

# What's next?

Life, learning and work



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# Life, learning and work

The focus of education and training for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities changes as they move on from school. Learning often takes place in a range of environments rather than relying on traditional classrooms. Learning becomes more vocational, helping young people identify opportunities for potential employment in the future and enabling them to develop the skills they will need to be successful. On leaving school an offer of three or four days of education is the usual pattern.

Information about preparing for adulthood can be found on the Local Offer website that includes 8 films of young people Living Local Moving On:

[www.yor-ok.org.uk/preparing-for-adulthood-2](http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/preparing-for-adulthood-2)

Options for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) in York now include:

- Local Colleges
- Applefields Post 16 Provision.
- Archbishop Holgate’s Sixth Form
- Personalised Learning Programmes
- Supported Internships
- My Life – Positive Activities in York

Specialist Careers Advisers offer advice and guidance to help to prepare young people with EHCPs to make choices. We begin by finding out about the young person’s aims, hopes and ambitions. Social Workers (if you have one) together with Specialist Careers Advisers will also spend time with young people and those who know them to consider what their next steps after school may be. Creative ways are used to engage and communicate with young people and help them to think about and plan their future. Students will also have the opportunity to attend open events and taster sessions to support their decision making.

In School, colleges and training provision, students may have an Education, Health and Care Plan. All those involved with students will contribute to the EHC plan which will be outcome focused supporting their planning into adulthood. EHC Plans will continue while young people are in education or accessing a supported internship. They will cease when a young person moves into some employment or has completed the outcomes for their learning. Young people can be supported to access local provision by Local Area Coordinators and through the Live Well York website: [www.livewellyork.co.uk](http://www.livewellyork.co.uk). Some will access support from Adult Social Workers. A very small minority of young people may continue to have an EHCP until they are 25 years old. Plans will be ‘young person centred’, reflect the views of all parties, provide a single document which all involved work to, and be reviewed at least annually.

# Local Further Education in York

## York College

York College aims to ensure that people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are able to enrol on their chosen course, from Entry Level to Level 3, including A levels; as well as Higher Education courses, providing they meet the entry criteria for that course.



## Pathways Programme

York College offers one programme specifically for young people aged 16 – 24 called Pathway to Work and Independent Living. Within this programme young people can study to gain qualifications at Entry 1, Entry 2 or Entry 3 or Level 1. This course is also ideal for students working at Entry Level or Level 1 who may require a personalised approach designed to meet their individual needs and which may form part of a bespoke package delivered entirely at York College or in conjunction with other post 16 providers within York.

Pathways students study a range of units to develop vocational skills such as preparing for work and work placement whilst the independent living units will allow them to manage money, go shopping and undertake basic food preparation as well as using public transport. The programme will also help them to develop personal, social and communication skills. All students study English and Maths at a level suitable for their needs. The Programme is taught in small groups, or sometimes on a 1:1 basis with the appropriate levels of learning support through a combination of taught theory and practical sessions, visits, speakers and work placements.

Further information on all York College courses is available in their prospectus or online at [www.yorkcollege.ac.uk](http://www.yorkcollege.ac.uk).

Able to Learn, York College's disability statement, is available directly from the college or online. This provides further information on the full range of support available to students.

If you require any more information about the Pathways course or would like further advice please contact Learning Support Manager – Pat Rose.

☎ 01904 770428

@ [PRose@yorkcollege.ac.uk](mailto:PRose@yorkcollege.ac.uk)

## Askham Bryan College

There are entry level courses offered at Askham Bryan College at Entry Level 2 and 3. Students choose from two vocational options:

- Land and plants
- Animal care

These entry level programmes are designed for students who need extra help with learning but like to be active and are interested in either horticulture or animal care.

Level 1 Land Based Programmes offer students the choice to study either horticulture, animal care, agriculture, horse care or pathways (a combination of all the above). There is support available for all young people on the Level 1 courses to help them achieve a practical vocational qualification and participate in Maths, English, community projects and personal skills development. These are 3 day courses over one year. It is sometimes possible, depending on progress and advice from the college to study a one year programme over two years.

