



**SWINDON SEND LOCAL
AREA PARTNERSHIP
PREPARING FOR
ADULTHOOD (PFA)
PROTOCOL 2025-2029**

March 2026

Vision

Swindon SEND Local Area Partnership is committed to ensuring that all young people, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), transition smoothly into adulthood with the skills, support, and opportunities they need to lead fulfilling, independent lives.

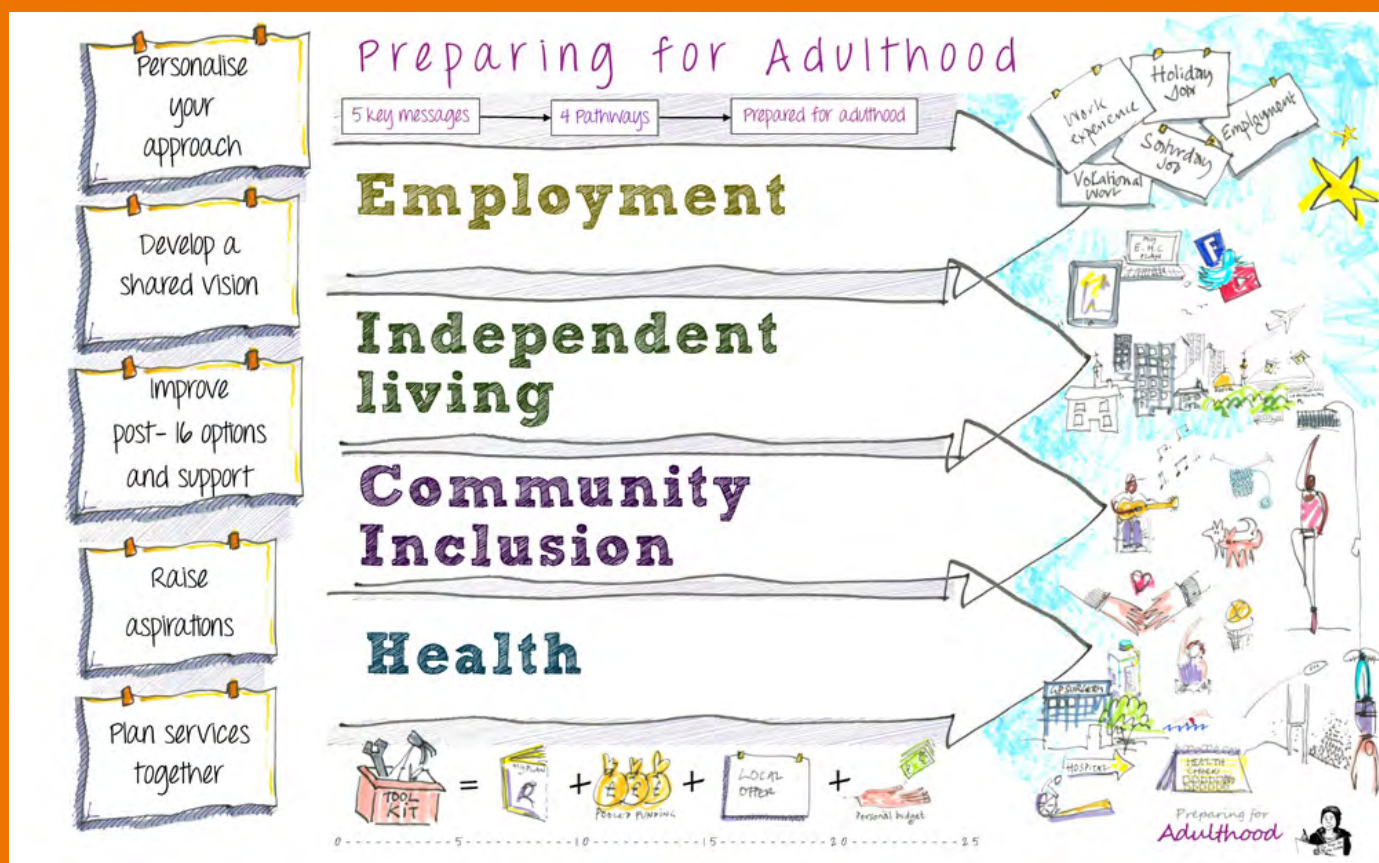
This protocol is built on the **National Preparing for Adulthood Framework**, which focuses on four key pillars:

1. Employment and Higher Education
2. Independent Living
3. Community Inclusion
4. Health and Wellbeing

By embedding these priorities into all aspects of planning and provision, we aim to create an inclusive borough where every young person is empowered to achieve their ambitions, contribute to society, and live a life they value.

