

# The Guernsey Map to Adulthood

## Created by the Guernsey Cluster



Le Murier Secondary School



EDUCATION

A STATES OF GUERNSEY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT

### Summary

These resources have been produced to support students with learning difficulties and disabilities in Guernsey, in the transition from school to their next steps on the path to adulthood. We set out to illustrate what options students had and the support that was available to them on their journey. The resources include the Guernsey Map to Adulthood (it will be printed double sided A3 and folded to make a booklet); An Easy Read Transition Questionnaires for students; Transition Questionnaire for parents; The Questionnaire analysis and Moorier's transition workbook ( the title helps to explore the use of French names and language).

### Introduction

#### About the organisations involved

The organisations involved in the cluster all provide a service for children and young people who live in the Bailiwick of Guernsey, total population 65,345 with approximately 17,500 young people between the ages of 0 to 24 years.

Le Murier Secondary School provides education for children from Year 7 to Year 11, the only purpose built school for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities on the island. The aim of the school is to enable students to be active, productive members of the community and to be fully included in society. They do this by creating an environment of challenging opportunities where everyone has an equal value and where positive attitudes and essential knowledge and skills enable students to make choices about their lives.

Guernsey College of Further Education provides Post 16 education for young people leaving school. Students with learning difficulties and disabilities start on the Access Course; this provides a ladder of opportunity for those wishing to continue in education up to the age of 19 Years. The course offered further develops and improves on existing skills with the opportunity to gain a nationally recognised qualifications leading to progress on to other college courses, training or employment.

Interwork Services is a free recruitment specialist, supporting local businesses to diversify their workforce, the only one of its kind on the island. Providing ongoing support, advice and training Interwork Services provide adults with support to enable them to gain and maintain employment.

States of Guernsey - Education Department representative, Julie Spratt, is the islands SEN and Inclusion Officer. Her job role is to facilitate student inclusion through liaison with schools,

colleges and other agencies and to support the availability of appropriate provision to enable teaching and learning to take place.

### **What we wanted to achieve**

The main aims were to pool expertise and collaborate to provide coordinated and coherent educational progression pathways that prepare young people with specific needs for adulthood. We also wanted to:

- Work with parents to overcome the barriers of low expectations
- Develop family learning workshops to raise expectations and support transition
- Map progression pathways from year 6

## **Implementation**

### **Planning our approach**

Guernsey College approached key organisations on the island and established dates to engage. One of the key challenges was that an activity of this kind has not happened before in Guernsey and discussions were held with the States Education Department, a request for involvement in the project resulted in Guernsey's SEN and Inclusion Officer actively participating in the project. Guernsey does not follow U.K. Legislation; it has its own Government, Laws and Funding system.

The first cluster meeting, held December 2012, was a chance for organisations to meet, share existing good practice and define what we all wanted the outcome to be for the project. Cluster contributors, Le Murier, College of Further Education, Interwork Services and Education Department, agreed outcomes and outputs and these were presented at South West Cluster Meeting January 2013.

### **What we did**

- Transition booklets were drafted and piloted by Le Murier with Year 6 pupils
- Easy read transition questionnaires were drafted and piloted with 21 young people in transition programmes at college and those transitioning out of College.
- Transition questionnaires were drafted and piloted with the parents of the young people attending Guernsey College.
- Guernsey College student questionnaire and the parent questionnaire collated and analysed. The comparable data shows interesting results with students indicating the most important thing for their future is Employment whilst parents' priority for their child's future was Friendship and Socialising.
- Guernsey College secured further involvement of a sample group of parents, parents of college students, who agreed to participate in two additional questionnaires.
- Further on in the project the easy read and parent questionnaires were piloted with 13 Year 11 students and their parents.
- Guernsey Careers Service facilitated a transition pathways workshop with students at Guernsey College, resulting in draft transition pathways mapped.
- Education Department held a meeting with Primary and Secondary Headteachers to discuss transition programmes.
- Interwork Services supported students still attending college with vocational profiling
- Cluster members agreed a Learner Profile, produced by Le Murier, would be a beneficial document to provide information to those supporting learners from Year 6 to Supported Employment

