

# SEND

## 16+ Route Planner



Preparation for Adulthood... **what's your route?**

# What's your route?

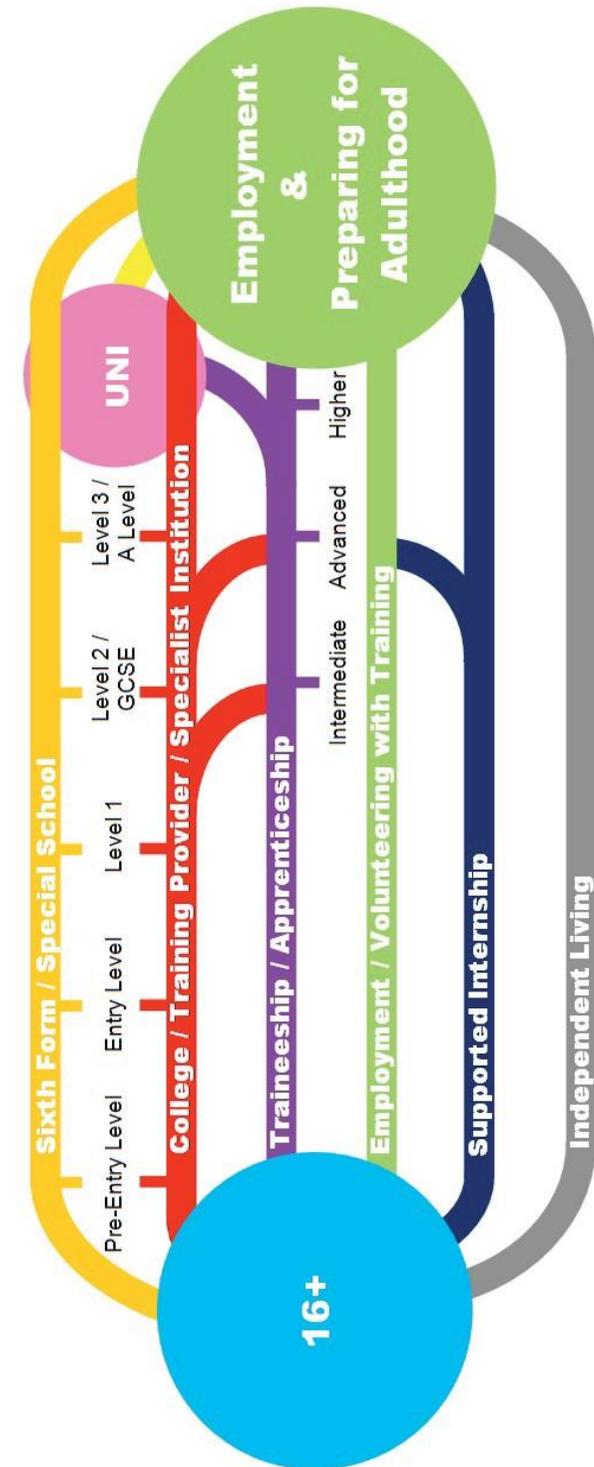
We recognise that for young people with additional needs, transition points are always a worry. None more so than at 16, particularly if it requires a change, for example if a school has no post-16 provision.

This booklet is designed to talk you through the various options – of which there are many – to help you think about what route might be most suitable. It is designed to be used alongside guidance from your SEND Post-16 Caseworker, school careers advisor, or any other practitioner providing support. It's also important that you do your own independent research so that you can be confident that no opportunity has been missed.

Since September 2015 all young people have to participate in some form of education or training until they are 18. However, this does not mean they have to stay at school. They could:

- Participate in full-time education (known as a study programme) at a college, school or with a training provider
- Take up an apprenticeship, traineeship or supported internship
- Go into full-time employment or volunteering (of 20 hours or more per week) if combined with accredited part-time education or training.

Those young people aged 16-18 not participating in education, training or employment will be offered support to re-engage by Surrey's Youth Support Service.



