

Spreading The word



The Local Offer

Our 'local offer' brings together details about local health, education and social care services in one place for children and young people aged 0-25.

The 'one-stop-shop' is a useful online resource for children, young people, parents, professionals and people who provide services.

You can also use the site to tell us about your experiences of services and facilities, register a service or suggest one to be added.

The 'local offer' was launched following national reform, ours can be found at www.leicestershire.gov.uk/local-offer

Welcome...

...to the second, but **newly titled** SEND Local Offer newsletter.

We are pleased to announce that Lewis who attends one of our specialist groups, named the newsletter and was the overall winner.

The two runners up were Ryan who suggested 'Hear Say' and parent, Roxanne Dinsdale with 'Leicestershire Care and Share'.

In total we had 18 entries mainly from young people attending one of our specialist SEND youth groups.

A huge thank you to all those who entered and congratulations to the winners!

Following the summer newsletter we received some lovely messages, saying how much you like both the articles and the style of the newsletter and we hope you enjoy reading this latest edition.

This is your newsletter and we encourage you to keep in touch and share your views on what you would like to see in future editions.

Each edition will include stories from some of Leicestershire's inspirational children and young people, activities you can get involved in as well as information on services available to help you.

In this edition we focus on the 'transition' phase and preparing for adulthood, with news from the transitions service and information about 'Supported Internships'.

This is the final issue we are printing for distribution. Future newsletters will be distributed by email, uploaded onto the Local Offer website pages and on our Facebook page.

Make sure you sign up so you don't miss out on future editions by emailing leicestershirelocaloffer@leics.gov.uk and asking to be added to the newsletter mailing list.

Jane

Jane Moore
Assistant Director
Education and Early Help

Sign up now!

To sign up for future editions, please email leicestershirelocaloffer@leics.gov.uk

This is the final time this newsletter will be distributed in printed form; future editions will be emailed to those who have signed up.



Join our Leicestershire Local Offer on Facebook, visit our page and like us to receive regular updates.

Visit the Local Offer at
www.leicestershire.gov.uk/local-offer

✉ leicestershirelocaloffer@leics.gov.uk

Inside this issue

'You said, we did' | Learning for adult life
Swimming clubs | Demi's story | In focus...
Employability | and lots more!



Have your say on proposed changes to the Special Educational Needs (SEN) and mainstream Home to School Transport Policies

Leicestershire County Council is currently undergoing a significant period of change. The council has to make £66m of savings over the next four years, this is on top of the £161m saved since 2010 – this means difficult decisions about services in all areas of the council’s work.

Currently, we provide transport to nursery and school/college for approximately 400 children with SEN under five, and between the ages of 16-19. We do not have a statutory duty to provide this in the same way we do for children aged 5-16.

The proposals we are considering:

- Reducing the level of discount available to children and young people from low income families for transport to nursery and post 16 education
- To stop offering council arranged taxis and minibuses to transport SEN students to post 16 education and offer a Personal Transport Budget instead
- To stop providing transport to post 16 education for eligible mainstream post 16 students

No decisions about these proposals have yet been made. We are committed to a wide consultation on these proposals before making any decisions.

If, following consultation, any proposals are agreed these would be implemented from September 2019.

How to give your views on the consultation

Your views are important so that we can better understand how the proposals could affect you and how we can make any changes work best for you. Tell us how this might affect you.

Online: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/school-transport-policy-changes

For general enquires or comments about this consultation, or to request a paper copy please phone **0116 305 0002** or email passengertransport@leics.gov.uk

Please submit your views by midnight on 21 December 2017.

you said we did!

We are keen to share with you comments from children, young people and their families and the response they received from us.

Karen Hall, Family Voice Worker (SEND), shares some of the comments and actions since she has been in post:



Lots of parents told us that they hadn't heard of the Local Offer and find it difficult to find out about services – In November we ran our first ever Local Offer Roadshow based in Hinckley and Bosworth to help promote services for children with SEND and their families. More events are coming up and the roadshow could be visiting a town near you soon.