The college has facilities for young people to develop their skills and established horticulture facilities. Students also study in the animal management buildings with a variety of animals ranging from mice and dogs to armadillos, alpacas and exotics.

Full details of all the programmes can be found in the prospectus and online at [www.askham-bryan.ac.uk](http://www.askham-bryan.ac.uk). For more information, contact Askham Bryan College.

☎ 01904 772277

@ [enquiries@askham-bryan.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@askham-bryan.ac.uk)

## Routes 2 Success

Routes 2 Success is a supportive study programme that enables young people to move into adulthood with confidence and resilience, as well as relevant skills and qualifications. The programme would benefit learners who are not ready to access mainstream post 16 study and those who learn more effectively in a small group setting or require additional support. Routes 2 Success is 3 days a week but could be 4 or 5 days if you do a work placement.

Sarah Robson, Project Manager (Mon-Wed) ● Alison Thorne, Programme Manager (Wed – Fri)

☎ 01904 551806

@ [sarah.robson@york.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.robson@york.gov.uk)

☎ 01904 551561

@ [alison.thorne@york.gov.uk](mailto:alison.thorne@york.gov.uk)



## Applefields Post 16

Applefields School Post 16 support students with moderate, severe and profound learning difficulties and those with complex autism. The curriculum includes numeracy, literacy, communication, physical education, transport, ICT, meal preparation, home management, horticulture, personal and social and health education, work related learning, careers and work experience. The provision aims to promote independence skills, and transition to life after school. To improve work skills and life skills as appropriate for the individuals. Qualifications available include AQA in Literacy and Numeracy, ASDAN Entry Levels and City and Guilds.

### Minster Provision

A new provision in York is available for young people with complex needs. It is called 'The Minster Provision' and is based at Askham Bryan College and supported by Applefields School. It is a 5 day a week course which will feature a core learning programme, capacity for young people to have their physical and sensory needs met as well as supporting them to access community based activities and work with a range of local partners.

Further information is available from the headteacher, Applefields School, Bad Bargain Lane, Burnholme, York YO30 0LW

☎ 01904 553900

[www.applefieldsschool.co.uk](http://www.applefieldsschool.co.uk)

## Archbishop Holgate's Sixth Form

Archbishop Holgate's Sixth Form offer a work related learning programme at post 16 (1 or 2 years).

Students work towards a BTEC Level 2 in Work Skills. This is a practical work based approach to learning and is suitable for learners who:

- have achieved the equivalent of Level 1 and above
- would like the opportunity to gain further qualifications and work experience split between classroom study for 3 days and an appropriate work placement for 2 days each week (subject to school's assessment)

More information is available via the school website [www.archbishopholgates.org](http://www.archbishopholgates.org) or from head of work skills at Archbishop Holgate's School:

☎ 01904 411341

### Other opportunities for Learning and Training

Students might want to consider other vocational training opportunities in York. Learning opportunities may include English, Maths, ICT as well as different job related training and employability skills. Further information can be gained from [www.yor-zone.org.uk](http://www.yor-zone.org.uk).

Your **Specialist Careers Adviser** can give you more information on the different career areas each provider covers and how they may be able to meet individual needs. Further information is available on each provider's website:

- York Learning: [www.yorklearning.org.uk](http://www.yorklearning.org.uk)
- YH Training Services: [www.yh-group.co.uk](http://www.yh-group.co.uk)
- Tool Box: [www.thetoolboxproject.co.uk](http://www.thetoolboxproject.co.uk)
- Access to Music: [www.accesstomusic.co.uk/centres/york](http://www.accesstomusic.co.uk/centres/york)
- The Princes Trust Team Programme: [www.askham-bryan.ac.uk](http://www.askham-bryan.ac.uk)
- York Mind: [www.yorkmind.org.uk](http://www.yorkmind.org.uk)
- Ampleforth Plus: [www.ampleforthplus.co.uk](http://www.ampleforthplus.co.uk)
- Accelerate Programme: [www.aspire-igen.com/accelerate](http://www.aspire-igen.com/accelerate)
- Futuregoals: [futuregoals.co.uk](http://futuregoals.co.uk)





# Personalised Learning and Work Experience Programmes

These programmes provide an exciting alternative which places the focus on work experience in York accompanied by a bespoke package of learning which prepares the learner for real employment (or volunteering) and independent living, building towards living a full adult life in York.

