

First Steps into Adulthood Event – Initial Evaluation

Date of Event	Wednesday 8 th March 2017, 6-8pm
Venue	Horsham Youth Hub
Aim of Event	
<p>The PFA 'Talk to Us' sessions that were held at the end of 2016 highlighted the fact that parent carers did not feel informed of what happens as their young person moves into adulthood. This was causing anxiety for many families as they look to think about 'what happens next'. The aim of this event was to bring together services and providers from across health, education, social care and organisations from the private and voluntary sector to advertise their services and for pathways to be explained.</p> <p>The event was organised by WSCC and supported by the WSPCF and based on the 'Coffee, Cake and Networking Events' that already run to advertise providers. As a pilot it advertised to parent carers predominately in the north of the County.</p>	
Desired Outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent carers and young people to be better informed about services available to them post 16. • Parent carers and young people have an increased knowledge of where to access information and support as they prepare for adulthood and transition • Providers have explained their services and their entry requirements and (if applicable) eligibility. 	
Number of Parent Carers Attending	57
Number of young people Attending	21 (M8's group attended with their youth workers in addition to the young people who came with their parents)
Number of Providers Attending	22
Geographical Coverage	The majority of attendees were from the Horsham District (Horsham, Billingshurst, Cowfold, Storrington, Plaistow, Southwater) but others attended from Burgess Hill, Crawley, Copthorne, Hurstpierpoint, Worthing and Shoreham
Feedback from Parent Carers	
<p>A follow-up questionnaire will be sent to those who attended, but initial responses from those who attended was very positive and comments included:</p> <p>"I got everything I needed and more."</p> <p>"Very helpful"</p> <p>"I came to find out what happened after school, now I feel that I now know what I need to do."</p> <p>"Great to see Jubilee Bakes here, it is so important that they were."</p> <p>"It was useful, we still need someone who can help us through the transition though – it only happens once after all!"</p>	
Feedback from Providers	
<p>A follow-up questionnaire will be sent to providers who attended, but again responses were positive – there were a few comments from other stall holders regarding other organisations who they felt should have been present.</p>	
Cost of Event	The cost of the event was relatively small as we were able to secure the WSCC building for free. Other costs of course included officer time (3x4 hours) and refreshments that amounted to £120.00,
Promotion of Event	The event was promoted via social media (WSPCF, Short Breaks, Local

	Offer) as well as emails out to providers and schools to send out to parents.
Evaluation Overview	
<p>As a first event of this kind it would seem that it was a success and has mileage as a way of engaging and informing parent carers and young people in West Sussex. A follow-up questionnaire should provide us with more information about whether it met the outcomes as well as give us ways to build on the event should we repeat it in the future.</p> <p>Through conversations with parent carers and providers the event seemed successful with lots of useful information having been given – in terms of traffic coming through it exceeded expectation and we even had to close the carpark!</p> <p>If repeating the event we would need to clearly consider other locations for events throughout the year, to use WSCC building and to plan so that events do not clash with other events.</p>	

Some Photos of the Event

