can help consider the suitable Post 16 options.



# Where can I find useful careers information?

## Useful websites for careers exploration:

<https://icould.com/>

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/careers>

<https://skillsnorthtyneside.org.uk/>

<https://www.ucas.com/careers-advice>

National Careers Service has lots of useful information on – worth looking at together

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

# What next when education ends?

Some young people will reach their potential in education before the age of 25. This will usually be discussed at their annual review and Connexions can offer advice and signpost to options beyond this.

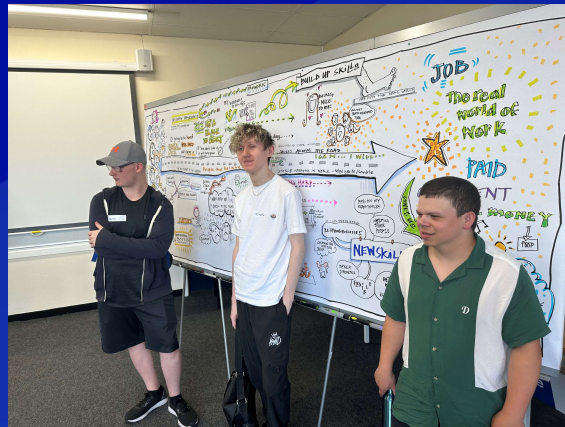
We recognise that this is significant crossroads for our families.

Options at this point are dependent upon a young person's abilities and preferences. They could include:

- Employment
- Voluntary work
- Adult Social Care funded activities

# Involving SEND Young People

## Graphic Facilitation Event



# SEND Young People – what did we want to capture?

- What Young People with SEND had said about what a good pathway to employment would look like and what support they might need to be successful.
- What messages they would like to give employers about giving opportunities to young people like themselves.
- What would have helped with planning for employment when young people were at school.
- To share their aspiration of what the future looks like.





**TRY EVERY OPPORTUNITY**

IT CAN TAKE TIME OR JUST DO IT - IT'S ABOUT YOU.

It's going to be hard  
**SOONER RATHER THAN LATER**  
**WORK HARD BUT ENJOY IT**

USE YOUR SUPER-SKILLS LIKE SPOTTING SPEEDING MISTAKES

NO SURE  
GET AN  
INTERNSHIP!!

**IT'S A PLACE TO START**

(If you don't like it it will help your choices)