This pathway would be appropriate for young people who would like to continue their education when they leave school and require a more flexible programme than is available through a solely college or training provider based route. It combines three elements:

- education and training with the opportunity to gain further qualifications and employability skills
- leisure activities with the opportunity to meet and socialise with other students
- work experience and voluntary opportunities in an area suited to the young person's interests and ideas with a sustained period of time in a placement with one or more organisations to help build a track record of experience for a CV as well as strengthen employability skills



## Blueberry Academy

The Blueberry Academy is based in York with the main learning hub at The Melbourne Centre in Fishergate and a second training venue at Silver Street in the city centre.

Blueberry offer personalised learning pathways towards employment and independence. All programmes include functional skills (English, maths and IT) and a supported work experience. Other sessions include skills for everyday life, citizenship, employability skills, gardening, arts and crafts, outdoor greencraft, woodwork, enterprise, art and IT/animation, rock school, drama and sports.

Young people are supported to build their independence through practical tasks and small group activities: for example, cooking, personal presentation, housekeeping, healthy eating, shopping trips, managing money, taking part in local community events, online and personal safety and building healthy and positive relationships.

Blueberry works in partnership with local employers to offer work experiences in a range of sectors including retail, catering, hospitality, administration and IT. Young people are supported in work by a job coach.

Blueberry aims to work in a holistic way, supporting young people with preparing for adulthood and the transition from education to adult life. Young people leaving Blueberry programmes are supported to plan for their future and encouraged to maintain volunteering opportunities, take part in their local community and continue with a routine of healthy and positive social and leisure activities. Blueberry also has a proven track record in supporting some students each year into sustainable paid work, and can often offer ongoing in-work support.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning	Arrival and social / personal preparation for the day				
	Work Experience	Citizenship	Office Skills and IT		Customer Service and Communication skills English
Afternoon	Supported lunch and leisure/social activities.				
	Arts and Craft Workshop	Skills for Everyday Life	Employability Skills		Money Skills Maths
	End of day evaluation / communication book / personal planning				

For more information please call or watch the information videos on the website. We have two open days every year.

To arrange a visit contact the Blueberry Academy [www.blueberryacademy.co.uk](http://www.blueberryacademy.co.uk)

☎ 01904 638885



## Choose 2 Youth



Choose 2 Youth provide a tailor-made approach to learning programmes. A programme is designed to suit each individual's student's needs. For example current students take part in: skills for life, functional skills, drama, communication, horticulture & upcycling, physical exercise including crossfit, rebound, hydro and swimming. We also support them in a variety of work placements and run our own training café within the Hull Road Park.

It is an individual person-centred programme based upon input from the student, parents/ carers and support professionals. Students may progress on to further learning, volunteering, supported employment or a range of local activities in York. An example of a personalised programme currently experienced by a Choose 2 student is included below.

For more information or to arrange a visit contact Choose 2 Youth:

☎ 07933 115448

@ [office@choose2youth.co.uk](mailto:office@choose2youth.co.uk)

	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	Crossfit or rebound	Skills for life
Tuesday	Work placement cafe	Drama
Wednesday	Functional skills project based	Communication group
Thursday	Functional skills project based	Upcycling/Horticulture

The aim of this timetable is to build a range of skills and support the student in their transition to adult life in York. Personalised programmes are often appropriate and successful for learners who wish to continue their learning in a vocational setting or whose needs cannot currently be met by other existing programmes offered locally.