[PfA outcomes Tool.pdf \(councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk\)](#)

[Preparing for Adulthood | NDTi](#)



Underpinning this protocol:

In addition to the PfA framework this Protocol is also underpinned/crosscut by some key local area Strategies and national policy including but not limited to:

Swindon SEND and AP Strategy 2023–2028	Swindon SENDi & AP Strategy 2023–2028 (PDF) This is the council’s five-year strategy on Special Educational Needs, Disability, Inclusion and Alternative Provision.
Swindon Plan 2024	The Swindon Plan 2024–2027 (PDF) The council’s long-term priorities for building a fairer, better and greener Swindon.
Adult Services Strategy 2024–2029	Adult Services Strategy 2024–2029 (Swindon Borough Council) Sets out Swindon Borough Council’s strategic direction for adult social care over five years.
Skills Strategy 2025	Swindon Skills Strategy Engagement Page Information on the development of Swindon’s Skills Strategy focused on skills, careers and employment.
BSW ICB Mental Health Strategy 2025–2030	BSW Mental Health Strategy 2025–2030 (Bath & North East Somerset, Swindon & Wiltshire ICB) The integrated mental health strategy for the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire area.
Giving every child the best start in life (2025)	Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life (UK Government) – official strategy (PDF) National strategy from the UK Government on early years and optimal childhood outcomes.
Corporate Parenting Strategy Swindon Borough Council 2025–2027	Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025–2027 (PDF) Outlines the Council’s commitments to children in care and care-experienced young people. (Swindon Borough Council)

Shaping the Protocol: Young People's Voices

This protocol is grounded in what young people in Swindon told us they want from adulthood, as well as what worries them. This engagement work was supported by STEP Swindon and the Young Persons Champions within Swindon SEND Service.

What young people want

Employment: to study subjects they enjoy, develop skills for work, and have opportunities that match their strengths.

Independent Living: to live safely and independently, learning practical skills such as budgeting, cooking, and travel.

Community & Friendships: to make and keep friends, join clubs, and feel included in their community.

Health & Wellbeing: to look after their physical and mental health, with easy access to services and early support when needed.

What young people worry about

- Affording essentials and managing money.
- Living independently and staying safe.
- Finding meaningful work and not being “pigeonholed” because of disability.
- Transport and being able to travel safely.
- Managing health conditions without parental support.

What young people told us they need

- More than CV-writing: real work experience, career advice, and support to understand workplace expectations.
- Training and guidance in daily living skills—budgeting, travel, tenancy, and safety.
- Inclusive opportunities for volunteering, training, and work placements across diverse sectors.
- Better mental health support before crisis point.
- Help building friendships and accessing community life.



Priorities Aligned to the Four PfA Pillars



Employment



Independent Living



Community Inclusion



Health and Wellbeing



Employment

This is what we heard:

"Finding work I want to do is hard."

"I want proper career advice—not just cleaning or retail jobs."

"Employers don't always understand hidden disabilities."

This is what we will do

- Provide early, person-centred careers advice that is based on young people's aspirations, not assumptions.
- Ensure young people can access clear information, advice and guidance (IAG) to achieve their goals, with defined pathways from school into post-16 learning, higher education, or employment.
- Create a single, accessible hub for skills, training, and employment opportunities, so that every resident can see the routes available to build their career.
- Strengthen connections between residents, young people, and local employers, making sure jobseekers know where opportunities are and businesses can recruit the skilled workforce they need.
- Work in partnership with businesses, skills providers, and residents to design and deliver the right training and employment solutions for Swindon, ensuring they are relevant, inclusive, and future-focused.

This is what we will deliver by 2029

- Tailored, person-centred careers advice for every young person, with guaranteed access to work experience, vocational training, and job coaching.
- Expanded and improved pathways into apprenticeships, supported internships, Foundation Apprenticeships, and higher education, co-designed with local employers.
- Employer training programmes that promote inclusivity, accessibility, and understanding of SEND in the workplace.
- Face-to-face, wraparound support for young people as they transition from education into training or employment.
- Improved, up-to-date labour market information, with clear visibility of local employment opportunities and vacancies in Swindon.



Independent Living

This is what we heard:

"It's scary to think of living on my own."

"I don't know enough about budgeting or bills."

"I want to feel safe where I live."

This is what we will do

- Improve life skills development opportunities from age 14 (budgeting, cooking, travel, tenancy, safety).
- Strengthen joint working between housing, adult social care, and providers.
- Embed enablement approaches to help young people with SEND gradually build independence.
- Strengthen multi-agency planning, including a PfA Forum for young people with complex needs.

This is what we will deliver by 2029

- A published Independent Living Skills Toolkit available through the Local Offer.
- Stronger links around PfA including housing and independent living in the provision of social care advice.
- An Enablement Pilot Project will be commissioned to support skills building in preparation for adulthood.
- Multi-agency PfA Forum ensuring robust transition plans for young people with complex needs before age 18.



