

Post-16 Education & Training: Your Options

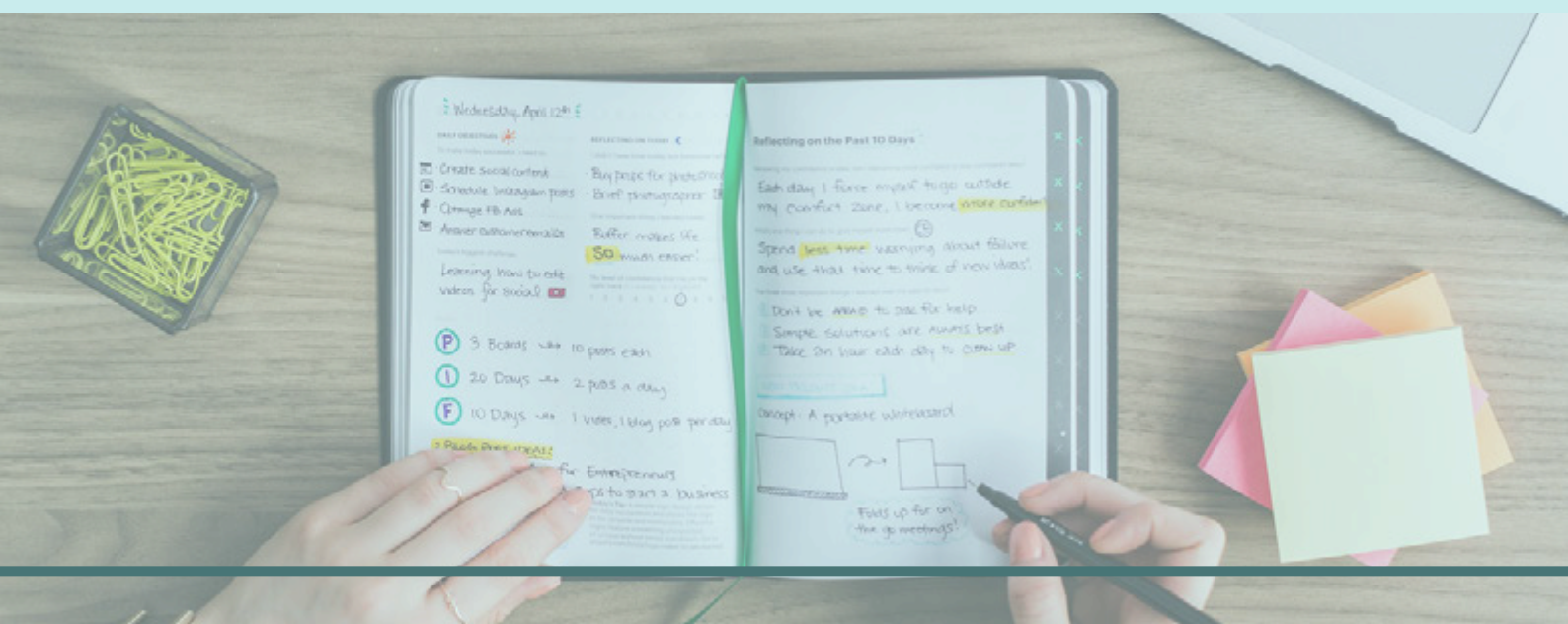
A guide for students with Special
Educational Needs and/or Disabilities



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

What does this booklet tell me?

You are required to stay in some form of education, employment, or training until you are 18 years old. This booklet will give you an idea of the options available to you upon leaving school. It provides you information about the different education and training options that are out there, and where you might want to study. It has information on the different qualifications and levels available, plus information about local schools, colleges, and education/training providers. You will learn about further education, specialist provision, work-based learning and supported employment.



Who is this booklet for?

This booklet is designed for students with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). It's especially useful for students in years 9, 10, and 11 who are planning what to do once they leave school.

Share this booklet with family, friends, and teachers who might help you figure out what you want to do next.



