

Kent CiC/CL Post 16 Update

For those considering Further Education in Kent and Medway



For Kent Children in Care (CIC) and Care Leavers (CL), aged 16 years and over, support is available from the Colleges in Kent and Medway. Each College has a Designated Member of Staff (DMS) specifically for CIC and CL and their role is to be the main point of contact for the young person, Social Worker, Foster Carer and other professionals. They liaise with Course Tutors and make sure the young person is accessing all of the support they need to ensure there are no barriers to learning. The DMS can meet with the young person before they become a student e.g. at Year 11 Personal Education Plan meetings, Open Days, pre application, during interview and over the summer break - to help settle any nerves and to support transition.

College DMS contact details are:

Canterbury College (Canterbury and Swale)	East Kent College (Broadstairs, Dover and Folkestone)	Hadlow College (Canterbury, Hadlow and Mottingham)	Mid Kent College (Medway and Maidstone)	North West Kent College (Dartford and Gravesend)	West Kent College (Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Ashford)	University for the Creative Arts (College) (Canterbury, Maidstone and Rochester)
Kay O'Connell	Janet Pearson	James Cluskey	Carolle Allman	Dawn Nichols	Deborah Stanton	Tanya Perkins
01227 811111 ext 2060	01843 605040 ext 5647	01732 850551 ext 804	01634 383618	01322 629400 ext 1094	01233 655568	01227 817307

Financial Support in Post 16 Education

- Kent CiC/CL entering further education (e.g. year 12 and 13) in School or College, Care Leavers can access a bursary to support their educational programme. The bursary is up to the value of £1,200 per academic year studying full time. This should be used to cover course related costs, e.g. travel, equipment, trips.
- Discuss the young persons requirements with the School or the College DMS as soon as possible so an application can be submitted - each individual institution can administer the bursary differently, and it can be linked to attendance and behaviour.
- For those interested in an Apprenticeship, Kent County Council can fund the salary costs of a Care Leaver undertaking a Level 2 apprenticeship or part of the salary for a Level 3 Apprenticeship.
- For those aged 19 years plus, there is also financial support available to help with course related costs, travel and childcare costs.

Making Applications for Post 16 choices

September 2014 start:

It is not too late to apply, Colleges are still taking applications for those wishing to join them in September with interviews taking place over the summer break. Please contact the DMS at the College to find out more. Enrolment will take place at the end of August, and then an Induction will follow.

If you feel your young person may need support during the enrolment process, please contact the College DMS. The Post 16 team at VSK will also be available during this time.

September 2015 start:

For those in year 11, they should make their application through the on-line application system 'Kent Choices 4 U'. The school should provide the young person with their individual log-in. VSK will then track the application as it progresses.

Colleges hold their first Open Days in November and then applications can be made for the following September - so encourage your young person to visit and discuss their options early on. It is a good idea to get applications in early, even if the young person is not 100% sure of the exact course they are interested in, once they are in the system they can be moved around and find out more information.

School 6th forms sometimes have an earlier application deadline so check with the individual school.

Career Guidance

Young people may need guidance on identifying career opportunities - Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance.

It is important that the advice is given by an impartial member of staff (looking at the needs of the young person). This can be delivered through either the School or College staff. Even if the young person is not 100% sure of attending College, they can still access their Careers staff. For those post 16, this can also be accessed through CXK. Please contact Rachel Calver for guidance.

Post 16 Personal Education Plans (PEP)

PEPs need to be completed for Kent CiC/CL Post 16 and although this is currently in paper format VSK will shortly be launching an electronic PEP (ePEP). Please encourage your young person to participate in this process, to ensure they are receiving the support they require and their voice is heard.

The College DMS can be invited to the year 11 PEP for those where there is a clear progression plan to that College. Please ask the School to invite the DMS to the meeting.

For PEPs in College, they can take place from the end of September onwards. This is due to the later enrolment and induction process, and to give time for the College Tutors to get to know the young person.

The PEP should be arranged outside of the young person's timetabled lessons.

VSK Post 16 Team Contact Details

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