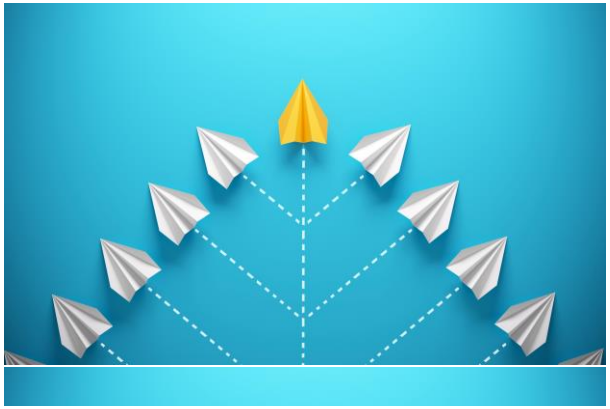


Cambridgeshire County Council

Moving On

Routes into Further Education and Higher Education

Information for Parents and Carers of children and young people with Special Education Needs

Produced by the 14-25 Additional Needs Team

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Contents

Page 3 ..... 14-25 Additional Needs Team

Page 4 ..... Mission Statement

Page 4 ..... Introduction

Page 5 ..... SEND Hub (Local Offer)

Page 5 ..... Moving on into Further Education

Page 5- ..... Qualification breakdown

Page 7-8 ..... College / 6th Form Courses

Page 8-9 ..... Moving on into Higher Education

Page 9 ..... Higher Education Work Routes

Page 10 ..... Useful information

The 14-25 Additional Needs Team

The 14-25 Additional Needs Team, can work with children and young people that are at, or have been at, special schools and other specialist educational provisions in Cambridgeshire and have an EHCP.

The team can offer advice in relation to education, training and employment as appropriate to your child/young person. The team can provide information on Preparation for Adulthood and Post 16 options. In relation to other issues, we are able to signpost to other agencies.

If you would like more information, please contact us using the information below:

Julie Shorter – Countywide Team Leader
Email: Julie.shorter@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Tel: 07443 146581

Sian Johnson – Additional Needs Pathway Adviser
Email: sian.johnson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Tel: 07748 920118

Angie Vickery – Additional Needs Pathway Adviser
Email: angie.vickery@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Tel: 07469 377540

Richard Beckett – Additional Needs Pathway Adviser
Email: richard.beckett@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Tel: 07810287093

Dawn Taylor - Additional Needs Pathway Adviser
Email: dawn.taylor@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Tel: 07342061907

Additional Needs Job Coach –
Contact is via an Additional Needs Pathway Adviser

Mission statement

We provide specialist information, advice and guidance around education, employment and training. This is to support an individual to fulfil their potential and aspirations.

Introduction

This booklet gives information about the choices available for young people moving onto Level 2 and above
For further information please speak to one of our Additional Needs Pathway Advisers (contact details on page 3).

The SEND Hub (Local Offer)

All Local Authorities, Schools and Further Education Colleges must publish their Local Offer.

The Cambridgeshire SEND Hub (Local Offer) sets out the provision for those aged 0-25 and covers:

- Education
- Health
- Social care

This booklet does not have a list of all the post-16 options available under the Local Offer.

For more information, please use the following link:
the further and higher education page on the County Council's SEND Hub

Moving on into Further Education

Young people can leave secondary school on the last Friday in June, if they will be 16 by the end of August. However, all young people must stay in education or training until they are 18. This can include education, work-based training or volunteering with part-time accredited learning.

If the Local Offer cannot meet the needs of your child/young person, either within the Special Educational Needs Department or within a mainstream course, you will be supported by the Additional Needs Team to explore alternative options.

Important - Full-time college is typically 16 hours a week, which is roughly three days a week.

Applying to Further Education
The Education Health and Care Plan annual review (known as a phased transfer review) should take place between September and November in the last year at school. The Statutory Assessment Team will then send an updated copy of EHCP to the Local Offer (Further Education Colleges) to explore if they can the need. By Springtime, on the year of leaving, it is expected that each young person will have started applying to their next Further Education step.

