

Evaluation Report - Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) Transitions Roadshow June 2022

Summary

The annual Preparing for Adulthood Transitions Roadshow is an event for parents, carers and professionals who support young people age 14+ as they prepare for adult life. The Roadshow took place on Wednesday 15th June 2022, 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at Swindon Town Football Club.

The Roadshow showcases the information, advice, organisations and services within the Swindon borough that support young people with additional needs. The main themes covered include:

- Independent living
- Education, employment and training
- Friends, relationships and community involvement
- Good health
- Additional information and support services

The Transitions Roadshow is organised by a multi-agency Roadshow Planning Group including Swindon Borough Council Adults and Children's Services and SEND, Swindon SEND Families Voice, Swindon Carers Centre and STEP. A number of volunteers who have a learning disability and/or physical disability, worked alongside us on the day to deliver the Roadshow.

More information about the Roadshow is at: [Swindon Local Offer - Preparing for Adulthood Transition Roadshow](#)

The purpose of the event

This Roadshow is for parents, carers and professionals who support a young person with additional needs. The Roadshow in 2022 built on the first 6 Roadshows which took place from 2016. The Roadshows have been held at Sanford House, Great Western Hospital, and the SBC Civic Offices. The Roadshow in 2021 was a virtual event, due to Covid restrictions.

The term 'Transition' relates to young people who have additional needs, who may need extra and sometimes specialist support, to help them to prepare for adult life. Preparing for adulthood can start from around age 14, and will include thinking about good health, independent living, social life, family and friendships, and employment, education and training.

There are many services in Swindon, both in the statutory and voluntary sector, that are supporting young people through transition. Over 40 of these organisations were stallholders at the Roadshow, to give information and advice to parents, carers and professionals, and also to answer their questions.

Over 180 parents, carers and professionals attended the Roadshow in 2022

- 53 parents and carers
- 82 professionals
- 44 'other'
- Total: 179, plus a number of other attendees not signing in on arrival.

90 evaluations were completed, online and paper copy, by Roadshow attendees, and 18 evaluations were completed by Roadshow stallholders.

Key messages from Evaluation – parents, carers and professionals

From 90 evaluations completed:

- Parents and carers of young people from a broad range of schools across Swindon attended
- 56/90 attendees had not attended a previous Roadshow
- Attendees found out about the event from a number of different places, with the majority from school, social worker, SEND service, Swindon Local Offer, plus through social media
- Most attendees came to the event to find out more about services, to network, and many supported a young person at Transition age
- People said that the most helpful thing about the Roadshow was the range of information available, meeting people who could give advice, and a positive atmosphere
- Most attendees said that the venue was very good, and that the timing of the Roadshow worked well. However, a number of additional comments from attendees told us that the Roadshow would have worked better if it had been in a bigger room, with wider aisles, a quiet space, and more room for wheelchair access between the stalls.
- Attendees had suggestions for organisations that they would like to see at the Roadshow in 2023, which will be followed up by the Planning Group. People said that they will be contacting a number of the stalls after the Roadshow.
- Feedback on how the event could be improved included:
 - Really good event, amazing, very well organised, no improvements needed (16/39 responses to this question)
 - Bigger room/venue, and more space (10/39 responses to this question)
 - More stalls
 - Free parking
 - Adult changing area in toilet
 - Pause points around the room
 - Working on computers / IT software
 - More choice of refreshments
 - Run later into the evening
 - Sensory hour for people with autism

Comments from parents, carers and professionals included:

- First time attending and impressed with information available
- More space, considering this event is focusing on young people with special needs, even I felt overwhelmed coming into such a crowded room
- Sensory hour for autism or people who don't like crowds / noise
- Brilliant event well done everyone, amazing atmosphere with really committed & friendly people on the stalls
- It was a great event. Best one yet, location good. Friendly staff, good buzz with everyone together. Congratulations very well organised
- Having been to several such events, I think the current format encapsulates what is needed
- LOVE this event; so much info and really value being able to talk in person to people from the various organisations. Thank you.
- I thought it was well organised, lovely welcome, great local venue, lots of stalls. If there are more organisations that could come next time, that would be great.
- Vary the times into eve, job share/rota the hours; more space to talk in quiet area not next to each other so can't hear what's said.

Key messages from Evaluations – stallholders

From 18 evaluations completed:

- 9 stallholders had not attended the Roadshow before
- Stallholders attended the Roadshow to promote their service, to network, to engage with parents and carers
- All said that the venue was good, and that the timing of the Roadshow was good.
- Information that they received in advance of the Roadshow was very good.
- Stallholders said that what was most helpful about their experience at the Roadshow was:
 - Meeting parents, carers and other professionals
 - Plenty of time to talk
 - A positive environment
 - Stallholder information and event organisation was good
- All stallholders wished to be invited to the 2023 Roadshow.

Stallholders said:

- A great day
- Brilliant event well done to all organisers
- Thank you for including the Fostering team
- Wonderful event- put me down for 2023
- This was an absolutely fantastic event. The stalls were a great range of what's on offer and the atmosphere was so overwhelmingly positive.

- It was so nice to be back to in person events and for professionals the opportunity to build those networks and understanding of what is available around Transitions is invaluable.
- The parents, carers and young people we spoke to were engaging in all the stalls and we were able to signpost directly to people ("ah, you should talk to X, they're over there").
- A very positive experience for our team, thank you so much for all the hard work that went into it!
- An absolutely brilliant day, fantastic to be back doing a face to face event.
- The event was fantastic we managed to work with 143 people thank you so much for inviting us and please think of us for any other events