## Our Local Offer

Information about all the services available in Surrey for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) aged 0 to 25 and those outside of the county that Surrey County Council is also responsible for can be found on

[www.surreylocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.surreylocaloffer.org.uk)

## Preparing for adulthood

Young people with SEND are supported to think about long term life outcomes from the earliest age possible. Surrey County Council encourages young people to think about the following:

- employment (and the right education to get there)
- somewhere to live
- having friends and being part of their community
- being happy, healthy, safe and confident about their future

## Social Care Services

Surrey County Council's Transition team directly supports young people known to the Children with Disabilities (CWD) team from the age of 18 to 25, as they move from children's to adults' services.

The team is aware of the level of needs (low, medium and high) of young people coming through the transition phase to become adults. The SEND Post-16 team works with the Transition team in a joined-up manner to ensure both social care and education needs are considered in good time.

If a young person is eligible for social care support, then social care funding may form part of the options that are available when considering their route onwards from 16+. Any young person with a disability (or their parents or carers) can request an assessment of their social care needs.

## Study programmes

Full time further education is known as a study programme.

This is made up of three key elements:

1. a substantial qualification (academic or vocational)
2. continuing to improve English and maths, working towards GCSE grade C / grade 4 where appropriate
3. work experience

A full time programme is, on average, 16 hours per week. This works out at about 540+ hours across the academic year.

## Learning styles?

**Work based** - learning that takes place in a work environment. It is a practical way of learning that offers real life work experience whilst working towards relevant qualifications in the industry.  
E.g. Supported Internship, Traineeship, Apprenticeship

**Vocational** - learning involving more practical activities, it is commonly used to prepare a person for a particular trade or industry.  
E.g. BTEC, NVQ, Laser, ASDAN

**Academic** - a more formal style of learning that is usually based on theory rather than practical activities.  
E.g. GCSE, AS Level, A Level

## Qualifications Types

Type of qualification	Work Based	Vocational	Academic
Supported Learning		Yes	
Functional Skills		Yes	
GCSE			Yes
International Baccalaureate			Yes
BTEC	Yes	Yes	
NVQ	Yes	Yes	
A Level			Yes

## Qualification/ Programme Levels (equivalents)

Work Based	Vocational	Academic
	Pre-entry Level	
	Entry Level	Pre GCSE
Traineeship	Level 1	GCSE grade D-G
Intermediate	Level 2	GCSE grade A*-C
Advanced	Level 3	A Level
Higher	Level 4+	Degree Level

- Supported Internships are work based programmes available at a range of levels according to ability.
- Intermediate apprenticeship = 5 GCSEs (A\*-C)
- Advanced apprenticeship = 2 A Levels

## Types of Education & Training Providers

**Training Provider:** A smaller group environment offering vocational subjects and often specialising in a small number of industries.

**General Further Education (GFE) College:** A large college environment offering a wide range of vocational subjects as well as some academic subjects. Many also offer a small supported learning environment and specialist provision.

**Sixth Form College:** A large college environment offering a wide range of academic subjects as well as some vocational options. Many also offer a small learning environment with support.

**Mainstream School/Academy Sixth Form:** Attached to a secondary school/academy, this is a smaller academic learning environment.

**Specialist Provider (e.g. Special School):** Offer specialised provision for special educational needs

	Work Based	Vocational	Academic
Training Provider	Yes	Yes	Yes
GFE College	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sixth Form College		Yes	Yes
School Sixth Form		Yes	Yes
Specialist Provider		Yes	Yes

## Traineeships

Participating in a traineeship allows you to develop your skills and gain qualifications (including English and Maths for those who need it) whilst benefitting from high quality work experience. They can last from 6 weeks to 6 months and are an ideal stepping stone to an apprenticeship. The work experience placement is not paid, but the costs of travel and meals might be supported by the training provider or employer. Traineeships are suitable for those working at around Level 1 and who might benefit from additional support to prepare them for work.

