West Sussex County Council with its partners, young people with SEND and their parent carers have created the West Sussex SEND Pathways to Adulthood Strategy. It is integral to the County’s wider SEND Strategy and will be closely aligned with the County’s Lifelong Services work (for children and adults with disabilities) as it develops.

We are grateful to everyone who has been involved in developing this Strategy and welcome anyone who wants to play a part in improving outcomes for young people with SEND to join with us in transforming the Strategy’s vision into reality for each and every young person.

Deborah Myers
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Richard Burrett
CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Help young people to feel included - not left out
PARENT CARER

Why do we need a SEND Pathways to Adulthood Strategy?

Prior to this there was no over-arching vision for the improvement of outcomes for young people with SEND or an agreed approach to empowering and enabling them to achieve a successful transition into adulthood.

Our direct work with young people and parent carers in the development of this Strategy has provided a valuable insight into how this actually impacts on their lives and therefore what needs to change to improve things in the future. This, along with input from representatives from Health, Education and Social Care – both adults and children’s services; schools and colleges; and the voluntary and community sector, has informed the Strategy’s vision and approach to its achievement.

I want to live near my friends - not too near my family (because I want to feel independent)
YOUNG PERSON
This Strategy will be used by the Local Authority and its partners to drive the improvement of outcomes for young people with SEND and their families.

The Strategy’s vision; key priorities and messages will be promoted at every opportunity by all those committed to its implementation and by specifically identified champions. We are looking for volunteers to act as champions from parent carer and young people’s communities; education, health, social care, the voluntary and community sector and those in the business community.

Work to address the key priorities in the Strategy will be achieved through multi-stakeholder Task and Finish Groups. These groups will be responsible for planning how each priority will be addressed and the effective implementation of their plans. The work of these groups is being overseen and supported by the Pathways to Adulthood Planning and Delivery Group.

Reports on progress, achievements and good practice will be regularly posted on the County’s Local Offer; YourSpace and Connect to Support websites and included in the SEND Newsletter.

The primary intention of the Strategy is to achieve its shared vision for each young person with SEND.

That vision is for each young person to:
- have more control over their lives;
- achieve as much independence as possible – including how to keep themselves safe and healthy;
- realise their ambitions, and
- progress successfully into adult life.

This includes enabling, empowering and supporting them to:
- develop independent living skills;
- make a positive contribution to the community they live in;
- take part in more learning, training or employment opportunities;
- access housing options that mean they can live safely and successfully on their own or with others, and
- enjoy the best possible health and emotional well-being.

I want to get out of the house and have a job

To find out more about the Strategy and how you can get involved please:
- Send an email to our designated email box: lifepathways@westsussex.gov.uk

Or visit:
- The West Sussex Local Offer: www.westsussex.local-offer.org
- Connect to Support: www.westsussexconnecttosupport.org
- West Sussex Parent Carer Forum: www.wspcf.org.uk