

Information

for parents and carers of young people
with learning difficulties or disabilities, or both.



Your Connexions Centre in Portsmouth

Connexions @ Go For It,
Station Road,
Portsmouth
Hants PO1 1EQ.



www.connexionsportsmouth.co.uk

Details of Connexions Centres
outside of Portsmouth can be found
on the following websites:

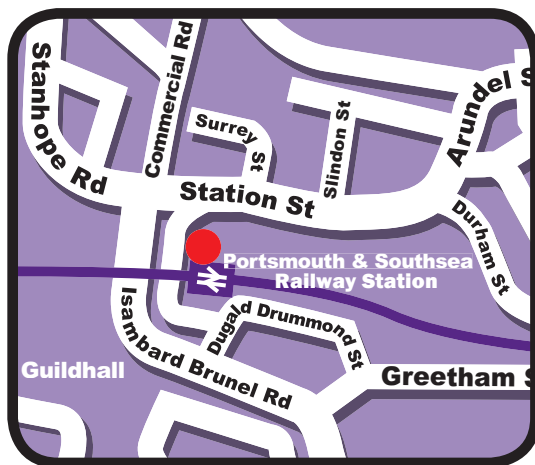
Hampshire: www.hampshireconnexions.co.uk

Isle of Wight: www.connexions-isleofwight.org

Southampton: www.connexions-southampton.org

Opening times

Monday	9.30am - 4.30pm
Tuesday	9.30am - 4.30pm
Wednesday	11.00am - 2.30pm
Thursday	9.30am - 4.30pm and 5.00pm - 7.00pm
Friday	9.30am - 4.30pm



Information

for parents and carers of young people with learning difficulties or disabilities, or both.

About us

Connexions Portsmouth is an information, advice, guidance and support service for all young people aged 13 to 19 (and up to 25 years for young people with learning difficulties or disabilities, or both) in the Portsmouth area. We work closely with other organisations such as:

- schools and colleges;
- youth services;
- children's services;
- adult services;
- training providers;
- employers; and
- and job centres.

We have staff based in schools, colleges and Connexions centres across Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight.

We have staff based in schools, colleges and Connexions Centres across Portsmouth. The addresses of our centres are on the opposite page.

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Personal Advisers



Every young person can go to a Connexions Personal Adviser (PA) for information, advice and support on many issues, including:

- education and training
- housing;
- jobs;
- relationships; and
- health;
- free time.
- money;

If a PA isn't able to help, they will always try to put the young person in touch with someone who can.

How can a Personal Adviser help?

A PA can offer your child a confidential service to:

- identify and meet their needs;
- help them get involved in education, training and employment;
- help them move successfully into adult life; and
- help them contact other agencies or organisations who can provide specialist help or services.

All our PAs are checked by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).

Working with young people with learning difficulties or disabilities, or both.

We will work with you, your child and their school or college to work out how we can give them extra support.

Young people with a statement of special educational needs

As well as offering the services set out on this page, PAs offer services which are set out in the Learning and Skills Act (2000) and the Department for Education and Skills Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2002). Personal Advisers will:

- go to your child's Year-9 annual review of their statement of special educational needs;
- contribute to drawing up the young person's transition plan (explained on page 4) drawn up in Year 9;
- go to any other yearly reviews if it is appropriate, especially the final one, and help to update the plan;
- assess, with the help of other professionals, such as transition social workers, advisory teachers and educational psychologists, already working with your child, your child's education and training needs and the services needed to meet these needs;
- review the Moving On Plan (s140) during college or training;
- support your child if they apply for funding for special education provision and services (for example, residential courses for young people over 16); and
- help your child to move smoothly to adult services.

The transition planning meeting

When your child is in Year 9, the school will arrange a meeting for you, your child, school staff, Connexions staff and any other professionals working with your child to talk about the options available when they leave school.

This is called a 'transition planning meeting'. This meeting should be centred on your and your child's wishes, opinions and hopes for their future. We will ask you and your child for your views. Your involvement in the meeting will be very important.

It is important to prepare for this meeting because this is your chance to tell us and anyone else at the meeting your views, ask any questions, and find out what the options are after your child leaves school.

There may be a number of professionals, such as transition social workers, advisory teachers and educational psychologists, at the meeting, as well as a Connexions Personal Adviser (PA), who will work with you to help plan for the future. The PA will offer you and your child:

- support throughout the transition process;
- information to help you make decisions; and
- professional and unbiased advice.

After this meeting, the school will produce a transition plan document. The PA and other people involved will also assess your child's education and training needs, along with the arrangements that we need to make if your child wants to go on to further education or training. This is called a Moving On Plan or Section-140 Assessment (see page 6 for more information). We will try to give you answers at the meeting. If this is not possible, your child's PA will find out any answers and continue to work with you in the planning process.

What should I ask at the transition planning meeting?

