

10 things you should know about leaving school

A guide for foster carers with looked after children progressing to Year 12 at school or college in September



1





ESLAC has fully qualified careers advisers to support all looked after children with their post-16 transition. Before schools closed in March, careers advisers had attempted to meet all Year 11 students for initial careers interviews so most should have discussed their options with Andrea or Jo by now. For those who haven't, Andrea will be contacting all young people and carers to offer careers advice via telephone. Follow up calls to all Year 11s will also be taking place to ensure young people have all the support they need with their transition.

2

Written careers action plans are completed after every careers interview and are shared with young people and carers. Working through the list of action points on these plans with your young person would be extremely beneficial. Please contact ESLAC if you need another copy sent to you. Following any substantial phone discussion, an updated action plan will be completed and shared so that you are fully aware of discussions and action points to be completed.

3

Colleges are currently looking at alternative ways to complete open events and interviews for courses. Northumberland College has already published dates of virtual open events and is offering virtual interviews so young people should still go ahead with applications to ensure they get a place on the course of their choice.

4	Once a place on a course has been accepted, encourage your young person to ask questions about uniform/dress policy, any equipment needed and the expectations for post-16 students (such as attendance in free periods). Even if young people are staying in the same school, post-16 may be very different.
5	If the young person/people are expressing concerns and are displaying anxious behaviours contact ESLAC for support. We have educational psychologists who can offer support and guidance. We can also signpost you to some helpful resources to support young people's mental health and well-being during these uncertain times.
6	If your young person accepts a place at a college/ training provider, it is a good idea to make contact with their tutor to introduce yourself and to share any concerns or information you feel is important. Post-16 providers have less formal contact with parents/ carers so sharing your contact details and welcoming communication will allow them to share any concerns or good news they have.
7	If your young person accepts a place at college, spend time with them looking at the college website; being familiar with the layout and building names can be reassuring, especially if they have been unable to visit in person.
8	Support them to plan their route if they will be travelling to a new provider especially if it is a new bus route and walk from the bus stop. Nearer the time, if it is possible to practice the route this can be extremely useful to some young people.
9	If your young person has an EHCP, this will be sent to their new education provider so that appropriate support can be put in place. If you would like to discuss your young person's support needs with their new provider, the SEND team or ESLAC can give you the contact details.
10	Post-16 students aged 16-18 who are looked after children or care leavers are entitled to a bursary (attendance dependent). The bursary is not the same at each provider and only some involve cash payments to the young person. Young people living in Northumberland may be eligible for a travel pass to attend education. Andrea will discuss this in telephone discussions but please contact ESLAC for details of this or any of the above if you would like details in the meantime.
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