

Information for Foster Carers and Social Workers

- Post 16 Options
 - Young people have a wide variety of options open to them when they finish year 11 in school as they head into academic years 12 and 13. They can remain in education by staying in 6th form, going to College, undertaking an Apprenticeship, accessing a Work Based Learning programme, or be employed / volunteering with training. The options open to them will depend on the qualifications they achieve in year 11 so please make sure you are clear of the options. It is important that the young person is aware of all of the options and takes time to consider what may best meet their needs and interests.
 - When supporting your young person with making their choices, challenge them – why are they making those choices – is it because it is familiar, or is their best friend doing the same option – encourage them to make the best choice for them and their needs
- Explanation of VSK and Who's Who
 - Virtual School Kent works on a structure model of locality teams. Each locality team has an Assistant Head who is responsible for the tracking and monitoring of young people attending schools in their locality area (not where the young person lives)
 - For those in year 11, the Year 11 Progression Support Officers, attached to each locality team, are there to support with making post 16 choices and they work closely with Social Workers, Foster Carers, Designated Teachers and the young person.
 - For those that are in academic years 12 and 13, they are supported in a different way. If the young person is attending a 6th form then they will remain under the responsibility of the locality Assistant Head. For all other young people (e.g. attending College, apprenticeship, employed, volunteering, work based learning, not accessing any provision, missing), they will be the responsibility of the Post 16 Assistant Head who covers the county. Supporting the Post 16 Assistant Head are Post 16 Support Officers who have a locality area each to cover and support the young people accessing provision in those areas.
 - Link to locality structure chat and post 16 area charts
- DMS/DT
 - All schools are required to have a Designated Teacher for Children in Care. The Designated Teacher provides a central point of contact within the school and should have lead responsibility for helping school staff to understand the things which affect how Children in Care learn and achieve
 - All of the Kent and Medway Colleges and Universities have a Designated Member of Staff for Children in Care and Care Leavers to again act as a central point of contact
- Post 16 Finance
 - For those studying a fully recognised qualification, they may be entitled to the Discretionary Vulnerable Learner Bursary (Care Leaver Bursary) from the education provider. The bursary is to supported educational related costs. Each provider can administer the bursary how they wish – best practice suggests a meeting with the young person and the education provider to discuss any course related costs (e.g. travel, kit and equipment) and agree how to use the bursary
 - In some cases the young person may receive payments so will need a bank account in their own name
 - Attendance and behaviour can be considered when making payments to the young person
 - The bursary is for those aged 16-18 in the academic years 12, 13 and in some cases year 14 – the young person must be aged 18 on the 31st August of the new academic year
 - For those aged 19+, please speak to the individual education provider as to the financial support they may be able to offer the young person

What happens When?

	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Year 14
August			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE results received late August Enrolments start 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results received from previous study Enrolments start 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support at results time to check if young person is able to enrol on planned destination. Support enrolments and taster sessions. If YP needs EHCP has this been discussed, if not then the process needs to start.
September		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrolment and make bursary application. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrolment and make bursary application. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirm of enrolment with providers. Check YP receiving support from provider eg. Bursary/accommodation.
October			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education providers will confirm who will remain on the course by the end term 1 (October half term) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education providers will confirm who will remain on the course by the end term 1 (October half term). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact DMS Support/Mentors. Ensure Kent Bursaries are in place, if not then discuss with SW. Education providers will confirm who will remain on the course by the end term 1 (October half term).
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider visiting open days to help with decision making for next year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main open days start for Colleges and Sixth Form applications for the following September start. Begin making application. Link in with the College/Sixth Form DMS/DT. Ensure you log on to KC4U & the system works online (this password is from school). Make applications on KC4U. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEP 1 should take place before the end of term 2 (before you break up for the Christmas break). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEP 1 should take place before the end of term 2 (before you break up for the Christmas break). Post 16 Offer Training / Refresher Training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEP 1 should take place before the end of term 2 (before you break up for the Christmas break).
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st PEP should have been completed & Year 12 options discussed (SEN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st PEP should have been completed & Year 12 options discussed (SEN officers involved in this 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start onward progressions activity. 		

	Officers involved in this conversation for those with an EHCP).	<p>conversation for those with an EHCP).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post 16 Support Officer & Year 12 Education Provider (if known) needs inviting to next PEP if transition support is required (ideally in June so all parties will be available to attend). 			
December to February			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start to think about options for next year. 		
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit Schools/Colleges Open Days. Explore possibilities of Taster days 	Apply for NCS for Summer.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 January – UCAS receive University applications 	
February		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EHCP should be completed, ready for transfer to year 12 if applicable. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform 18+ Team to arrange HE Planning meeting. 	
March			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make applications 		
March to May		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check applications, attend interviews. Make contact with DMS and Mentors from providers where appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEP2 should take place before the end of term4. (Before you break up for the Easter break. 		
May				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By May, those wishing to enter work at the end of academic year should have CV, interview preparation in place. College review of progress/outcome. 	
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEP2 should have been completed. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus Group cohort review. 	
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus Pass Application. 				