You told us you want to hear from the services that matter to you and your family and not get your information “from word of mouth” – We are holding parent involvement sessions throughout the county focussing on various topics where members of staff will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Want to find out more?

Follow us on

www.facebook.com/Leicslocaloffer

or email

leicestershirelocaloffer@leics.gov.uk

or visit our web page

www.leicestershire.gov.uk/you-said-we-did

Get in touch...

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Which services do you use?

How do you feel about the support?

What would you like to see in future newsletters?

Contact Alison alison.barnes@leics.gov.uk or

Karen karen.hall@leics.gov.uk



Child Sexual Exploitation

The children's charity Barnardo's describes Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) as a major child protection issue across the UK.

Victims can be boys or girls with the most vulnerable age being between 13 and 16 years. The majority of cases experience some aspect of on-line abuse. Children with SEN are particularly vulnerable. Some struggle to make friends, are more trusting on-line, or are less able to spot warning signs in on-line relationships. Children may think they are engaging in consensual activities but they cannot consent to their own abuse. Safeguarding measures are in place to protect them.

As part of the CSE project we support parents to help keep their children safer, both in the virtual world and real life. We recommend parents consider where their children have access to the internet, regularly check what sites their children are visiting and who their on-line friends are. We encourage parents to know how to use privacy settings and report concerns, such as through the CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) website www.thinkuknow.co.uk

For more information please contact wendy.marsh@leics.gov.uk

Meet the team ...

Independent Support

Independent Support is a free, impartial and confidential information and support service available to families in Leicestershire who are going through the Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessment and planning process, transfer and/or annual reviews.

Independent Support is a national government initiative launched in January 2014, managed by a team at the Council for Disabled Children (CDC), on behalf of the Department for Education. All Independent Supporters undertake accredited training with CDC.

SENDIASS stands for Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS).

Independent support is provided through SENDIASS Leicestershire and SENDIASS Leicester, Voluntary Action Leicestershire.

In Leicester City we were formerly called the Parent Partnership service and have been supporting parents and carers since 1999.

SENDIASS Leicester's experienced and trained team work across Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland:

An Independent Supporter can...

- Explain EHC assessment and planning process & how a plan is developed
- Explain the annual review process
- Go through paperwork and reports
- Help parents/young people navigate the Local Offer
- Ensure people have all the information they need to make decisions
- Provide impartial information and support so parents/young people are able to confidently express views
- Be a point of contact throughout the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan), transfer or annual review process
- Help produce One Page Profile
- Help prepare for meetings, and support at them
- Review the draft EHC Plan with parent/young person
- Signpost on for further information or support

Liz Ryley

Independent Support Contract Lead
(Part-time)



Chris Capell

Independent Supporter
(Full-time)



Sarah Thorpe

Independent Supporter
(Part-time)



To make a referral or discuss how we can help call 0116 257 4962 or email us info@sendiassleicester.org.uk
www.sendiassleicester.org.uk

Preparing for Adult Life



The transitions team support young people to plan for adult life. Dependant on individual circumstances and need this often occurs when the young person reaches 17, a year before they are due to leave full time education.

We support a young person to make decisions by:

- Finding out what is important to them
- Giving information about what choices are available and any risks
- Joint planning with the young person and their family

We believe the years in which a young person starts to approach and prepares for their adulthood should be full of opportunity, particularly when they start to think about what life outcomes matter to them and their families. This can include employment, health and wellbeing, education or independent living and housing options.

How the transitions team can help

The first time a young person may meet the transitions worker is when they attend school for year 14 reviews. If they already have a package of care in place from the Disabled Children's Team, the transitions team will ensure a smooth transfer to Adult Social Care.

Information is gathered in order to inform the young person's Care and Support Assessment; which is then used to determine if the young person meets the eligibility criteria for support as defined by the Care Act 2014. If the young person is eligible for support they will receive a Personal Budget.

We focus on the wishes and aspirations of the young person to ensure a person centred support plan is in place to meet their identified outcomes. We also offer a carer's assessment to their parent or carer to help support them to continue to care for the young person. If appropriate a Continuing Health Care Assessment is completed.