TRY DIFFERENT THINGS

**VOLUNTEERING**

**PAIDWORK**

**BUILD UP SKILLS**

BEING NICE TO ME

COULD BE JUST FOR ONE DAY

THIS BUILDS UP OVER TIME

**WE LEARN NEW SKILLS ALONG THE ROAD**

IT'S OK TO START AT THE BOTTOM

**People that believe in you**

NERVOUS - NOT KNOWING WHAT YOU WANT TO DO

CHANGE HAPPENS IN WORK - HELPS YOU

Talk with family

**FRIENDS**

CONNECTIONS

**PEOPLE YOU KNOW**

PLACES YOU GO

BEING STUCK IN A SHELL

COVID

WHAT HELD US  
BACK TO THE REAL  
WORLD OF WORK

YOU CAN'T

**WORKING HARD**

**TAKING RISKS**

**RISKS**

NOT TAKING RISKS

**FEAR**

BEING ATTACKED

**Trust**

**RESPONSIBILITY**

CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**SUPPORT**

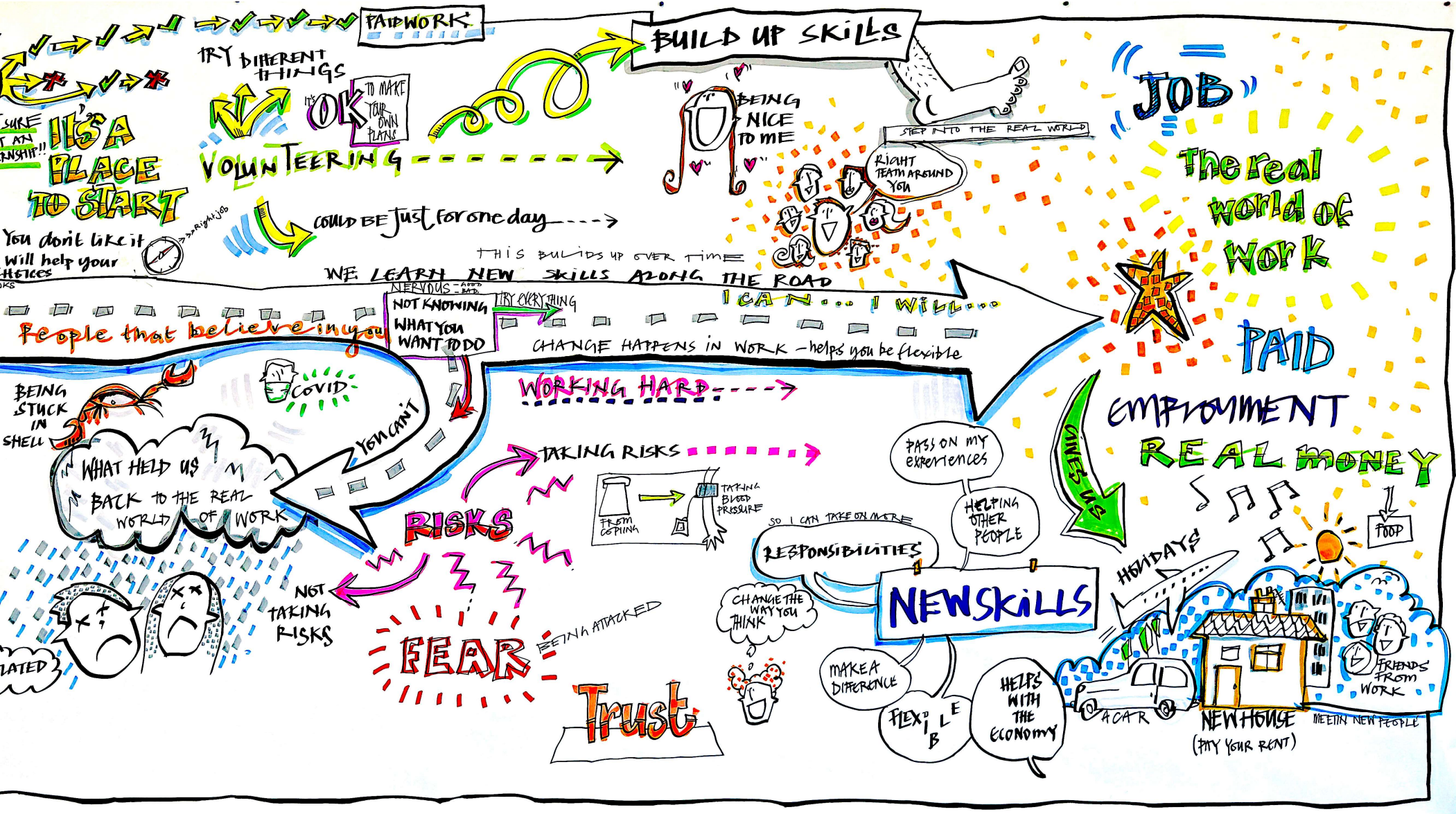
LIMITED

ISOLATED

CONFIDENT

**GOOD PLACEMENT BOOSTS confidence**





# Preparing for employment

## Post it Note Activity

How do we all work together to improve outcomes for those young people who are able to and who want to work?

# Internships Work – SEND Employment Forum

How do we work with employers in North Tyneside to help improve employment opportunities?

- A SEND Employment Form was set up in June 2023 and meets every 3 months. Employers have been encouraged to attend 'Calendar of Training' (monthly topic of training) as a way of increasing employability for SEND young people.
- We've worked with existing Supported Internship providers to identify the employers they already engage with and shared with all providers to reduce duplication and identify vocational areas where we would like to develop new opportunities.
- We've hosted an accredited training programme twice in North Tyneside so we have more trained job coaches for those on Supported Internship programmes.



# Preparing for employment

Consider the Supported Internships route – offers tapered job coach support.

Make use of job coaches and mentoring support:

- Disability Employment Advisers at DWP can advise about Access to Work and reasonable adjustments in the workplace.
- Working Well Hub employment advisers based at locations within North Tyneside
- Voluntary organisations such as Progress NE and Journey NE.

When supporting with job search look out for employers with the Disability Confident accreditation

# Preparing for employment – how can you help?

- Consider ways you can help your child be employment 'ready'
  - Independent travel
  - Able to follow instructions
  - Able to ask for help
  - Help them to understand that they may not enjoy all aspects of a job.
  - Be willing to try new things.

# Warren's story



North Tyneside  
Council



North  
Tyneside  
Council

# Thinking about the next steps

## **Some questions to talk about with your child:**

- What is important to your child now?
- What would a good pathway look like for the next initial step?
- What do they like doing at school and in their spare time as well as what they don't like doing!
- How do they prefer to learn?
- What potential qualifications are they hoping to achieve?
- Where they would like to continue their education and training and what might be available?
- Are there any long-term career ideas?

# Connexions contact details

0191 643 6965

[connexions.nt@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:connexions.nt@northtyneside.gov.uk)

<https://www.skillsnorthtyneside.org.uk/connexions/>

Follow us on X @ConnexionsNT1

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