



## **ADVICE, GUIDANCE AND TASTER SESSIONS – Background Information**

Once learners have reached the advice and guidance stage of their application, they are invited to attend a 3 week programme that involves the following:

**Week One:** A tour of the college so that learners can familiarise themselves with the size and layout of the building as well as acclimatise to the noise and volume of people. Learners get the opportunity to see the classrooms and workshops they will be using as well as other areas that form part of college life via enrichment e.g. sports facilities. Initial diagnostic assessments are also conducted using either computers or paper copies depending upon the learner's preferences. Observational assessments and continuous formative assessment forms the greater part of our information gathering for Entry Level One and Two learners. These results marry to the other information that has been collated by the Advice and Guidance team from schools, Connexions Advisers, Social Workers or other agencies during the initial referral procedure outlined in the flowchart diagram.

**Week 2 and 3:** Learners are given the opportunity to experience joining classes that are at an appropriate level. Entry Level 3 learners are given a choice of 3 vocational pathways including Care, Art & Design and Land based/Horticulture studies. Attendance is for one half day but sometimes more if learners are able to stay longer.

Once learners have been offered a place, they are invited to our 'Keep Warm' days when they experience a day of activities that represent the kinds of curriculum they will access once they are enrolled. It also provides an opportunity to meet other learners both new and returning. During this time staff will gather further information on the learners by observing them engage and interact with the activities and with other learners including social skills, dexterity, fine and gross motor skills, language, communication, confidence, behaviour etc. Sessions are designed to give learners a chance to be involved in:

- Outdoor competitive games or activities that require navigation, team work or problem solving
- Activities assessing logic and sequence
- Problem solving associated with use of number and reading/following instructions
- Navigating the building
- Social skills involving working with other learners

The formal induction which takes place over two and a half days also enables us to extend the initial assessment process further via the use of a variety of induction activities designed to help us collect this important information and help learners to settle into their new course.

The whole process is conducted over the course of the year so that the transition year from school to college is an easier, better planned, reduces anxiety and removes the fear of the unknown for both learner and parents/carers.