What do I need to do?

	<i>Year 10</i>	<i>Year 11</i>	<i>Year 12</i>	<i>Year 13</i>	<i>Year 14</i>
August				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review exam results and take necessary action. Have a back-up plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support with Results Days. Attend any Information or Open Days. Support with taster sessions. Check EHCP is in place if needed.
September				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If young person is NEET, link with VSK Support Officer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirm enrolment with providers. Support with accommodation process. Support with Bursary by liaising with provider.
October				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend local Foster Carer Training events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Young person to link up with DMS/mentor/any other additional support. Ensure Kent Bursary is in place, if not start the process by liaising with provider where necessary.
November to February		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make you sure you know when the College/Sixth Form open days are taking place and you support the young person to attend. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend PEP, encourage open communication with education provider. Attend open days for next academic year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster Carer and Social Worker to support with UCAS website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support with results/course updates.
December				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold initial onward destination discussion with young person. Plan visit activities. University visits, open days, application and personal statement. 	
January				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 January UCAS Application sent. 	
January to July				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please make sure this is the correct decision. Consider every option. 	
February				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform 18+Team of University choices. 	

March March to May			Support young person with applications. Attend PEP2 before end of term 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please make sure this is the correct decision. • Consider every option. 	
April				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend HE Planning meeting. 	
May				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with 18+ Team /VSK to create CV/ Interview preparation. 	
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEP2 should have been completed. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable young person to engage in review in Focus review process. 	
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus Pass Application. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for Bus Pass • Ensure young person has own bank account so they can receive their bursary • Complete bursary application form • Send KCC Support Letter to new education provider confirming YP is a CIC. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for Bus Pass • Ensure young person has own bank account so they can receive their bursary • Complete bursary application form • Send KCC Support Letter to new education provider confirming YP is a CIC. 	
August		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact your first choice provider for Year 12 if young person didn't get expected GCSE results, to see what they have to offer. 			

Things to consider

- Where does the young person want to go for their Post 16 options?
 - Do you think the environment is suitable for the young person taking into consideration their personality, ability, behaviour, friendship groups, independence skills, confidence, etc.
- How will the young person travel to their chosen Post 16 provision?
 - Is it accessible by train/bus, what time will they need to leave for a 9.00 am start, how will travel be funded?
- Which Post 16 option feels right to you?
- How likely is the young person to meet the entry requirements? What are the options if they don't meet the entry requirements?
- Have you carefully considered whether this is the right type of qualification? Academic or vocational?
 - If the young person is looking at academic options such as A-Levels they should be achieving B grades or above at GCSE to be able to realistically manage the level of work required at A Level standard. If the young person is looking at vocational options, look at providers that will offer a level 1, 2 and 3 within that chosen subject, e.g. construction.
- Is the young person doing well at their current educational provider (academically, socially, needs being met)? If so, why do you think this is?
 - If your young person has been in a specific type of educational establishment, will they manage in a different type of educational establishment when they reach post 16 – for example, if they have been attending a specialist provision, how will they adapt to a mainstream large college?
- Look at OFSTED report and asking the provider what previous young people have progressed onto upon completing the course.
- English and Maths
 - If the young person has not achieved a C grade or above in both English and Maths, then it will be continue in their post 16 choices and part of their overall study programme whether they are at College, at school, on an apprenticeship or on a work based learning programme
- Enrichment – Get Involved!
 - Young Adults Council – encourage your young person to consider becoming a member of YAC, or to attend the participation activities
 - University Taster Events and Summer Schools – encourage your young person to participate in events to help inspire their career paths and raise aspirations
 - National Citizenship Service – encourage your young person to take part in the NCS scheme (check age criteria)
- Additional Support –
 - Your young person may not automatically get the same level of support they had at school when they reach years 12 and 13 so do check with the providers as to what support is available

Who to talk to/further information

- VSK
- Careers Guidance
- Ready to Work and Apprentice Kent websites
- UCAS Progress Website
- Kent Choices 4 U
- PA/Social Worker
- SEN Department
- PEPs

Other documents to refer to

- Foster Carer Checklist
- Year 11 Prompt Sheet
- Pen Picture and Matching Tool
- HE Checklist
- Corporate Parenting – Education, Training and Employment Policy, Key Stage 4 and Beyond

Nurture their dreams!