Part of becoming an independent adult is about making informed decisions and to think about possible risks, consequences and how to plan appropriately. Positive risk taking supports the young person to be more independent whilst keeping safe.

Each year, the transitions team support many young people to become better prepared to live independent adult lives. For more information from the transitions team contact the Hinckley Hub on 01455 636964.



The Mental Capacity Act 2005 says that wherever possible a young person aged 16 or over, should be encouraged and supported to make decisions for themselves. If a young person is unable to make decisions for themselves, the transitions team are skilled at acting on the young person's best interests and reaching the most appropriate decision with those involved. The young person's wishes and feelings are focussed on throughout the decision making process.

On occasions these decisions are so significant that they have to be made by the Court of Protection and it is part of the team's role to prepare court reports.



Planning ahead

There are lots of exciting changes and decisions for you and your parents to think about. By starting the planning process from age 13 (Year 9) there is plenty of time to sort out what needs to be done, both before and after transition to adult life.

If you have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) there will be a year 9 'Preparing for Adulthood Annual Review' which will look at what you might want to do for work, where to live, support you might need and which college or training provider you may want to go to. People who know you and can help you, can all contribute. Transition planning will record how goals will be met, to help you lead a happy and fulfilled life and have choice and control.

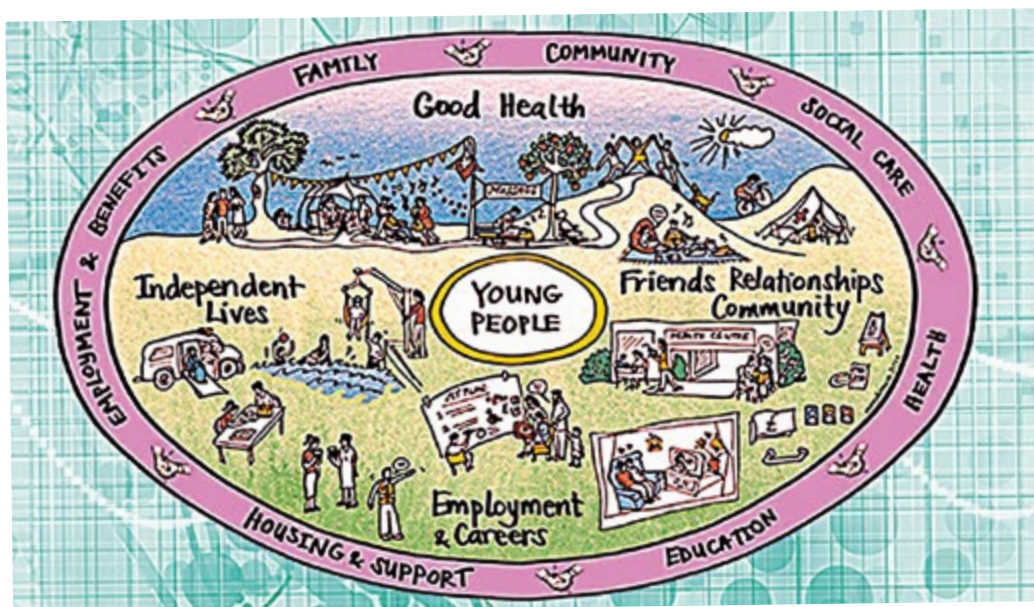
For some young people transition is also about leaving Children's Services and joining Adult Social Care services or leaving children's health services and accessing specialist health services.

The more you plan, the smoother it should be.

Visit our preparing for adulthood pages www.leicestershire.gov.uk/preparing-for-adulthood or visit www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk for more information.

What kind of things will you need to think about?