Deadlines for mainstream colleges can differ for each college. This is usually a date between early December to early February. The schools will support with this process.

Support for completing application forms and interviews.
Each school has a member of staff that should be able to support with this. In some instances the Additional Needs Team can support with completion of an application form. They can also support interview preparations, school/college links and transition days.

For mainstream schools, young people with EHCPs can get support from the school's SENCO.

Qualification breakdown

GCSEs - For more information visit the Direct Gov site for GCSEs

A-levels - The A level qualification is a subject based qualification for instance Psychology and Computer Science. It helps a student to learn an overview of the subject in readiness for higher education study and/or entry level employment in that industry. Usually, students will study between 2-3 A Levels at one time.

An explanation of A Levels are available here - For more information visit this UCAS link on A Levels

What are Vocational qualifications?
Vocational qualifications are practical qualifications that are linked to a specific job or career sector. Unlike A-levels, they have a mix of theory and practical learning and some work experience. Vocational qualifications range from Level 1 to Level 3 depending on the type of study required. However, if you're not sure yet what you want to do, you might find this quite limiting. Here is a range of vocational qualifications:

OCR Cambridge Nationals – For more information please click on this link for Cambridge Nationals OCR

NVQ - For more information please click on this link for NVQs and SVQs

BTEC – For more information please click on this link for information on BTEC Diplomas

T-Levels - The T Level includes an in-work placement with an employer to develop skills for the industry a person would like to learn. T Levels are new courses which follow GCSEs and are equivalent to 3 A levels: For more information please click on this link to direct gov guide on T Levels

Qualification Work Based Training

Apprenticeships:

Apprenticeships are designed to develop a learner's skills needed to perform a particular job role in a chosen industry.

To find out more about apprenticeships please click this link to Apprenticeship guidance

Supported Apprenticeships:

Supported Apprenticeships have an exception for typical Maths and English grade expectations. This includes a British Sign Language qualification. The development of final assessments includes the ability to extend assessment period,

For more information on Supported Apprenticeships please click on this link

Traineeships:

Traineeships are a non-paid work experience and training programme

Traineeships have ended. However, training providers with access to 16-19 study programme, and adult education provision funding, can continue to deliver Traineeship style programmes to young people who need them.

Supported Internships:

Supported Internships are a work-based study programme for 16–24-year-olds with EHCPs. Supported Internships last for at least 6 months. They are held an educational provider and include work-based placements.

For more information on Supported Internships please click on this link

Further Education and Sixth Form Colleges

Here is a list of the main colleges in the area. Have a look on their websites to see their upcoming open days

Cambridge Regional College - Cambridge and Huntingdon Campuses
01223 418200
Enquiry@camre.ac.uk
www.camre.ac.uk

Peterborough Regional College
0345 8728722
info@peterborough.ac.uk
www.peterborough.ac.uk

Peterborough City College
01733 761361
choices@citycollegepeterborough.ac.uk
www.citycollegepeterborough.ac.uk

College of West Anglia – Cambridge, Wisbech, King's Lynn and Sports Campus
01553 761144
enquiries@cwa.ac.uk
www.cwa.ac.uk

Hill's Road Sixth Form College
01223 247251
www.hillsroad.ac.uk

Long Road Sixth Form College
01223 631100
www.longroad.ac.uk

Comberton Village College sixth Form
01223 262503
www.combertonsixthform.org.uk

Cambridge Academy for Science and Technology
01223 724300
www.cambridgeast.org.uk

Impington Village College Sixth Form
01223 200402
www.impingtoninternational.org.uk

The Oakes Sixth Form
01223 868327
www.oakescc.org

Parkside Community College Sixth Form
01223 712600
www.parksidecc.org.uk

Chesterton Community College
01223 712150
www.csf.tela.org.uk

Moving on into Higher Education

When someone moves onto Higher Education (Level 4 and above) their EHCP ceases. The way in which they receive support, if they have a learning difficulty, health problem or disability, changes.

