



connexions

WEST OF ENGLAND

For parents and carers of young people who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

[About
Connexions
and transition
planning]



What is Connexions?

Connexions is an organisation that helps young people aged 13-19 think about and plan for the future.

Young people, who have a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities, will be eligible for support from Connexions up to the age of 25.

Referral to other adult services will be made where appropriate.

Connexions works with other agencies, including schools and social services. This helps to make sure you and your family get the help and support you need.

What can a Connexions personal adviser do?

A Connexions personal adviser can give young people information and advice about things that matter to them, such as:

- › staying at school
- › going to college
- › getting some training
- › getting a job
- › independent living
- › money
- › relationships
- › housing
- › health
- › leisure activities.

Young people can see their personal adviser in school or in their local Connexions centre. You are welcome to come along to any meetings as long as the young person agrees.

Their transition plan – their future

In year 9, young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities will be supported to plan for their future. This usually happens during a transition review (if the young person has a statement of special educational needs). After the meeting, a transition plan will be produced.

A transition plan is a way of saying:

- › what the young person wants to do at 16, or older if they stay on at school.
- › how to make the plans happen.
- › who can help.

It covers many aspects of life, including education, training, getting a job, housing and health.

Other people in the meeting to listen to the young person's opinions could include you, teachers, Connexions personal adviser, other professionals.

The young person will probably meet with the Connexions personal adviser before the transition review to talk about:

- › what subjects to study.
- › what activities to be involved in while still at school.
- › making decisions about the future.
- › local opportunities to learn, train or work.
- › what support might be needed.
- › what questions to ask the professional people attending the meeting.

The young person can have someone (called an advocate) speak for them at the meeting. This person could be you, a teacher, a Connexions personal adviser, or someone else.

After the meeting, you and the young person will get a copy of the transition plan. Other relevant professionals will also get a copy.

The local authority will consider providing the support and services listed in the transition plan.

The transition plan will be updated at every annual review, while the young person remains in school.



Further information

- › Connexions Direct: information and advice for young people. Most of the sections contain disability content. www.connexions-direct.com
- › Connexions West of England easy read site: information about learning, training, work and life. <http://easyread.connexionswest.org.uk>
- › Futures4Me: local learning and training opportunities. www.futures4me.co.uk/woe
- › Jobs4U: job descriptions and the qualifications needed. www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u
- › National Parent Partnership Network: information, advice and support for parents and carers. Includes links to local support groups. www.parentpartnership.org.uk
- › Skill: National Bureau for Students with Disabilities. www.skill.org.uk

Your local Connexions centres

- **Bath and North East Somerset:**
28 Southgate, Bath BA1 1TP. T: 01225 461 501
- **Bristol:**
4 Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4ST.
T: 0117 987 3700. Minicom: 0117 907 4514
- **North Somerset:**
45 Boulevard, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1PG.
T: 01934 644 443
- **South Gloucestershire:**
21–23 High Street, Kingswood, South
Gloucestershire BS15 4AA. T: 0117 961 2760 or

28 Gloucester Road North, Filton, South
Gloucestershire BS7 0SJ. T: 0117 969 8101

Connexions centres are open Monday to Friday – contact them for their opening times. Or visit the website: www.connexionswest.org.uk

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