- Further education when you leave school - you may be thinking about going to college or joining a 6th form at another school.
- Continuing specialist health services - you may have support from services which need to continue in adult life.
- Money - you may have benefits that change or need to claim new benefits, need help to manage your money, to set up a bank account or learn to budget.
- Support for Carers - your parents /carers may need support.
- Transport - you may need support to get to college, day services or social events, to travel independently on the bus or to improve your road safety.
- Finding a job – you might want to find work or prepare for entering a working environment.
- Finding somewhere to live or learning new independence skills – you might need help preparing if you are thinking of moving out of the family home in the future.
- Being part of your community – you may want to access places in your community that everybody else uses, keep friendships or make new ones as well as have your voice heard.



Source: SEND Code of Practice

The Children and Families Act (2014) and The Care Act (2014) support young people with special educational needs to become more independent adults and this support should begin in Year 9 (age 13) and go up to 25 years of age.



Swimming clubs

Jill Stidever MBE has been an advocate for disability swimming across Leicestershire for many years. She was instrumental in setting up swimming groups at Desford and Ibstock in the 1970s, for swimmers with physical or sensory needs. These groups have developed into the multi squad (disability) of Leicester Penguins with a seamless training route for competitive swimmers. Some swimmers choose to join their local area club once they have 'learned to swim' and can enter the competition route that way.

Each group takes enquiries from children of any age and ability offering tuition for beginner and skill development levels to competitive or master level swimmers. The only requirement is that attendees have either a physical and sensory impairment (visually or hearing impaired). Through tuition with skilled swimming coaches, group members are encouraged to learn to enjoy swimming - whether at recreational or competitive level. Children are at all stages and groups vary accordingly.

Initially a parent or carer is asked to join their child in the pool. One to one advice can be given before progressing to small groups and then on to formal teaching and coaching. Parents and carers can learn swimming techniques to support their child on family holidays for example. Small group sizes ensure the correct ratio of tutors to children and young people.

When and where are the groups?

BOSWORTH ACADEMY

Leicester Lane, Desford, Leicestershire, LE9 9JL

Wednesday 6.15 – 7.15 pm and Sunday 8am – 9am

The pool is split into ability levels – one lane for beginners or skill development with three lanes for competitive swimming

IBSTOCK LEISURE COMPLEX

(situated behind Ibstock Community College)

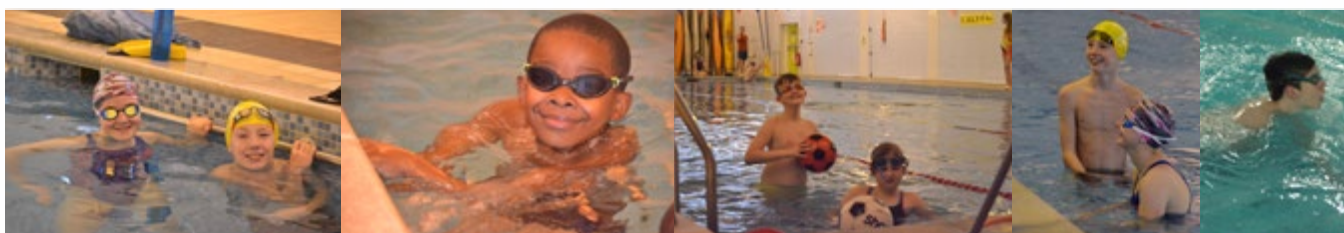
Central Avenue, Ibstock, Leicestershire, LE67 6NE

Friday 6.00 -7.00pm – beginners / skill development

Friday 7.00 – 8.00 pm – competitive training and older swimmers

There are currently voluntary opportunities to support with club administration, teaching or coaching and fundraising activities on behalf of Friend's of Ibstock and Desford Disabled Swimmers.

For more information or to enquire about joining one of these groups, please contact Jill Stidever on 01530 243352 .



LCFC Community Trust are running two great programmes, the LCFC Disability Programme and the Special Olympics Multi-Sport Club. For more information contact sarah.milner@lcfc.com or you can call Sarah on 07803 625 521.



I'm Demi, 17 years old and I have ADHD, anxiety and lots of other problems but they don't stop me being me! In my spare time I like colouring, playing on PlayStation and being on my phone, just like many other young people of my age.