### Benefits

**Short:** Improve English and Maths skills

**Medium:** Participate in work experience which can be added to a CV

**Long:** Progress to an apprenticeship or employment

Search and apply for traineeship vacancies at [www.gov.uk/find-traineeship](http://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship)

***66% of recruiting employers say having work experience is a critical or significant factor in their decisions (UKCES “Employer Perspectives Survey 2014”)***

## Supported internships

Supported Internships help young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to achieve sustainable, paid employment. The personalised programme allows the young person to learn in the workplace whilst also having the chance to study for relevant qualifications, if suitable, at an appropriate level.

The internship normally lasts for a year and includes at least six months of unpaid work experience. Although similar to a traineeship or apprenticeship, this type of programme is tailored to those who would require a higher level of support, such as a job coach.

### Benefits

**Short:** Improve communication skills

**Medium:** Develop confidence and a wider social network

**Long:** Progress towards life goals and aspirations, such as getting a job

The Access to Work fund can be used to provide additional support/equipment, including a job coach and/or the extra costs of transport if it is not possible to use public transport.

[www.gov.uk/access-to-work](http://www.gov.uk/access-to-work)

## Apprenticeships

As an apprentice you can earn a salary whilst studying for a nationally recognised qualification and getting 'on the job' training. It's a way to gain experience, strengthen your CV and build your career. There is a wide range of apprenticeships available to suit every skill and passion and the training provider will offer support for your additional needs.

It's a different way of learning compared to college or university, and you have the opportunity to get a qualification that will be valued by potential employers.

Apprenticeships don't always require the apprentice to attend a college. Some allow all of the learning to take place in the work place. It is important to choose an apprenticeship that is not only the desired job but also offers the preferred way of learning.

### Benefits

**Short:** Earn a wage while learning

**Medium:** Gain recognised qualifications and train for a future career

**Long:** On average apprentices earn over £100,000 more than unqualified employees over the course of their career ([www.babington.co.uk/apprenticeships/10-reasons-apprenticeship](http://www.babington.co.uk/apprenticeships/10-reasons-apprenticeship))

Search & apply for apprenticeship vacancies at: [www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)

**The Access to Work scheme can provide grants to pay for any specialist equipment and support costs in the workplace.**

[www.gov.uk/access-to-work](http://www.gov.uk/access-to-work)

## Employment or volunteering (with accredited training)

Although young people must be doing some form of recognised accredited education or training until their 18th birthday, this does not mean they have to attend college or school. For those that would rather work (whether paid or voluntary) this is still an option, as long as it involves at least 20 hours of work per week PLUS working towards a nationally-recognised qualification.

### Benefits

**Short:** Gain valuable work experience

**Medium:** Work towards nationally-recognised qualifications

**Long:** Develop communication and interaction skills ready in preparation for employment

You can become self-employed and still count as participating, as long as you are doing part-time accredited education or training as well.

Interested in volunteering or employment? Visit [www.surreychoices.com/employability](http://www.surreychoices.com/employability)

## Vocational

### E.g. College/Training Provider

Vocational qualifications, such as BTECs, provide practical learning opportunities, including work experience, and are often available at a range of levels to help learners develop their skills. They enable you to develop industry skills which can be applied to real life situations to prepare for employment. They also support the development of independence and life skills. Some courses may require learners to take exams as well as produce evidence of their new skills and knowledge throughout the year.

#### Benefits

**Short:** Experience a range of jobs or learn skills related to a preferred job

**Medium:** Gain qualifications relevant to a specific industry or job

**Long:** Learn practical skills related to real life work

FE Colleges in Surrey have recently developed and increased their provision for young people with special educational needs and disabilities. They can offer a safe, supportive learning environment with SEND-trained staff. Most are able to offer suitable levels of wrap around support for those with complex health and physical needs.

## Academic

### E.g. Sixth Form

Whether you choose to go to a school sixth form or a sixth form college, A Levels provide qualifications that are recognised by employers and universities. They also support the development of independence and life skills. Assessments usually include an exam towards the end of the course and the learning style provides good foundations for progression to higher education.