The Local Authority do have a legal duty to pass the EHCP onto the Higher Education provider, but only if we are requested to do so by the student. Any additional needs should be discussed with the Higher Education provider. Financial support may be available from the Disabled Student's Allowance. More information about this can be found online at Please click this link for information on Disabled Student Allowance

Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) is supported to cover the study-related costs you have because of a mental health problem, long term illness or any other disability or learning difficulty. This can be on its own or in addition to any other student finance you get. It will include an assessment to determine the type of support and how much you get. This will depend on your individual needs - not your household income. You do not need to pay back DSA. Application to DSA is normally done when applying for Student Finance England Please click this link for more information on Student Finance

Further information is available at:

Help if you're a student with a learning difficulty, health problem or disability: Disabled Students' Allowance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Student Services:

Each setting works differently with regard to the additional support they provide to learners. It is always best to contact the disability adviser directly, at the setting you are interested in. You can then discuss your needs and whether they are able to offer the support you need. Settings do not generally fund social or personal care needs. However, it is important that you liaise with them and provide detailed information to make sure that everything is covered. This can include discussing if allocated accommodation is suitable.

Other:

Any social or personal care support needed whilst you are living away from home will continue to be provided by your local team. They can assist with completing applications for financial support. These will be through the Department for Work and Pensions.

Personal Independence Payments can help with some of the extra (non-study related) costs caused by a disability.

For more information on university disability support please click this link Disability Resource Centre

More general information is available on the Government website at www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/BeginnersGuideToBenefits/index.htm

Higher Education Work Routes

Many Universities will provide an industry work opportunity as part of the degree. This allows undergraduates to develop industrial experience related to their degree. This is a good way to trial a career before jumping ahead into a permanent graduate job. Do you also know you can work as you learn with a Degree Apprenticeship. Look below for more information:

Choosing a university and course

Do your research and try to visit the universities you are thinking of applying to on one of their open days. Consider the “feel” of the place and what you like and dislike about the place. You and your parents/carers should be able to chat to someone from the learning support/disability support team during an open day and they will be able to give you more information about how that university can support you. It does vary! Open days are usually in the summer term or early autumn term. Applicant days (for those who have already applied) in the spring term.

Find out how the course is taught. For instance, is it mainly via large lectures or will there be more smaller discussion groups or seminars? Ask about how you will be assessed - will you have formal written exams, or it is mainly course work? For example, if you don't enjoy working in a team, a course that has a lot of group presentations might not suit you. Does the course offer a foundation year? This might be a way of easing you into university level studying.

Look at the halls of residence. Most universities offer rooms for students with physical disabilities. Some universities have quiet halls or ones that provide a 24-hour warden service. Another option is to travel to a local university and amongst all students this is becoming a more popular option

Degree Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a real job with training which would allow you to earn while you learn. You will gain a nationally recognized qualification. Apprenticeships take between one and five years to complete. They cover job roles in a wide range of industries in many sectors. Apprenticeships are now available up to degree level and beyond.

Benefits of doing an Apprenticeship:

- Earning a salary
- Training in the skills employers want for the role
- Excellent progression opportunities
- Increased future earning potential
- Learning at a pace suited to the individual with the support of a mentor.

Useful information:

UCAS Key Dates:

- 15 October 2026 – Oxbridge UCAS deadline
- 14 January 2026 – UCAS deadline
- 26 February – 1 July 2026 - UCAS Extra Opens – allows additional choices to be made if an offer has not been made by any of the initial 5 university choices.
- May – University choice deadline – first and insurance choice to be confirmed.
- August – Results day – clearing opens.

- A selection of resources and useful information for young people thinking about higher education: Funding Higher Education for Disabled Students | Disability Rights UK

- Top 10 tips for starting at university - BBC News- Tips from students when starting university from academics to social activities.