## Tang Hall Smart

The **Smart Ways Programme** is designed for learners who have an EHCP. Aimed at young adults who would enjoy the range of activities we have on offer at Tang Hall Smart.

It is intended for post-16 learners who have an EHCP. Aimed at young adults who would enjoy the range of activities they have on offer in a smaller more vocational-type of setting, they can offer a high degree of flexibility and attention to the needs and interests of the individual. Tang Hall Smart are able to differentiate their programmes to accommodate learners of the full ability range from entry level up to level 3. Tang Hall Smart are a registered exam centre for RSL and can offer the opportunity for Level 1, 2, 3 music-based qualifications. They have four pathways, each lasting approximately 14 hours per week spread over three days. It is also possible to mix and match between the four pathways: music, electronics/hand skills, marketing/promotions, and support. It is possible that in some cases a 4th day may be available, subject to funding, to develop independent living skills.

More information is available on the website [www.tanghallsmart.com](http://www.tanghallsmart.com) or you can contact Sue Williamson:

☎ 07725 997342

@ [sue@tanghallsmart.com](mailto:sue@tanghallsmart.com)





## Ad Astra

The provision is based at Lower Derwent Valley Nature reserve (Wheldrake). It is a site of Special Scientific Interest and a major conservation area. Opportunities offered include work with wildfowl (such as catching and ringing of birds), land management such as seeding, cutting etc. Students may undertake LANTRA qualifications in areas such as felling of trees, tractor driving. In partnership with York Learning functional skills can be offered.

Visit the website [www.adastrayork.co.uk](http://www.adastrayork.co.uk) or contact Sam Shaw for more information:

☎ 01904 449846

@ [samshawadastra@gmail.com](mailto:samshawadastra@gmail.com)

## United Response

United Response offer the Introduction to Media course. The course takes place for up to 4 days a week and can focus on any aspect of media for example video production and editing, photography, graphic design and podcasting. The options offered would be based around the interests of the young person. Maths and English can be incorporated into the course at the appropriate level. The media course is unaccredited but it will provide experience and confidence building which can lead to other opportunities.

Contact Simon Copper for more information:

☎ 07949 962560

@ [Simon.Copper@unitedresponse.org.uk](mailto:Simon.Copper@unitedresponse.org.uk)

## Supported Internships

Supported Internships are based primarily at employer's premises with on the job training and support. More information on these programmes is available from [www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/what-we-do/supported-internships/access-to-workfund](http://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/what-we-do/supported-internships/access-to-workfund). The most important requirement of a Supported Internship is that the young person wants to and is ready to work, but may need extra support to do this.

### Blueberry Academy

As part of the personalised learning offer at Blueberry Academy, young people can access Supported Internships. These programmes have a minimum of 2 days per week in the workplace, with functional skills, independent living skills and employability offered alongside.

Interns are supported by a job coach, and support is gradually reduced as the intern becomes more independent at their tasks and duties. Blueberry works with a range of employers within the city and are currently supporting 12 internships with York St John University, City of York Council, Ambiente Restaurant, Vangarde at Monks Cross and Waitrose.

The Blueberry information, advice and guidance team looks at the full range of needs a person has and supports trainees to explore employment options either with the placement provider or to apply for other opportunities which match their skills and abilities.

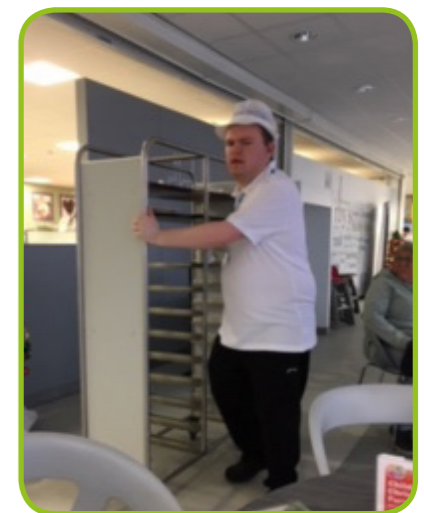
For any enquiries contact Katie Johnson or Andy Bucklee on:

@ [info@blueberryacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@blueberryacademy.co.uk)

☎ 01904 638885

### NHS (Project Choice)

Only for students with EHCPs and is a one year programme. A placement would be organised across the week with one day reserved for employability and functional skills. There is the possibility of a different placement each term. Some of the placements are in a hospital setting, but some are out in the community. The young person is allocated a workplace mentor along with the coordinator. Young people won't get paid but will develop useful work related skills and be more ready to move into paid work at the end of the programme.



For any enquiries contact Melanie Slater:

@ [melanie.parkin@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:melanie.parkin@hee.nhs.uk)



## Prospects

New to York and offering SIs in a number of areas of interest to the young person. Only for young people who have an EHCP. Will usually be one year in duration. The programme will be personalised for each learner with possibility of up to 3 bespoke placements in particular areas of interest. Employability sessions will be offered along with functional skills or other qualifications to sit alongside work placements. Prospects say they will offer support to look for paid work towards the end of the programme.

For any enquiries contact Nicky Brown:

@ [nicola.brown@prospects.co.uk](mailto:nicola.brown@prospects.co.uk)

☎ 07584270348

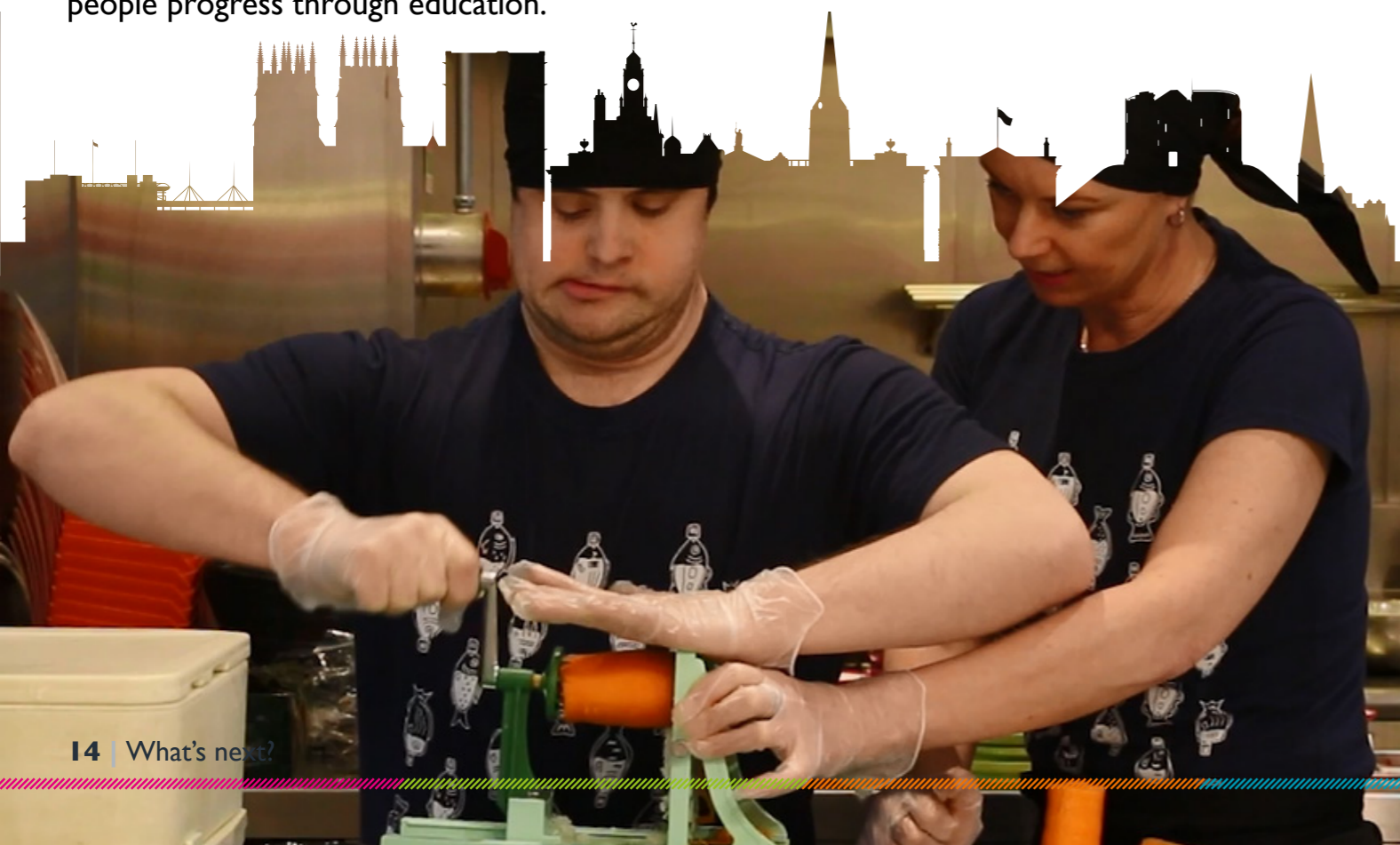
## United Response

Usually a two year programme. The first year would involve working in Café West to learn about employment skills such as rules and responsibilities, health and safety, working in a team and communication. The second year would be with an employer elsewhere in York related to what the young person wants to do. For example retail, hospitality, catering. Both years would include focused employability sessions and functional skills – either 1:1 work or small groups.

For any enquiries contact Simon Copper:

@ [Simon.Copper@unitedresponse.org.uk](mailto:Simon.Copper@unitedresponse.org.uk)

As provision develops your Specialist Careers Adviser can advise you on other options going forward. Your SCA will maintain contact with you especially around EHCP time and as young people progress through education.



## Supported Employment

This is a possible option for when you have left education and are ready to work. United Response is the main provider in York.