#### Benefits

**Short:** Develop independence and communication skills

**Medium:** The option to gain an in-depth knowledge of a range of subjects

**Long:** Get qualifications that support progress to continue in education and access higher education

Since September 2015, AS level results no longer count towards an A level qualification. They are separate, stand-alone qualifications.

## Specialist Providers (e.g. Special Schools)

Surrey has a number of Specialist Providers that offer post-16 provision. They have a range of academic and vocational courses as well as a focus on living skills, personal development and employability.

Placements at post-16 Specialist Providers are limited and are decided on a case by case basis.

Many of these post-16 providers will have a specialism and be equipped to support certain levels and types of need. This can include severe and complex needs, physical disabilities, Autistic Spectrum Disorder and challenging behaviours.

### Benefits

**Short:** Access to a high level of support within a structured environment

**Medium:** Successful transition to a mainstream environment, with support, for many

**Long:** Develop independence skills and progress into employment and/or a form of supported living

Many young people who attend a Surrey Special School with post-16 provision are encouraged and supported where appropriate to take part in a link programme at a local further education college where they can try different vocational taster sessions.

## Social Care Provision

Informal education and lifelong learning can be funded through Social Care provision. There are a range of providers which may be suitable for some learners who are no longer continuing in formal education but are supported by Social Care, some of which are listed below:

- **The Clubhouse**  
[www.theclubhouseproject.org](http://www.theclubhouseproject.org)
- **Disability Arts in Surrey**  
[www.disabilityartsinsurrey.org.uk](http://www.disabilityartsinsurrey.org.uk)
- **Grassroots**  
[www.grassrootsproject.co.uk](http://www.grassrootsproject.co.uk)
- **Jigsaw**  
[www.jigsawplus.co.uk/lifelong-learning](http://www.jigsawplus.co.uk/lifelong-learning)
- **Surrey Choices – Day Services**  
[www.surreychoices.com/day-services](http://www.surreychoices.com/day-services)
- **Surrey Choices - EmployAbility**  
[www.surreychoices.com/employability](http://www.surreychoices.com/employability)
- **Surrey Choices – Shared Lives**  
[www.surreychoices.com/shared-lives](http://www.surreychoices.com/shared-lives)
- **Dramatize**  
[www.dramatize.co.uk](http://www.dramatize.co.uk)
- **The Grange**  
[www.grangecentre.org.uk](http://www.grangecentre.org.uk)
- **Normandy Therapy Garden**  
[www.thetherapygarden.org](http://www.thetherapygarden.org)
- **LinkAble**  
[www.linkable.org.uk](http://www.linkable.org.uk)
- **Post 19 Farnham**  
[www.post19.com](http://www.post19.com)
- **Welmede**  
[www.welmede.org.uk](http://www.welmede.org.uk)

# Social Care FAQs

## Q: At what age can we approach Social Care for support?

Referrals can be made to the Transition Social Care Team as early as 14 years old. They may not actively start working with families until the young person turns 17, but they will keep a record of the referral and the team can then anticipate the level and type of support that may be needed.

## Q: Is my son/daughter eligible for support from Social Care?

If your son/daughter is currently supported by Children's Social Care then they will more than likely be eligible for Adult Social Care Support. If your child is not supported by Children's Social Care, you can fill out a referral form with details of their learning difficulties and you will be contacted by Social Care for an assessment to take place.

## Q: How long does the referral process take?

The referral and assessment process can take anything from a few weeks to a few months. Each referral is considered on a case by case basis and those young people with a higher level of need may be prioritised at times when there is a high case volume. If you have concerns about how long your referral and assessment is taking it is best to speak directly to your social worker.

## Q: What kind of activities can Social Care packages include?

Social Care packages can include the following activities:

- Supported employment
- Volunteering
- Day Centres
- Supported Living
- Travel training/support
- Education
- Independence and life skills
- personal assistant support
- Support accessing recreational activities

## Q: Can Social Care packages include an education element?

Of course! If a local FE College provider can offer a suitable course, a social care package can build a package of support around attending college and help prepare young people for moving into adulthood.

