

GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLE: PREPARING FOR ADULT TRANSITION ROADSHOW

WHAT ARE WE MAKING BETTER?

Preparation for the transition to adulthood for young people with additional needs can start from around the age of 14. Moving away from services for children and young people and into adult social care and adult health services, and from school into college or work, can often be daunting for all those involved.

The Preparing for Adulthood Transitions Roadshow is designed for parents, carers and professionals who support a young person with additional needs.

There are many services in Swindon which support young people and those who support them throughout this transition. Many of those are represented at the Roadshow to offer information and advice.

The Roadshow provides parents, carers and professionals with the opportunity to have informal, positive, face to face conversations with providers and support organisations across the four preparing for adulthood outcomes, Employment, Independent Living, Good Health and Social Life and Relationships.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

The Roadshow is successful because partners come together and work well and consistently together. Representatives from Swindon Borough Council, Swindon Carers Centre, Swindon SEND Families Voice, Great Western Hospital and STEP work in collaboration to organise the Preparing for Adulthood Transitions Roadshow which takes place in June each year. We have around 40 'stallholders' representing different organisations in Swindon that support young people with additional needs as they prepare for and reach adulthood. The aim is to have a broad range of agencies for parents, carers and professionals to meet and connect with. Volunteers, some with additional needs, are key to the success of the Roadshows, welcoming and guiding visitors.

The Roadshow includes presentations from keynote speakers on issues that we know from the Roadshow evaluations are important for parents, for instance Supported Employment, Benefits, Education Health and Care Plans, Autism and Resilience. All the information from the Roadshow, including the presentations, are published on the Local Offer at <https://localoffer.swindon.gov.uk> so that we can reach a wider audience after the Roadshow.

A detailed evaluation and report is completed after each Roadshow. This tells us what has worked well, what parents, carers and professionals value most. We learn from our evaluations how to improve the Roadshow.

Parents, carers and professionals say that the Roadshow gives them the opportunity to open up positive lines of communication with support organisations, often for the first time. Parents, carers and professionals who attend the Roadshow come away more informed about the different support available for young people with additional needs as they prepare for adult life. One parent said 'I have found the whole Roadshow enlightening, reassuring and very worthwhile. I have a considerable amount of information to take away, digest and apply about the local services and organisations which provide pathways, opportunities and experiences that can help my daughter to live as much of an independent life as possible.'

WHAT DIFFERENCE HAS THIS MADE?

The Preparing for Adulthood Transitions Roadshow will continue to be held annually, and will change and improve based on the evaluations from previous Roadshows. We will continue to work in partnership with other agencies to plan the Roadshow. Through a comprehensive communications strategy, we aim to reach as many parents, carers and professionals as possible.

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN NEXT?

We will make sure that we continue to engage stallholders and keynote speakers from a wide range of organisations so that our knowledge around Transitions is broadened. This will enable us to support parent and carers more effectively.