### Who is eligible?

The programme is designed to support people with learning disabilities, autism, physical disabilities or people with mental health conditions, people with very little or no experience of work, people who want tailored support to access and stay in work. In order to be eligible the young person needs to be working with Adult Social Care and a referral can be made by your social worker or transitions worker. Alternatively a referral via a work coach or disability employment adviser at the Job Centre can be made.

People accessing the service are assigned a job coach. A job coach is like a support worker but is focused around supporting people into work and in work. The core role of a job coach is to provide person centred support, to enable people to learn, develop and maintain a job.

For more information about the service they provide please contact:

Ramsay Taylor, Supported Employment Manager  
United Response Training Employment and Community (URTEC)  
3-5 Tanner Row  
York  
YO1 6JB

☎ 01904 672572

☎ 07811 998307

@ [ramsay.taylor@unitedresponse.org](mailto:ramsay.taylor@unitedresponse.org)

Alternatively speak to your social worker or disability employment adviser.





# My life in York

Most young people with complex needs want to have a full, varied and active week alongside or after their education. Some young people have an allocated social worker who helps them plan activities. These activities are often in the community where a young person lives.

City of York Council have developed Talking Points for advice about community and social care support. Talking Points take place at different locations across the city for example libraries, the hospital, community centres. Social care staff are available on a drop in basis to talk to.

For the latest information on where they are currently taking place or for an appointment:

☎ 01904 555111



New resources are being developed to help young people plan their leisure and social activities.

An example of this is the new Live Well York website:

[www.livewellyork.co.uk](http://www.livewellyork.co.uk)

On the website young people and families can search via area of interest to find activities of interest to them. The website is planned to be regularly maintained and updated.



# Independent travel training

## YILTS

York Independent Living and Travel Skills (YILTS) offers travel training to young people aged 11-25 years old. YILTS assess the travel skills of young people who currently access CYC funded transport and receive referrals from a range of professionals, parents and young people. Training is provided at a time that is right for the young person and YILTS staff will routinely attend EHCP meetings in school at key transition times to help agree travel plans as a student moves on from school or college.