## Q: What age will Social Care support my child until?

The Transition Social Care Team can support young people until the age of 25 if necessary. They will then refer the young person to Adult Social Care if there is still a need for support.

More information about Surrey's Social Care provision can be found at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/social-care-and-health](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/social-care-and-health)

## Things you need to know:

- Full time students will be supported to continue developing their literacy and numeracy skills. They may be enrolled on to a functional skills qualification at an appropriate level or, if applicable, a GCSE qualification.
- Young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan will have an annual review which will monitor progress towards their agreed outcomes.
- A Levels are not the only route to university. Vocational qualifications and apprenticeships also offer routes to higher education.
- It is possible to claim child benefit for a young person after their 16th birthday if they continue in full-time approved education or training. This includes traineeships but not apprenticeships. The Child Benefit Office must be informed otherwise payments will stop on 31st August. For full details go to [www.gov.uk/child-benefit-16-19](http://www.gov.uk/child-benefit-16-19).
- Parents/guardians will not be prosecuted if their young person does not participate in approved education or training.
- As a higher education student living in England, you can apply for a Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) if you have a disability. The support you get depends on your individual needs and not income.

Visit [www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas](http://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas) for information on eligibility and how to apply.

**If you have any other questions please contact**  
[rpa@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:rpa@surreycc.gov.uk)

## Case Study

A young person needed support deciding what to do post-16, after attending a residential independent specialist provider for seven years. He had a diagnosis of ASD and ADHD with associated learning difficulties and challenging behaviour.

The young person and his mum felt that returning home was the best option for him post-16 as he struggled with transitions and they are a close family. He was making good progress at school and his mum felt it was important for him to continue his education. At his Annual Review the young person's SEND Post-16 Caseworker told them about the new Supported Learning Unit at their local further education college which had facilities for a range of complex learning needs. His mum attended a college open day and staff visited the young person at school to assess whether or not they could meet his learning needs.

The young person needed support to get to and from college and to access the community. His mum also wanted him to be able to make himself snacks and drinks safely with minimal support and to help around the house where possible. The Caseworker worked with them to make a referral to the Transition Social Care Team who assessed the young person's level of need and considered aspirations for his future. They discussed how a social care package could complement his educational package.

The young person has now started at his new college and is settling in well. Social Care have organised and funded a taxi for college which he shares with other young people on his course. Social Care have also arranged for a support assistant to take him into the community shopping or bowling once a week. He is supported twice a week in his home where he is encouraged to cook a meal for the family and do his own washing. His mum hopes that one day he will be ready to move into supported living with other young people where he can continue to use and develop his life skills.

# Useful Links:

## Special Educational Needs or Disability:

[www.surreylocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.surreylocaloffer.org.uk)  
[www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk](http://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk)  
[www.gov.uk/access-to-work](http://www.gov.uk/access-to-work)  
[www.surrey-camhs.org.uk](http://www.surrey-camhs.org.uk)  
[www.sendadvice.surrey.org.uk](http://www.sendadvice.surrey.org.uk)  
[www.familyvoicesurrey.org](http://www.familyvoicesurrey.org)

## Careers advice:

[www.careersadviceinsurrey.co.uk](http://www.careersadviceinsurrey.co.uk)  
<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>  
[www.surreycc.gov.uk/opportunitiesfair](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/opportunitiesfair)  
[www.notgoingtouni.co.uk](http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk)

## Supported Internships, Traineeships & Apprenticeships:

[www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/what-we-do/supported-internships](http://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/what-we-do/supported-internships)  
[www.gov.uk/find-traineeship](http://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship)  
[www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)  
[www.surreycc.gov.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/apprenticeships)

## Volunteering & Employment:

[www.surreychoices.com/employ\\_ability/volunteers](http://www.surreychoices.com/employ_ability/volunteers)  
[www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk)

**If you would like this information in large print, Braille, on tape or in another language please contact us on:**

**Tel: 03456 009 009**

**Minicom: 020 8541 9698**

**Fax: 020 8541 9575**

**Email: [contact.centre@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:contact.centre@surreycc.gov.uk)**