Preparing for Adulthood

From Year 9 on review meetings at school will include a focus on “Preparation for Adulthood”. This is important because it gives you the chance to talk about what you want for your future. You will talk about the ways in which your education, health care, and social care options can help prepare you for adult life. Usually this focuses on four main areas which are listed below, along with some questions to get you thinking about your options. Some people will know the answers to these questions, but others might not. You may also be worried about changing your mind. Remember, these reviews will help you explore your options and figure out what it is that you want. It's okay if you're not sure yet!



Education and Employment - what do you want to do once you leave school? Do you have a career in mind?



Independent Living - where do you want to live? Who do you want to live with?



Social Life and Community - how do you like to socialise? Are there any groups you would like to join?

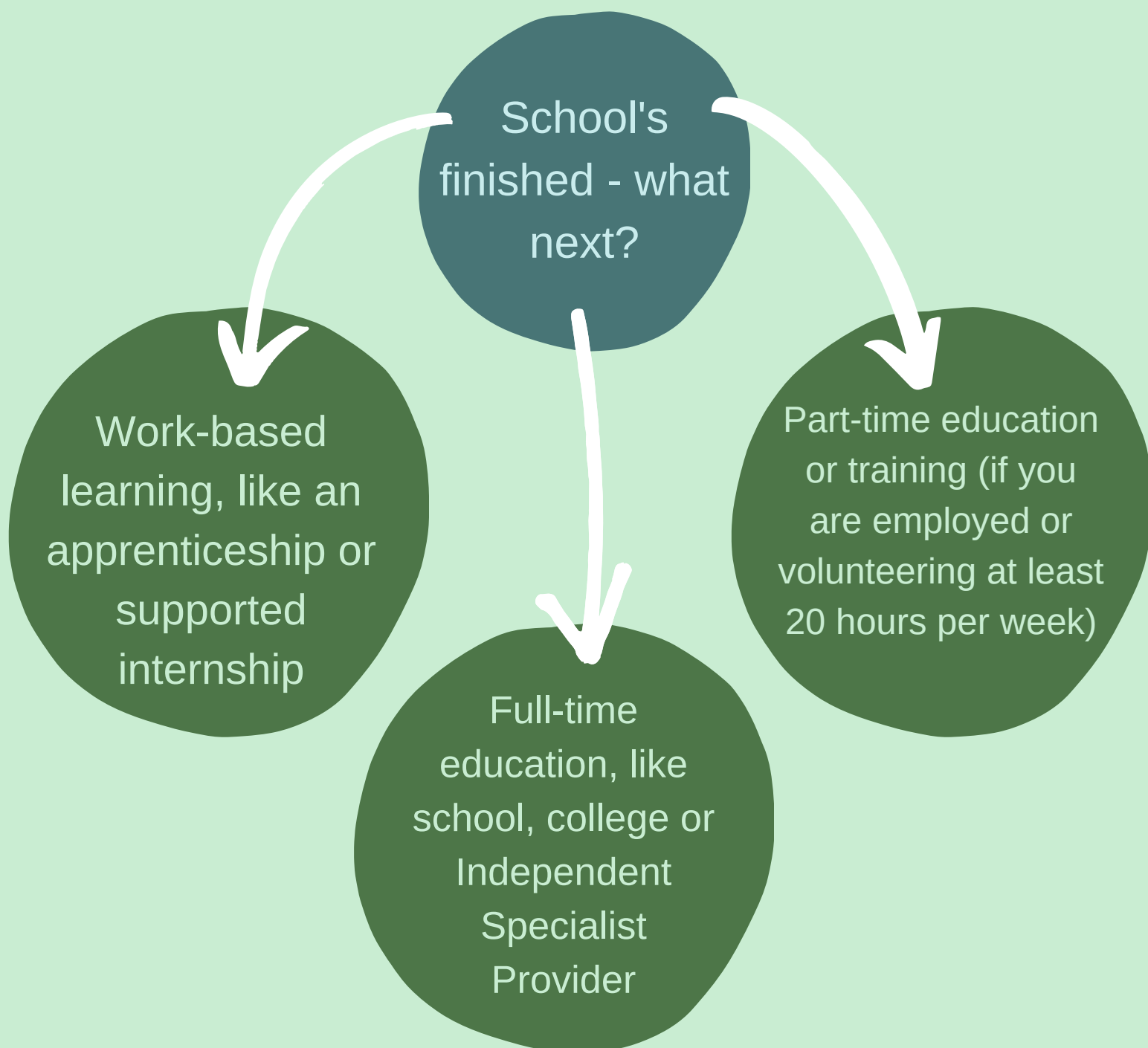


Health - how do you keep healthy? Are you able to manage your own health and any conditions you may have?



