

## Disability support in further education

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### If you're aged 16 to 19

The Learning and Skills Council and your Local Authority are responsible for the cost of full-time education for people up to the age of 19. If the Learning and Skills Council decide that your needs can only be met by going to a specialist residential college, they have a duty to fund your place there. If you have a statement of Special Educational Needs, your Local Authority must work with you and your school to draw up your 'Transition Plan' in your Year 9 and Year 11 Annual Reviews.

There are several options open to you at 16 to help you continue your education. If you are aged between 16 and 19 you can study at school, or at a college providing further education. Where you choose to study can depend on what's available in your area. Your current school will advise you about the best option for you.

### Your options

You have the following options, and further up to date information about these is available from [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk) – follow the link for “disabled people” and select “education and training” and then “further education”.

- Staying at school
- Going to a sixth form college
- Going to further education college
- Going to a specialist college
- Work-based training

All 16 and 17 year-olds who are not in full-time education or employment are guaranteed a suitable work-based training place. This applies to those over 18 if entry has been delayed due to disability or a health problem. Most work-based training for young people is delivered through the Modern Apprenticeship (MA) programme.

### Funding and support arrangements

The Learning and Skills Council and your Local Authority (LA) are responsible for the cost of full-time education for people up to the age of 19. If you need extra support not related to learning, for example, personal care or medical care, your local health authority and social services department should be involved in any arrangements. Your Connexions personal adviser should work with these different agencies to make sure arrangements are in place.

If you had a statement of Special Educational Needs when you were in school, your school and LA should have worked with others, including social services if necessary, as part of your 'Transition Plan' to adulthood.

If your local college can't offer a course which meets your specific needs then you may be eligible for funding to attend a specialist college. Again, your Connexions personal adviser will be able to help you apply for this.

## **If you're over 19**

If you are not in work, and would like to enrol on an Access Course at a further education college, funding is available to the college to pay for extra learning support. For more advice you should contact the Learning Support Team at the FE college you would like to attend.

If you're interested in university level study, for example, a foundation degree, please see our information sheet on Disability support in higher education. Many higher education courses are delivered in further education colleges and the financial arrangements are different.

## **Useful links**

UK government - follow the link for disabled people, select education and training and choose from the menu. The menu includes a section on your rights and learning in relation to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA) and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA).

[www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

**Connexions** – advice for people up to 16 years of age, or up to 25 years of age if you have a disability

<http://www.connexions.gov.uk> and [www.sussexcareers.com](http://www.sussexcareers.com)