

Section 3 – Making choices

Know what you want to do? But not sure where to find the information, check out...

“Everything you need to know about courses at school, college and work in your area and across London”

A guide for parents and carers to the first online course prospectus for 14 - 19 year old Londoners
www.yourlondon.gov.uk/choice

Other useful websites:

SKILL: the National Bureau for Students With Disabilities

This organisation provides an information service for students looking at further and higher education; including details of funding and allowances, training and careers.

Tel: 0800 328 5050 or www.skill.org.uk

Learndirect provides information on courses and careers Tel: 0800 100900 or www.learndirect.co.uk

Connexions

This service offers a range of support and guidance to young people aged 14 – 19 and up to 25 for young people with disabilities. They provide information and advice about careers, education and training opportunities. They can also give advice on personal and social needs and are able to direct young people and their parents/carers to sources of financial help (such as Educational Maintenance Allowances) that could be available. Advisors from this service

- Will meet with young people to ensure their views are taken into account.
- Will work with young people and families/carers about future options and help them to prepare for life after school.
- Must attend Year 9 transition reviews
- Will attend the final transition planning meeting
- Will write a “Moving Forward” plan for every young person with a statement or other significant special need who is moving onto another provider – usually in year eleven (but could be in years 12 or 13 if the student remains at the same establishment after year 11).

- Will review 'Moving Forward' plan with young person at post 16 education/training provider.
- The "Moving Forward" plan should consider educational, health and personal care needs. It should consider the level and type of support that will be necessary for the young person to access the chosen course including any special arrangements or equipment. The choice of course should not be restricted by support needs.
- The "Moving Forward" plan should also consider mobility issues and consider how the young person will travel to college or work.
- The advisor will check that the young person and parents/carers are happy for information to be passed on to the college or future training provider.
- Can attend college reviews for young people from 16 – 25
- All local schools have a link careers advisor who works closely with pupils,

For more information visit their office at Holgate Court, Western Road, RM1 3JS Tel: 01708 746401 or www.yourroutes.co.uk

Another useful website is www.havering14-19.org.uk

Other people who work in schools supporting young people with a range of disabilities and may be involved in the transition process

- **BSS (Behaviour Support Service)**

Some pupils with behavioural difficulties meet with staff from the BSS if the school subscribes to this service. The team can provide support for students, staff and parents/carers. Speaking with a member of the BSS can help a young person to work on behaviour strategies, anger management and working with others.

- **CCPS (Child and Community Psychology Service)**

Educational Psychologists (EPs) provide a range of services for young people, their families, schools and communities. They work with young people who experience academic, social, emotional or behavioural difficulties. The needs of the young person and strategies to meet these needs can be developed through consultations with school staff and parents and/or individual assessments of the young person. EPs also work closely with other professionals in the community to support more vulnerable pupils, such as those who are looked after. A particular focus for EPs are transitions

into, between and out of schools. When students with Statements enter Year 9 EPs will meet with the young person to assess their current needs. A report reflecting the assessment will be written and shared at the Transition Review to assist in planning for the pupil's future.

- **“Education Otherwise”**

The Education Otherwise Service is responsible for the Hospital Education Service, Home and Individual Tuition Service (including the service for pregnant schoolgirls), home education by parents and the Traveller Education Service. The service aims to provide education for pupils out of school. The Education Otherwise service works closely with the LSS team to monitor pupils who are known to both services and prepare pupils, parents and schools for the return of pupils after absences for medical reasons.

- **LSS (LSS Support Service)**

The LSS is a team of advisory teachers working with pre-schools, schools, SENCOs, teachers, non-teaching staff, parents/carers and pupils to promote learning opportunities and raise achievements for pupils with a range of difficulties including SEN. Advisory teachers work with young people with learning difficulties, physical, medical, speech and language difficulties, hearing or visual impairment throughout their schooling and attend transition review meetings where appropriate. They work closely with health colleagues to ensure that the health needs of the pupils are understood and the provision is used effectively. The secondary specialist teacher is involved with the development of the 14+ curriculum and access to the curriculum for students with a range of disabilities. The advisory teacher for students aged 16+ will work with mainstream and special schools, colleges, training and employment opportunities to develop options for young people with disabilities.

- **Parents in Partnership Service (PPS)**

This service offers guidance and support to anyone concerned about their child's progress at school, including parents/carers of children with special educational needs with or without a statement or anyone who needs help or advice regarding the statutory assessment process. The service offers a helpline to provide impartial advice and information and give practical support such as completing forms and writing letters. The Parents in Partnership Officer will accompany parents to meetings, supporting them to ensure their voice is heard and provide mediation for parents with schools/LEA or others. The PPS, LSS and an advisor from Careers Management Futures run an evening to explain the transition process for young people in Year 9 and may attend transition review meetings if appropriate.

- **Social Communications Service (SCS)**

This service aims to provide young people who have autism, Asperger Syndrome or complex communication difficulties with the best possible opportunity to develop their educational and social skills, using a wide variety of approaches, thus preparing them for life. The advisory teachers in this team provide support and advice to teachers and support assistants working with identified young people. They provide strategies to promote communication and social skills in a range of settings.

- **Health Services**

Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapists support pupils and parents/carers on transition placements and any necessary adaptations to enable access to the site and curriculum. They may attend transition reviews and “moving on” planning meetings.

- **Social Care**

Some pupils may have an allocated social worker. Children with medical conditions, which require social services support and/or respite care, may have a social worker allocated from the “Children with Disabilities” team. Their social worker should be invited to review meetings and can support work with young people and their families on transition.