

Phase 2 Green Paper Project: Support and aspiration

Developing effective post 16 transition and an offer for Southampton



What is being developed and by whom?

City College Southampton, City Limits Employment (supported employment), Itchen College and Richard Taunton College are collaborating to improve post 16 transition for young people with SEND. This includes developing a coherent local post 16 offer that is **particularly innovative** in involving **supported employment services** delivered by City Limits (funded by Southampton City Council) as well as provision offered by the local colleges.

These partners have also developed a close working relationship with the Portswood Teaching School Alliance (TSA) with the specific purpose of improving transition for 'non stated' students from Alternative Learning Provision to post 16 options.

Why is it being developed?

Partners identified that young people and parents tend to have only 'feeder school limited' or single college information about provision, rather than a picture of all the potential choices available. Even where an appropriate course is chosen, if it's on offer at more than one institution it's important to make the right choice, for example, to experience a new environment, learn about travel etc. – *'for each student – the right course in the right environment'*. If the information and support isn't available to explore this, the choice can't be made.

In addition, information about the vital role of supported employment (including work experience) in pathways to adulthood is not widely or consistently known about across delivery organisations, young people and their families. Employers working with colleges may not be aware of the help that supported employment can provide and college staff (along with young people and parents/carers) may not realise the essential role that these services play. The solution was to work together to develop a local offer that could provide coordinated information and support, thereby improving transition from school to college and college to work, or school to work.

Portswood Teaching School Alliance (TSA) highlighted the challenge for young people in alternative learning provision who experience a range of emotional, behavioural and learning issues but who do not have a statement of special educational needs and/or may not want to engage with mental health services. Transition options and routes are poor for these students and many are at risk of becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). The TSA was keen to work with the post 16 cluster to identify how they could jointly improve transition and options for this group of vulnerable young people.

How has it been developed?

Establishing a **robust partnership of trust** is at the heart of the local offer. Whilst partners had some experience of working together, this had not been consistent or well developed. The success of the developing work rests on each partner being actively involved in the tasks to develop the offer and a commitment to share information and develop joint promotion. As the partnership developed, Richard Taunton College was invited to join the cluster and is now an active member of the group.

Importantly, the development benefits from **high level buy in** from the college Principals and the Manager of City Limits, as well as a direct link with the 16-25 Task & Finish Group of Southampton City Council's SEND Pathfinder. The link with the Pathfinder enables information to be fed in at this strategic level, maximising the potential to

contribute to key strands including ensuring the place of employment in Education, Health & Care Plans, as well as the local offer.

Joint information and marketing materials have now been produced. Events for young people, parents/carers and employers are taking place, as well as new collaborative delivery, including City Limits providing work preparation sessions in the colleges. Joint marketing materials are available across all partner sites as well as being distributed more widely.

Individual students from each of the partner organisations are considered at joint 'case conferences' that include Portswood TSA. At these regular meetings, transition and support options are explored, improving choice and opportunity for these students who will continue to be tracked to assess how transition is improving and how this is contributing to more effective and sustainable destinations in further learning and employment.

How is it being taken forward?

The partners are committed to continuing the work developed through the project:

- to continue to improve transition, pathways into education, training and employment and the overall 'offer' for young people with SEND.
- to maximise the impact and synergy of cluster and Southampton SEND Pathfinder development by taking all opportunities to work collaboratively.

To realise these longer term intentions, partners (City Limits Employment, City College Southampton, Itchen College, Richard Taunton College and Portswood TSA) have identified key legacy actions that include:

- continuing to convene regular cluster and case conferencing meetings, involving SEND Pathfinder or other health and social care partners when appropriate
- working closely with the SEND Pathfinder to enrich the work on the local offer and on key documents including the Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP), Support Plan for those not 'eligible' for the EHCP and a common response format for these plans
- continuing to produce and update joint post 16 marketing and information, and deliver joint events
- extend this work to include other post 16 specialist provision that is currently in planning/development, including that for students with profound and complex needs
- working with the SEND Pathfinder to create better links between the pre and post 16 local offers
- exploring the development of 'cross border' offers and transition between Southampton and Hampshire schools, colleges and other services

What's the intended impact and how will it be assessed?

- **For young people:** clearer and more effective pathways into working life and adulthood. It is expected that a greater number of young people will make a successful transition into post 16 training and into employment.
- **For employers:** a high quality supported employment process that matches the right employee with the right employer and contributes to business success
- **For parents:** confidence in pathways that can help their child move into work and become independent
- **For partners:** improved curriculum, co-delivery, better use of resources
- **At strategic level:** contribution to strategic planning, improved co-ordination, reduction in duplication

Impact will be assessed through a variety of means including student progress and destination tracking and analysis (further education, employment, volunteering etc.), employer feedback, parent/carer feedback, partnership development plans, SEND Pathfinder feedback and involvement.

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