YILTS provides a carefully planned programme to support young people to understand timetables, plan routes, become familiar with being out and about, and understand what to do when something unexpected happens.

YILTS continues to provide travel training as people leave education and move into adulthood.



“ I felt a bit nervous on buses but now I feel loads more confident ”

## Inclusive Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh Inclusion Group is specifically for young people with disabilities and/or additional needs. This is suitable for young people 14+ who would like to do the bronze award. All tasks are aimed to suit each individual's skills and needs.

For further information contact Choose 2 Youth:

☎ 07933 115448

@ [office@choose2youth.co.uk](mailto:office@choose2youth.co.uk)



## Residential specialist colleges

These are often referred to as independent specialist providers or ISPs. Some students and their families/carers seek residential education placements at an ISP. Residential colleges offer full time and part time further education programmes for students post-16. Further information on colleges can be obtained from your Specialist Careers Adviser or by contacting the Association of National Specialist Colleges (Natspec), [www.natspec.org.uk](http://www.natspec.org.uk).

The local authority continues to commission places at Independent Specialist Colleges outside York only if the education and training offer in York cannot meet a young person's needs. This is usually if they have complex, multiple and profound difficulties meaning that their broader support, health and care needs prevent them accessing education and training in local setting.

When a place at an independent specialist college is commissioned it is generally agreed in principle for one year only. Any subsequent years would require a review of progress and another panel decision. Places are not commissioned solely to improve independent living skills.

## Evaluation and review

A young person's pathway will aim to lead towards their final goal. Carefully planned programmes focus on meeting the young person's needs and aspirations. Young people and their parents/carers will meet regularly to consider their progress towards achieving their goals. All proposed changes or adjustments to a young person's programme will be fully discussed and planned. The EHCP is reviewed annually and provides a focus for this work.

## Useful contacts

<b>Transition Team</b>	<a href="http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/transitions-team.htm">www.yor-ok.org.uk/transitions-team.htm</a>
<b>York Special Educational Needs Service</b>	<a href="http://www.york.gov.uk/education/SEN">www.york.gov.uk/education/SEN</a>
<b>SENDIASS</b> - Special Education needs and Disability information, advice and Support Service SENDIASS provides information, advice and support to parents, carers, children and young people in relation to special educational needs and disability and related health and social care issues. The service is free and can be provided over the telephone, during home visits or through support at meetings.	<a href="http://www.york.gov.uk/education/sen/ypp/">www.york.gov.uk/education/sen/ypp/</a>
<b>YorOK</b> - The most senior partnership of everyone who works with children and young people in York, including schools and colleges. The website contains lots of useful information about the services you and your child can access. From YorOK you can link to the local offer website, which outlines services available locally in York.	<a href="http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/localoffer">www.yor-ok.org.uk/localoffer</a>
<b>Sport and Active Leisure</b>	<a href="http://www.york.gov.uk/disabilitysport">www.york.gov.uk/disabilitysport</a>
<b>Adult Social Care workers</b>	Contact <b>01904 555111</b> to make a referral.
<b>Choose2Youth</b> - A youth club for young people with additional needs from secondary school age to 25 years. It runs on a Wednesday evening at Moor Lane Youth Centre and is an opportunity for young people to make new friends and try new things.  On the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month Choose 2 run a youth club for those with ASD/Aspergers syndrome. Holiday provision is also offered through Choose2.	<a href="http://www.choose2youth.co.uk">www.choose2youth.co.uk</a>
<b>SENDO Team</b> (SEN designated officers)	The team who update, approve and administer the EHCP. Contact them for any questions about the EHCP. <a href="mailto:SENdept@york.gov.uk">SENdept@york.gov.uk</a>





Working together with children,  
young people and families



If you would like this document in an alternative format, please contact:

☎ (01904) 551550      @ ycc@york.gov.uk

🐦 @CityofYork      📺 @cityofyork

It is available in the following languages:

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

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