My favourite sport is football, and I'm a huge fan of Leicester City FC. I used to play for Leicestershire and Rutland County FA and as I am hearing impaired and wear hearing aids, I now play for Derby County partially sighted and deaf team.

At the end of June this year, I received an exciting letter from school, asking if I would like to represent Leicester City in an International Football Tournament in Switzerland (Liechtenstein)! I said "yes" straight away. When it came to the day of going though, my nerves kicked in and I woke feeling dizzy and scared.

I suffer with syncope disorder (fainting) and this would be the first time I would have ever stayed away from home without my parents. Plus I'd be in another country! My Mum and sister calmed me down and we joked about people mistaking us for professional footballers. When I arrived at school everyone looked smart in their team tracksuits ready to go and everyone seemed pleased I was going to join them.



Demi's story

With hugs given to friends and family and bags packed on to the bus, we set off for Luton Airport. On the way there I thought back to what I had been like just before I left. This was a big step and I felt proud of myself. The flight to Zurich went well and despite feeling anxious when we had to change hotels at the last minute, we soon unpacked and settled in – visiting a lovely restaurant for tea.

The best days were playing football! There were 12 teams in the tournament and we played against Borussia Dortmund, Chelsea, Benfica, Real Madrid, Manchester City, Werder Bremen, and a couple of local teams. The playing facilities were amazingly good and we were surrounded by beautiful tall mountains. When we weren't playing football we just enjoyed the scenery or tried other activities such as beach volleyball, hockey, golf, swimming and there was also a skate park.

Our team (Leicester City) won the whole tournament!

Away for just four days we soon found ourselves packing our bags to return to the UK. Parents and friends met us at the school and watched us proudly coming off the bus with the trophy.

For me it was an amazing experience, the best I've had. I would tell anyone that if they get a similar opportunity to go somewhere they've never been before to do something they love then to 'go for it' and do people proud!

Thanks for reading my story and I hope it gives you the confidence to achieve and do anything!

Demi

For me, playing international football was an amazing experience, the best I've had. I would tell anyone that if they get a similar opportunity to go somewhere they've never been before to do something they love then to 'go for it' and do people proud!

Family Information Directory

Our Family Information Directory (FID) provides information on many useful local organisations and activities where you live such as:

- childcare, including day nurseries, pre-schools, childminders and out of school clubs
- children's centres
- children's activities including leisure groups and activities
- support groups
- providers offering advice and guidance
- disability and special educational needs groups (Local Offer)
- education, including private tuition

Our Family Information Service (FIS) aims to provide information advice and guidance to all families and families to be, including those who have children or young people with special educational needs or disability.

Please visit www.leicestershire.gov.uk/family-information-directory

Call our Family Information Service on **0116 305 6545**, or email: family@leics.gov.uk



Healthy Together

Healthy Together is a public health programme for children and young people aged 0-19 and their families across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

It is provided by Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust alongside some partner organisations. Healthy Together includes public health nursing services (previously known as health visiting and school nursing); giving families the care they need including early help if necessary.

Public Health Nurses (previously School Nurses) will offer support for all families at each development stage, assess children's health needs prior to school and complete national child measurement and health and well-being online assessments.

Nursery Nurses will now be referred to as 'Healthy Child Programme Nurses'.

Public Health Nurses will also deliver packages of care alongside partner agencies in line with the family's needs either in the family home or in health clinics. This includes support with behavioural problems, children in need and those with complex needs, travelling families and looked after children. They will also deliver Early Start intensive home visiting for some families.

You can text a 'Healthy Together' Public Health Nurse for confidential advice about parenting, your child's behaviour, child development, emotional health and wellbeing, or just for general queries about your child's health.

Residents living in:

Leicestershire and Rutland text: 07520 615382

Leicester city text: 07520 615381

For urgent medical attention you should contact your GP, call 111 or 999.

Find out more – visit

Health for Teens www.healthforteens.co.uk

Health for Kids www.healthforkids.co.uk

Health for Under 5s www.healthforunder5s.co.uk

Healthy Together 

Oadby Library is autism friendly



Staff in Oadby Library decided to go that 'extra mile' to increase their autism awareness.