Your Choices Post-16

Whilst you are going through your review meetings and starting to consider what you might like to do once you leave school, it's a good idea to know what your choices are.



Types of Courses

Courses tend to come in 3 different types:

- Academic
- Vocational and/or Technical
- Work-based

Sometimes people will do a combination of all 3 - it all depends on you and how you feel you learn best. It's a good idea to talk to your careers advisor, teacher, or family about what would suit you best. Over the next few pages, we will explain the differences between these types of courses.

Academic Courses

- these courses focus more on the study and theory of a subject
- they include GCSEs, A-Levels, and Degrees
- includes subjects like: History, Maths, Languages, Psychology
- are normally delivered by a school, college, or university.



Vocational/Technical Courses

- work related qualifications that help you gain the knowledge, practical skills, and experience to perform a specific job
- run from Entry Level up to Level 8
- common in fields like engineering, health and beauty, social care, and digital media
- normally delivered by a school, college, or Independent Specialist Providers

Work-based Courses

- programmes that take place in a work setting, these include supported internships and apprenticeships. These all help you develop your work skills and increase your experience
- these come in a range of levels, depending on the course itself
- supported internships are generally aimed at learners working at a level 2 or below
- apprenticeships are supported by training providers and employers, whereas supported internships are generally supported by a college and an employer
- unlike some of the other courses mentioned here, it's important to note that apprenticeships are different because they are **paid** jobs that you learn alongside

Employment or Volunteering

You need to stay in some form of education or training until you are 18 years old. However, you could also work or volunteer full time if you meet all of the criteria:

- you are working or volunteering for 20 hours per week and you undertake at least 280 hours of accredited education or training each year.
- you are also allowed to work or volunteer alongside full-time training/education (for example, if you had a Saturday job).



I feel overwhelmed - who can I talk to about these choices?

All of these options and choices can make you feel overwhelmed - but remember you can talk to your school's careers advisor, a teacher, or family.

If these aren't available, or you would prefer some specialist advice, you can speak to the Stockport Education and Careers Advice Service (ECAS).

This service provides independent and impartial careers information, advice and guidance for young people in schools and in the community. You can contact ECAS:

By telephone on 0161 474 2300

By email at educationandcareers@stockport.gov.uk

Or on their website:

www.stockport.gov.uk/careers-information-advice-and-guidance

You can also try the exercise on the next page to help you narrow down your choices and get an idea of what would be best for you.

How do I choose?

Think about the things you have enjoyed learning at school, or in a hobby or group you attend outside of school, and try to answer the questions below - this could help you to decide what steps you would like to take next. If you have a digital copy of this booklet, you could print this page out or use some scrap paper to write down your answers.

What am I interested in?

How do I learn best?

What job would I enjoy doing?

What courses/experience could help me with that?

What support do I need?

Where can I learn/train?

Further Education (FE) Colleges

This is a more adult environment where you'll need to take more responsibility for yourself and your learning; which will help to prepare you for work and life after education. There are usually a range of sport and leisure opportunities to get involved in alongside your studies – we recommend going to a college open days to see what is available.

Sixth Form Colleges

Sixth form colleges tend to be more informal than sixth forms. They're bigger with more study options. This will give you the opportunity to meet new people from who went to different secondary schools.

Independent Specialist Providers

Young people over 16 years old with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) might need specialist education over and above what is available in a mainstream college. Independent Specialist Providers (ISPs) provide a tailored learning environment and additional support to their students who attend for further education.

Training Providers

Training providers will offer a wide range of work-related training and qualifications (such as apprenticeships). They will work closely with employers who offer work-based training as part of their employment. These are usually based in colleges, but will differ for different professions.