## Outcomes and Impacts

- Le Murier introduced and delivered transition Workbook to Year 6 pupils. As a result pupils know more about the secondary school before they start; they know the staff and their fellow pupils and are generally more confident.
- Increased communication between organisations with regular meetings has impacted on members professional practice
- Le Murier redeveloped Year 11 student transition review sheet facilitating a smoother transition between school and college
- Guernsey College participated and supported in Yr 11 class at Le Murier enabling college SEN staff to meet and get to know students before they enter college.
- Joint Year 11 Le Murier staff and Guernsey College transition meeting and staff development session
- Guernsey College developed and piloted a Blog for Year 11 to post questions- this has resulted in questions from Year 11 students being shared and answers posted back.
- First ever Year 11 Transition Week held at Guernsey College 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> June enabling Year 11 students to become familiar with staff and the college environment before they start at the college in order to facilitate a smoother transition
- Data analysis of Transition Questionnaires has been undertaken to inform planning for Parent Workshops.
- Students on the Transition Programme at Guernsey College attended a transition pathways workshop facilitated by the careers Service. This encouraged them to focus on the choices available to them for the future.
- Interwork Services started Vocational Profiling with students whilst still attending Guernsey College. This enabled students work with an unfamiliar agency and unfamiliar staff within a familiar setting, facilitated by SEN staff.
- Supported Internships explored with further development needed.
- Curriculum focus changes – Guernsey College mapped curriculum to Preparation to Adulthood
- Guernsey Map to Adulthood produced to inform parents and young people of the agencies and pathways available to them in Guernsey. Student participation and contribution in the transitions workshop was key to the finished leaflet.

## What we achieved

- Progression pathway mapped from Year 6 through to the workplace
- Curriculum offer mapped to adulthood outcomes
- Family transition materials to inform trial of parent workshops
- Yr 6 students more informed about transition to Le Murier Secondary School
- Le Murier Yr 11 students more informed about transition College of Further Education

## What we learned

- The feedback from Year 11 students about one particular question in the section about Friends and Social Life illustrates their unique qualities and will ensure some amendment for future use.
- Working with parents is an essential part of supporting young people with learning difficulties and disabilities to achieve their full potential.
- Once you bring the right people together there is no limit to what can be achieved!!

## What we are taking forward

A presentation by the cluster group, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2013, to their line managers and a States Education representative, Head of Standards and Learning Effectiveness resulted in very positive feedback for the project and encouragement and support for further work to take place.

## To be continued.....

- Update and inform line managers regularly of transition plans and progress
- Embed identified transition pathways
- Invite and involve the SEN primary transition officer with the transitions group
- Involvement of College staff in Le Murier Year 10 residential for earlier transition process
- College to input into Le Murier Yr 11 teaching and learning / transition year
- Embed and improve transition workbooks into student transition process (Yr 6 – 7), (Yr 11 – College)
- Develop of College blog further and investigate use of VLE
- Information relating to learners needs to be available to College staff before learners start at college
- A date identified for a joint staff inset day between College and Le Murier. Interwork Services to be involved if relevant.
- Plan and develop a transition calendar indicating who does what and when to coordinate transition process
- Plan and prepare a pilot parent workshop using data collected to inform.
- Invite and involve more agencies in meetings and parental information evenings
- Analyse student feedback and produce data on Year 11 transition week and action any recommendations
- Develop and embed Le Murier Year 11 transition week at college
- Guernsey college to pilot volunteer staff to assist in the transition from college to the workplace
- Develop and pilot use of student profile, starting in year 6 through to Supported Employment
- Promote Guernsey Map To Adulthood leaflet
- Evaluate the response to the Guernsey Map To Adulthood leaflet
- Have regular timetabled transition operations meetings (TOM's)

## How we are sharing it

- Meetings with on island agencies to promote Guernsey Map To Adulthood leaflet.
- Invite and involve more agencies and businesses in meetings and parent information evenings.
- Increasing parental involvement in all aspects of their young person's education, training and employment.

## What advice we would give to others

Significant changes can be made when you work with other professionals who deliver good practice and want to raise standards to achieve the same aim. Set your next goal just above your last achievement and you will steadily raise aspirations.

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**Provider names:** Guernsey College of Further education  
Le Murier Secondary School  
Interwork Services  
Staes of Guernsey Education Department

**Sector coverage:** These resources will be of interest to anyone working with students with learning difficulties and disabilities and their parents. The results of the questionnaires are a revelation and will prove to be an invaluable tool for the future.