Following training received from Leicestershire Autism Outreach Service, staff set up a sensory box which visitors to the library can request from any member of the team. In addition to this, they devised a 'social story' about visiting Oadby Library which can be used for new situations, and also a large map of the library, in the hope that both can help orientation.

Whilst all Leicestershire libraries are autism friendly, parents and carers are encouraged to speak to staff, about any particular needs they may have, the first time they visit a library.

To find out more about Leicestershire Libraries including finding a library close to you visit www.leicestershire.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries



Leicestershire Parent Carer Forum

We were absolutely delighted to be able to host a family event in August – inviting representatives from Leicestershire County Council to meet the many families who came along. It was really good to see everyone there.

At Mountfield's Lodge Youth Centre in Loughborough, there were some fun activities for children while parents and carers were able to discuss concerns and thoughts with people from SENDIASS, SENA, Early Help and Health.

The meeting went very well and we hope next time it will be 'amazing'. Keep talking to us – family voices are still being channelled through the parent carer forum – and look out for details of our next event. We can't wait to really get the ball rolling!

All members have a great opportunity to shape the way service provision is developed.

We can't change things overnight, but we really want to get involved. My children have SEND and I am facing challenges like everyone else. Working with the local authority is the only efficient way we can improve things for our children...and the next generation.

Huge thanks to the members of the forum who helped us to arrange and run the meeting and to Karen Hall, the Family Voice Worker (SEND) who supported us so well.

Your chairperson

Willow

Willow Langdale-Smith



The Parent Carer Forum is a communication tool for parents and carers to directly inform the local authority and its partners how things are going, including when things are not going so well.

When you join the Leicestershire Parent Carer Forum you are officially giving your voice to the local authority. We attend council meetings and work closely with staff. Please join us at our forum meets, share your views and meet fellow families in the county. Have a look at our Facebook page for the dates in your area.

Interested? Get in touch by email leicestershirepcf@gmail.com

Remember, this is *your* newsletter...

If you would like to submit an article, or you have a suggestion for an article, please email leicestershirelocaloffer@leics.gov.uk

Getting *ready* for work

All young people aged 16-19 or 16-24 with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan), in full or part education are expected to follow a study programme.

A Supported Internship is one type of study programme aimed at young people aged 16-24 who have an EHC Plan, want to move into employment and need extra support to do so.

Supported Internships are based mainly in the work place and enable young people to gain skills they need for work. Normally lasting for one year they include unpaid work placements of at least six months but where possible help young people into paid work. Young people also study for qualifications, for example Maths, English and vocational qualifications.

A Supported Internship is like an apprenticeship in some ways but has more support in the workplace from a job coach. While on the internship the young person has time set aside to learn.

Tailored support, based around individual needs over time, ensure the intern is as independent as possible in the workplace.



Featured here are students from Dorothy Goodman attending a Supported Internship set up between the school and Cadent (formerly part of National Grid plc). A partnership running over a few years now, it has had a positive impact for everyone involved...

Jake – one of the interns

“Whilst on the internship I have improved my life skills and social skills and learnt more than if I was at school. I am becoming more mature and it has changed my outlook on working.”

Parent’s thoughts

“It’s been a joy to watch Jake grow in confidence and flourish in the work environment with help and support from everyone. It’s been the most positive thing that has ever happened to him, helping him to mature and grow as a person. We are so happy and grateful words cannot really express it! Jake is overjoyed to have been offered a job and will work hard to prove to people that have faith in him he won’t let them down.” **Jake’s Mum**

The placement managers

“When I see the interns going about their daily business life it brings a smile to my face. They are developing confidence in their abilities and daring to dream of what might be possible in the future. I am proud to be part of this programme and of everyone who has helped make this a success. It’s definitely the highlight of my 37 year career.” **Carole Preston, Shift Control Manager**



How can a job coach help?