Local Providers

On the following pages are the names of FE colleges, 6th form colleges, ISPs, and training providers based in Stockport and Greater Manchester. You can click on the provider's logo to visit their web page for more information on their courses and services.

FE and 6th Form Colleges - Stockport



Aquinas College



Castle Hill School



Cheadle Hulme
High School



Hazel Grove
High School



Heaton School



Stockport College

FE and 6th Form Colleges - Stockport (continued)



Cheadle College



Marple College

FE and 6th Form Colleges - Greater Manchester



Manchester College



Ashton Sixth
Form College



Tameside College



Xaverian College



Loreto College

Independent Specialist Providers



Pure College

Pure College is a specialist employability college for young people with an EHCP. The Ambition for Life Pathway is the first step on the journey into Employment; providing the foundations of knowledge and skills that will enable our students to actively engage in the world around them and provide an introduction to the world of work.



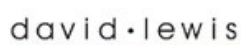
Seashell Trust

Seashell Trust is Stockport's primary Independent Specialist Provider for young people aged 19-25 with severe or profound learning difficulties and disabilities. Each student follows an individualised course based on student needs, preferences and skills, with a focus on key life and employability skills.



Bridge College

Bridge College is a specialist college in Manchester, for students aged 16-25 with special educational needs and disabilities, including complex needs, sensory needs and autism. The college offers individualised learning programmes to help students make successful transitions to adulthood through developing skills, independence and confidence.



The David Lewis Centre

The David Lewis Centre offers a specialist school and further education college, as well as residential, medical and therapeutic support. They support young people age 7-19 with special educational needs and disabilities, including Autism, sensory impairments, challenging behaviour and profound or complex needs.

Stockport Council Scheme

The Supported Apprenticeship Scheme

The Supported Apprenticeship Scheme is a specialist programme for young people aged 16 to 24 who have faced difficult or challenging circumstances. If you have special educational needs and/or a disability, are a young carer, or have been in care/are leaving care then Stockport Council are able to offer apprenticeship training opportunities to you. Throughout the apprenticeship you will be assigned a supervisor who will support you to get the adjustments you need as a learner, and can help with communication between you and your employer/training provider. You will be given an apprenticeship contract with Stockport Council for the expected length of the apprenticeship and paid the national minimum wage appropriate for your age.

Please note: there are limited spaces on our supported apprenticeship scheme, so it's important to apply early! There is an application process to follow, which will include an interview. For more information please contact:

Stockport Education & Careers Advice Service (ECAS)

By telephone on 0161 474 2300

By email at educationandcareers@stockport.gov.uk

Supported Internships

Supported Internships are structured study programmes for learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, run by colleges or providers in partnership with local employers. They normally last for a year and include an unpaid work placement for at least six months, plus Maths and English support if required.

In Stockport, Supported Internships are available through Pure College.



Pure College

Call them on 0161 804 4400

Email them at hello@pureinnovations.co.uk

How does it work?

Supported Internships enable young people with learning disabilities, neurodiversity's and mental health related problems to make the transition into paid employment and enhance key social skills.

Interns spend four days per week with their host employer alongside daily on-site classroom sessions, completing three job rotations for ten weeks throughout the year. Each step towards completing the course prepares interns for future work, at which time Pure will support the interns into paid jobs with their host employer, or identify other opportunities that align to their career pathway.

Job Coaches support interns throughout the programme to ensure they achieve their ambitions and overcome any barriers they may face. The programme is designed to lift interns confidence, both in work and everyday life. Having a regular routine provides a sense of purpose and belonging.

What next?

Now you have more information on your options and what's available locally - talk to your teachers, family, and friends about what you've learnt. These conversations will help you think through the different choices and support you to make a decision.

Remember, you can contact the ECAS service for additional support and information. The Local Offer website also provides information about local services and opportunities for young people in Stockport with SEND and their families. It includes information about education, training, health and social care options.

Visit: www.sensupportstockport.co.uk

Best of luck on the next stage of your journey!

