**SEND - Preparing for Adulthood (PfA): You said, We did (May 2021)**

In 2019 BCP Council made a commitment to improve the pathways to life as an adult for children and young people who have SEND. New roles were developed and teams redesigned with a specific focus and responsibility for PfA;

* In the SEND service there is the SEND PfA Pathway Coordinator and a SEND Transition Navigator (June 2021)
* In Adult Social Care there is the Preparing for Adulthood Team

The [PfA Pathway plan,](https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/poole/fis/files/14-25_pathway_infographic_07.pdf) for children and young people who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) was the first document that we published in 2019. This was closely followed by the [Preparing for Adulthood from the earliest years guide](https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/poole/fis/files/preparing_for_adulthood_from_the_earliest_years.pdf) and then our 3 year [PfA Development Plan](https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/poole/fis/files/preparing_for_adulthood_publication_final_.pdf) followed at the end of 2019.

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| **You Said** | **We Did** |
| Collaborate with us at the earliest possible opportunity and have their views help to support change | [Parent and Carers Together](https://www.parentcarerstogether.org.uk/) (PCT), the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Parent Carer Forum continues to work with the SEND Preparing for Adulthood Coordinator to inform and influence PfA developments in BCP Council and are key members of the PfA Operational Group.  |
| Young people and their parents want to feel safe and confident in their local area | We are working with community teams to ensure that the needs of young people who have SEND are considered when new ideas, such as Smart Places, are introduced. The national lockdown has slowed our work in developing a “Buddy System” to support young people in the community but this will remain a focus for ongoing work. |
| The Local Offer (LO) is hard to use as there is a lot of information on it and it’s hard to know if it’s up to date | Questions & Answer (Q&A) sessions and Individual Information and Support sessions have been held face to face and more recently, virtually, with parents and young people. The subjects covered are identified by those that attend. The learning from this resulted in a brand new post being developed in BCP Council. Starting in June 2021 the SEND Transition Navigator will work directly with families to support their understanding, share information, and help them plan for their own or their young person’s, move into life as an adult. |
| Young people need opportunities to learn independent-living skills both in a home environment and in their local community | There are a number of helpful guides and toolkits on the Local Offer, such as [easy read cookbooks](https://www.fid.bcpcouncil.gov.uk/kb5/poole/fis/advice.page?id=2jFzWl-SSXQ) as well as [links to useful videos](https://www.fid.bcpcouncil.gov.uk/kb5/poole/fis/site.page?id=gJQKocQ2XhE). During 2020 a local special school received funding to build on their site. This new purpose-built home, similar to a flat, will help pupils and staff focus on preparing young people to learn the skills to be as independent as possible. In September 2020 the Thrive pilot was launched at the South West Regional Assessment Centre (SWRAC). The programme will enable young people to undertake a great deal of their learning by “doing” out and about in their community. Accessing the community has been significantly impacted by the national lockdowns, however as soon as restrictions are lifted accessing the community will resume. |
| It is not clear what opportunities are available locally for learning and training  | We continue to develop and update the PfA section of the Local Offer. We have provided 1:1 sessions to parents and carers on how to use the site to help understand what PfA means and where and how to find information. PfA Information and Support sessions, and Q & A sessions, have provided parents and carers with the opportunity to ask questions directly to members of the Local Authority SEND, Adult Social Care and information services.  |
| We need more supported internship opportunities | In addition to the very successful [CHI Programme](https://www.chi4training.co.uk/) that is delivered by the Linwood School we have partnered with [Project Search](https://www.projectsearch.org.uk/) to increase the opportunities for Supported Internships in the local area.  |
| We need more information about what is available in adult services | The [Moving into Adult Services](http://www.poolefamilyinformationdirectory.com/kb5/poole/fis/site.page?id=Jk5yA8ImwJk) section in the PfA Local Offer provides clear advice on who may be eligible for adult social care. The Transition Navigator will also provide information on accessing services in adulthood, including for those not eligible for adult social care services.  |
| It is not clear what the transition pathways are for health provision | Individual health services have their own transition processes and arrangements, we continue to work with health and parents and carers to ensure these are understood and shared widely. [Dorset Health Watch](https://healthwatchdorset.co.uk/work/) is a good way to share your experiences and see how you views and experiences can shape health services. |