Community Inclusion

This is what we heard:

“I want to make new friends after school.”

“Transport is a barrier to joining clubs.”

“There aren’t enough opportunities beyond college.”

This is what we will do

- We will map and provide increased information on clubs, leisure, volunteering, and peer mentoring through the Local Offer.
- Further develop our Link Worker offer to connect young people with community opportunities.
- Pilot an Enablement Project supporting transition into adulthood.
- Work with transport providers to improve accessibility.

This is what we will deliver by 2029

- A clear pathway for community participation for all young people, including those with SEND available through the local offer.
- Expansion of peer mentoring networks.
- An Enablement Pilot Project will be commissioned to support skills building including community inclusion in preparation for adulthood.



Health and Wellbeing

This is what we heard:

“I don’t always know how to get health support when I need it.”

“It’s hard to manage my mental health without my parents’ help.”

“There’s not enough support before crisis point.”

“Transitioning from children’s to adult health services feels confusing and worrying.”

This is what we will do

- Work with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) to ensure seamless transitions between children’s and adult health services as part of the Integrated Community Based Care (ICBC) Programme and other transformation programmes. Also, alignment across the Families First Partnership Programme (FFPP)
- Support development of a new all-age neurodiversity pathway in partnership with HCRG.
- Promote emotional resilience and wellbeing programmes.
- Ensure every young person understands how to access health services such as GPs, dentists, sexual health clinics, and community mental health resources.

This is what we will deliver by 2029

- A fully implemented all-age neurodiversity pathway for smoother transitions.
- Early Help Hubs with Preparing for Adulthood at their core in line with the Families First Partnership Programme (FFPP).
- A clearly defined pathway and information for all health transitions into Adulthood available through the local offer.
- An all-age Single Point of Access as part of the Integrated Community Based Care (ICBC) contract.

Cross-Cutting Priorities

Our plan to improve Homes and Services for Tenants is built around six commitments that were co-produced with tenants at our Let's Talk Housing events:

Early and Person-Centred Planning: Transition planning will begin by Year 9 (age 14), with PfA outcomes clearly embedded in EHCPs.

Swindon Borough Council Corporate Parenting Strategy 2025–2027: Action plans driving better preparation for adulthood for care-experienced young people.

Ensuring we reach all Young People: For example, those within the Elective Home Educated community, including parents and young people who may not always feel heard.

Multi-Agency Collaboration: Strengthened partnerships between education, health, social care, housing, employers, and voluntary organisations.

Continuous Improvement: Annual reviews, impact assessments, and direct feedback from young people and families to shape services.

Implementation and Monitoring

This protocol will be delivered through a delivery plan, produced through the SEND Partnership with young people, families, schools, colleges, health partners, employers, and community organisations. Where work streams or delivery sits outside of the SEND partnership (for example Swindon Borough Council Corporate Parenting Strategy), we will seek to work with partners to provide progress reports.

Progress will be:

- Reviewed annually.
- Reported transparently via the SEND Partnership.
- Measured against clear PfA outcomes across the four pillars.

Glossary (A–Z)

All-Age Neurodiversity Pathway

Joined-up support for neurodivergent people (such as autistic people or those with ADHD) from childhood into adulthood.

Care-Experienced Young People

Young people who are, or have been, in care and may need extra support as they move into adulthood.

Community Inclusion

Being able to make friends, join clubs, volunteer, and feel part of the local community.

EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan)

A legal plan that explains a young person's needs, what support they should get, and what they are working towards – up to age 25.

Enablement

Helping young people build skills and confidence so they can do more for themselves over time, instead of others doing things for them.

Families First Partnerships

Services working together to give families early help and support before problems reach crisis point.

Health and Wellbeing

Support for physical and mental health, including knowing how to access GPs, dentists, and mental health services.

Independent Living

Being supported to live as independently as possible – including managing money, cooking, travel, staying safe, and having the right housing.

Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)

Support to help young people understand their choices about education, training, and jobs, and how to take the next steps.

Integrated Care (ICBC / ICB)

Health, social care, and community services working together so support feels joined-up and easier to access.

Link Worker

Someone who helps young people and families find activities, services, and support in their community.

Local Offer

The council's website that shows what help, services, and support are available locally for children and young people with SEND.

Preparing for Adulthood (PfA)

Planning and support to help young people with SEND move into adult life – covering work and learning, independent living, community life, and health.

SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)

Children and young people who need extra support because of learning needs, disabilities, or both.

Supported Internships & Apprenticeships

Ways for young people to learn through real work experience, with extra support where needed, to help move into paid jobs.

Transition Planning

Planning for adult life that starts from Year 9 (age 14), covering education, work, independence, health, and community life.