- Support for interns to make sure they can do what is expected of them in the work placement
- Where possible, supporting the intern to move on to paid employment
- Thinking about the type of work an intern is interested in

- Finding employers who are happy to have an intern
- Support for travel and mobility training
- Helping interns to gain confidence, independence and experience

Did you know?

Supported Interns may be able to get help through Access to Work. This is a grant from the DWP which helps pay for practical support so that disabled people can do their jobs. An Access to Work grant can cover the additional support a young person may need for the in-work element of Supported Internships and can fund:

- Job coaches
- Specialist equipment for days that a young person is at the employer’s premises
- The extra fares to work if the person is unable to use public transport

Find out more about Access to Work at www.gov.uk/access-to-work/eligibility

If you are interested in completing a Supported Internship please discuss it with your Further Education provider or at the annual review meeting.

You can also find more details on www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk or on gov.uk

You can also read Caleb’s ‘Employability’ story on p12

Pilot project

With a small local authority government grant to promote Supported Internships and other employment activity for young people with SEND, Leicestershire County Council decided to set up a pilot with two local mainstream colleges, Brooksby Melton and Loughborough and one specialist college RNIB.

Brooksby Melton College

Former Brooksby students Jack Cooper and James Reynolds began their Supported Internship working for Interserve (based at Welbeck Defence Sixth Form College) in March 2017. Jack works in catering and James with the grounds team.

The Supported Internship has run with such success that three new interns are starting in the new school year and potential new employers are already on the horizon.

"When I first started my internship at Welbeck College, Mark the groundsman showed me how to use a lawnmower. At first I was nervous because I had never done it before, but with his and my job coach Sarah's support, I was soon mowing lawns on my own. I'm very proud of myself and am learning new things everyday. I love working and this has given me a chance to build my confidence." – **James Reynolds, Intern.**

"Jack has become a valued member of staff and we look forward to seeing him on the three days he is with us. He enjoys working with the catering assistants and chefs. The customers have readily accepted him and enjoy talking with him over the serving counter." – **Michelle Webster, Catering Manager Interserve, Welbeck College.**

"Being part of Jack and James's journey at Welbeck Defence Sixth Form College has given me first hand insight into the working lives of people with learning difficulties. They make me so proud every single day and have proven themselves as worthy as any other employee at the college. The improvement in self-esteem and confidence in both James and Jack is phenomenal." – **Sarah Hagger, Supported Internship Co-Ordinator and Job Coach, Brooksby College.**

• STOP PRESS • STOP PRESS • STOP PRESS •

Congratulations to Jack Cooper who obviously impressed the team at Welbeck so much that they have offered him a permanent job. Well done Jack!

Loughborough College



Pictured left to right - Amanda Hearne, Lead job Coach, Loughborough College, Jak Bancroft Intern, Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP and Andy Rhodes, Manager McDonalds.

Bridge to Work at Loughborough College has set up a 'Supported Internship Programme' consisting of one day in college working on employability skills and attending a work placement for the rest of the time. Employers supporting the programme include McDonalds, Barratt Homes and Leicestershire County Council. Having started the Supported Internship pilot in 2015 with just two learners, the programme now has sixteen learners enrolled on the programme for 2017/18.

A Bright Future

We want to reduce the rate of unemployment for people with SEND. A real business need is met through the employment of an intern with SEND increasing productivity in the work place, with no additional costs to the employer.

The programme has already created real success stories. One of our interns, Megan Langham (pictured) won the Pride of Charnwood Award, Young Carer of the Year for her work at a care home as part of her Supported Internship!



One of a kind



Helen Sedgwick and Liz Wells set up WHM Work Connections in May 2011. A modern approach to day care provision that does not operate within a 'traditional day service setting' but instead supports adults with Learning Disabilities within purpose built Skills Centres and within the community.

To find out more visit www.workconnections.co.uk

WHM workconnections
GROWING PEOPLE'S POTENTIAL

The Skills Centres are made up of extensive indoor and outdoor learning and work space that are able to support individuals in a broad range of opportunities including animal care, horticulture, woodwork, mechanics, life skills, cooking, rural arts and crafts and conservation.

