

# Preparing for Adulthood

Young people with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) are legally entitled to be supported in education or training up to the age of 25. This support can take a number of different forms. The SEN system places particular emphasis on supporting young people to get ready for their future.

Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) is the term used to describe the support on offer to young people with SEND as they transition into adulthood. All children need some guidance to prepare for their future. Moving into adulthood can be more challenging for young people with SEND. They could struggle with not knowing their options, thinking they can't achieve much, and having trouble expressing their thoughts. They might need more help when moving from school to college or from studying to adult life.

PfA support usually focuses on four pathways, helping young people to achieve the best outcome in:

- Employment (and Education)
- Independent Living
- Community Inclusion
- Health

All children and young people have the right to have their views taken into consideration about decisions that affect them. It is assumed that a young person has this right unless they lack the mental capacity to make a specific decision.

If the young person has an Education Health and Care (EHC) Plan, a transition plan will be developed at the Annual Review in Year 9 and will continue to be reviewed each year from then.

## Useful links

West Northants Council (WNC) has further information about [Preparing for Adulthood](#).

WNC has also co-produced a handbook for parents to provide valuable guidance and support for a young person preparing for adulthood. It offers practical ideas and advice to help navigate this important transition. This is broken down into the four pathways:

- [Employment \(and Education\)](#)
- [Independent Living](#)
- [Community Inclusion](#)

· [Health](#).

<p>✉ SENDIASS@westnorthants.gov.uk</p> <p>📘 SENDIASS West Northants</p> <p>📷 sendiasswestnorthants</p> <p>🌐 www.iassnorthants.co.uk</p> <p>☎ 0300 126 1039</p>	<p><b>SEND</b> <b>IASS</b> <b>West Northants</b></p>	<p>Information Advice Support Service</p>
--	--	---