It is really important to think of the questions you and your child would like us to answer at the meeting.

Here are some of the questions you may want to ask.

For children in Year 9 or above at school

- Will my child have to leave school at 16?
- What can I do to help prepare for the time when my child leaves school?
- What qualifications are on offer?
- Are there any work-experience opportunities?
- What subjects can my child study?
- What information about future options can I have?
- What happens if my child is on medication or has specialised health treatment?
- When is the school leaving date?

For children aged 16 and over

- What can I do to help prepare for the time when my child leaves school?
- Where can my child go when they reach 16?
- What support is available during school holidays?
- What benefits are available?
- Are there any after-school activities?
- Can my child get help with transport?
- When does independent or supported living become an option?
- What support will we get in making sure the move out of school is a success?



Moving On Plans (Section 140)

When your child is at school, they receive extra support to help them with their learning and cope with the school environment.

When they leave school for further education or training, they will often still need similar support to succeed on their new course.

A **Moving On Plan**, also sometimes called a Section-140 Assessment, describes what your child hopes to achieve, and the support, special equipment or facilities they need to achieve this.

The Moving On Plan will be based on:

- discussions with you and your child during the transition-plan meeting;
- information from teachers, and
- information from other specialists who have worked with your child.

Under Section 140 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 the PA has to offer a Moving On Plan to all young people with statements of special educational needs who want to go on to further education or training. We can offer a Moving On Plan to a young person without a statement, who has a specific learning support need.

We normally work out the Moving On Plan in your child's final year of school. It can be later if, for example, they stay at the same school for an extra period.

Your Personal Advisers will always work with your child when they produce a Moving On Plan. We will always try to agree with your child how we will assess their needs. Sometimes, we will need to involve you or your child's carers as well, particularly if your child has very complex learning difficulties and disabilities.



Why have Moving On Plans?



Moving On Plans are important documents. Colleges and training organisations use them to make sure they provide the right kind of support for their students and trainees. Colleges will need to see Moving On Plans with the young person's application, or at an interview if they have one, so that they have time to make changes to meet the person's specific needs. In some cases we can use Moving On Plans to support applications for funding for places at specialist colleges.



Once your child has started their new course, their PA will regularly review the Moving On Plan to check that the support continues to meet their needs. The college or training provider will also be involved, as well as any other agency, such as children's or adult's services, already working with your child.

While your child is in education we review their plan at least once a year so we can make sure it is up to date.



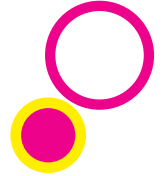
Supporting young people with learning difficulties or disabilities, or both, aged 20 to 24

We provide services for all young people from 13 to 19 years old. Many young people with learning difficulties and disabilities may not be ready to move on to adult services until they are 20 or older.

If necessary, we will continue to work with you and your child, until their 25th birthday, to help them make the move to adult services. We review the support at least once a year, and we like you to be involved in this.

We will involve other agencies and local organisations such as Jobcentre Plus or local voluntary agencies who offer adult services your child may need or want. We may also give you information to help you to go to specialist organisations for help.

When we agree with you that your child is ready to use these adult services, we will pass support to the adult agency.



Useful contacts



www.parentpartnership.org.uk

This site contains information on the work of the National Parent Partnership Network (NPPN), how to contact a local parent partnership organisation as well as various publications.

www.trans-active.org.uk

The trans-active site is for young people with disabilities and uses multimedia to explore different issues.

www.e.volve.org.uk

e.VOLve is an interactive website for community and voluntary sector organisations who work in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

www.direct.gov.uk/DisabledPeople

Information and support for people with disabilities.

www.prospects.ac.uk

This is a careers website for graduates. It includes a section for graduates with a disability.

www.bild.org.uk

This is the website of the British Institute of Learning Disabilities.

www.pldpb.org

Information and support from the Portsmouth Learning Disability Partnership Board.

www.cafamily.org.uk

Contact a Family provides support for parents and carers.

www.skill.org.uk

This site has information covering a range of topics for people with disabilities.



Contacting Us

Connexions Personal Advisers offer a service to all young people in school, in college and at your local Connexions Centre.

Visit www.connexionsportsmouth.co.uk for more information.

Or contact Connexions Direct. Connexions Direct advisers are available from 8am to 2am, seven days a week.

Our commitment to you

We want to make sure that the service we provide meets your needs. If you would like to make a particular comment, suggestion or complaint, please write to:

Sharon George
Head of Integrated Youth Support Services
Oasis Centre - Connexions Office
Arundel Street
Portsmouth
Hants PO1 1NP

Or visit the Portsmouth City Council website and fill in the online form:
www.portsmouth.gov.uk/yourcouncil/12918.html

connexions direct

Phone: **080 800 13 2 19**

Text: **07766 413 2 19**

Website and e-mail:

www.connexions-direct.com