Employability!

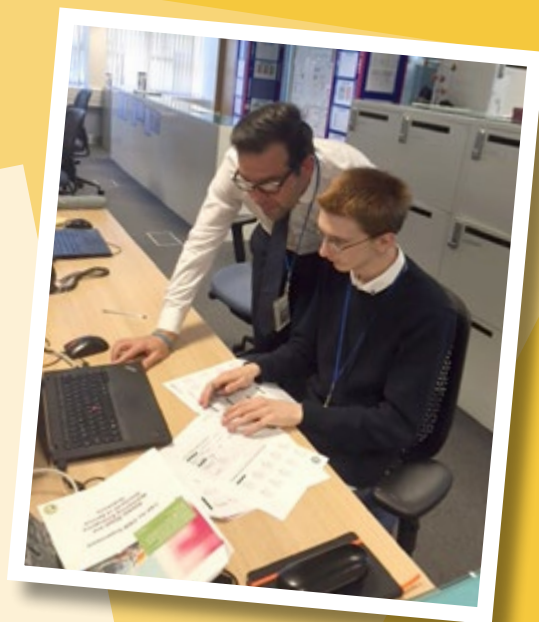
We hear from 19 year old Caleb Allen from Hinckley about his experience of the *Employability* programme...

I suffer from ADHD and Autism and have always found it difficult to speak with new or unfamiliar people, so I didn't have the confidence to do many things by myself.

I joined the *Employability* programme at Cadent (previously known as National Grid) in 2015 and at first I was very shy and found it difficult to take part in many of the different activities. The Job Coaches, other Interns and placement mentors were all very supportive helping me to settle in and learn the tasks I needed to carry out in each of my work placements. Over the course of the programme they also helped me develop my confidence and my communication skills.

Each of my placements during the programme mainly involved computer work. I am very good at using computers, so I enjoyed both learning the programs and how to complete the tasks I was given, during each of my placements.

Towards the end of my year in the programme, I was offered, and accepted, a job and have been in full time work with Cadent now for two years. I am so proud of myself for working so hard during the programme and in each of my placements, and for working so hard on improving my confidence and social skills. I am also really thankful to the Job Coaches, the workplace mentors and everyone else in the *Employability* programme for all their help and support.



Useful contacts

Local Offer

Email: leicestershirelocaloffer@leics.gov.uk
Web: leicestershire.gov.uk/local-offer

Leicestershire Family Information Service

Phone: 0116 3056545
Email: family@leics.gov.uk

Leicestershire First Response Children's Duty Team

Phone: 0116 3050005
(24 hour phone line)
Email: childrensduty@leics.gov.uk

SENDIASS

Phone: 0116 3055614
(Monday to Thursday 9am to 4.30pm,
Friday 9am to 4pm)
Email: sendiass@leics.gov.uk

SEN Assessment Service (SENA)

Phone: 0116 3056600
Email: senaservice@leics.gov.uk

Specialist Teaching Service

Phone: 0116 3059400
Email: STS@leics.gov.uk

Leicestershire County Council

County Hall, Glenfield
Leicestershire LE3 8RA
Phone: 0116 2323232
(reception and switchboard)
Monday - Thursday: 8am - 5pm
Friday: 8am - 4.30pm

Leicestershire District and Borough Councils

Blaby District Council
www.blaby.gov.uk
Phone: 0116 2750555

Charnwood Borough Council
www.charnwood.gov.uk
Phone: 01509 263151

Harborough District Council
www.harborough.gov.uk
Phone: 01858 828282

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk
Phone: 01455 238141

Melton Borough Council
www.melton.gov.uk
Phone: 01664 502502

North West Leicestershire
www.nwleics.gov.uk
Phone: 01530 454545

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council
www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk
Phone: 0116 2888961

Remember to sign up!

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You will also be to read it online at Leicestershire Local Offer and on our Facebook Page.

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As a parent/carer you should ensure that any activity group or service is not only safe but right for your child.