

Preparing for Adulthood Partnership Newsletter



Welcome

...to the Summer 2024 edition of the Preparing for Adulthood Partnership Newsletter. In this edition we spotlight on performing arts at The Oaks School, Spennymoor; on the Workplaces Project, Durham Works and the Supported Internships offer from Durham Learn.

We provide some post 16 provider updates, information about family hubs and an update from Amber Elliott our Senior Progression Co-ordinator.

Finally, we share the news that there is now a Preparing for Adulthood board and an update regarding Ofsted thematic inspections.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this newsletter. If you have any questions or comments, or you would like to add an article to an upcoming edition, please contact Sam Black (see contact details below).



Year 10 students from schools within County Durham engaged in the DurhamWorks Workplaces Project - see page 3 for more information

Durham's Local Offer is designed to help you find the very best support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (0—25 years).

Visit www.durham.gov.uk/localoffer to find out more.

SEND & Inclusion

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The Oaks Sixth Form

Performing Arts - A Slice of Life

The Oaks School is based in Spennymoor, which is the home town of one of the UK's most celebrated artists and former miner, Norman Cornish. Some of the pupils at The Oaks Sixth Form have been working with Maria Mandehzadeh from TIN Arts to plan and choreograph a performance based on the artwork of Norman Cornish. His artwork captures moments of everyday life, preserving them forever in his art work. The group used characters from his drawings and stories taken from interviews to bring his artwork to life. The group recently performed at the UK Dance Regional Platform at Dance City and at the Gala Theatre in Durham.

www.normancornish.com

www.onedanceuk.org

www.tinarts.co.uk

T!NARTS

OneDanceUK



Rachael Dobinson - Assistant Head/Sixth Form Lead

The Oaks Sixth Form

r.dobinson100@theoaks.durham.sch.uk

Workplaces Project - DurhamWorks

Uniform Services Careers Event

Year 10 students from schools within County Durham engaged in the DurhamWorks Workplaces Project, packed into County Hall on Friday 10th May 2024, for an exciting Uniform Services Careers Event. The event offered a unique opportunity for students to explore a wide range of rewarding career paths within the uniformed services sector.

The interactive demonstrations from the British Army, the Police Force, the Fire and Rescue Service, the Royal Air Force, and MPCT College, provided students with valuable insights into the diverse range of exciting roles and opportunities available to them.

Representatives from each service were also on hand to answer questions and share personal experiences, giving students a realistic picture of life in uniform.

The event proved to be a huge success, with many students leaving feeling inspired and equipped with a better understanding of the diverse and fulfilling careers within the uniformed services.

The Uniform Services Careers Event at County Hall was a resounding success, showcasing the dedication, skill, and importance of uniformed service personnel. It's sure to leave a lasting impression on the young minds who attended, potentially helping to shape the future of County Durham's emergency services and defence forces.



DurhamWorks
To improve your future

Helen Collingwood
Workplaces Project Co-ordinator
DurhamWorks
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Supported Internships

Durham Learn's Supported Employment Pathway

DurhamLearn is Durham County Council's Adult Learning and Skills Service providing Further Education opportunities to young people and adults across County Durham.

A [Supported Internship](#) is a full-time study programme where learners attend 1 whole or 2 half days in classroom based learning and up to 16 hours work placement per week.

The aim of the programme is to prepare and support learners into sustainable, paid employment or volunteering. All interns take part in work placements, whilst also engaging in English and maths studies at levels appropriate to them – this may be alongside any other beneficial, vocationally relevant qualification that will help them gain their desired employment.

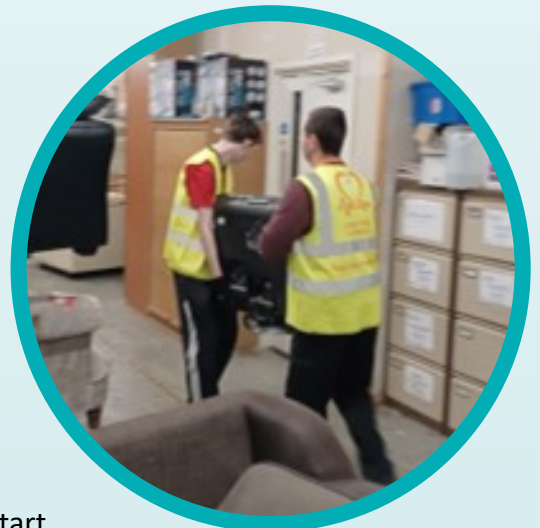
Programmes are individual to the learner - designed and informed by thorough initial assessments which include vocational profiling and independence assessments. Job matching and preparation activities are undertaken with Durham Enable job coaches who ensure interns are fully supported to make their first steps into the workplace and then step back as confidence and proficiency grows.

Several of DurhamLearn's current cohort of learners have already secured apprenticeship or employment offers with many more attending interviews over the coming weeks. Our next intake will start their programme in September 2024 but pre-course activities will begin in the months leading up to this to ensure classroom activity is planned to meet individual targets and work placement opportunities can be appropriately matched to the right individual.

To date, work placements, some with potential employment offers, have been secured with DCC's Refuse and Recycling Services, DCC Pathways' Care and Domestic Support and Kier Construction, and there are several more excellent employers interested in working with young people on the programme. Where learners identify interests outside of these placements, the team will source, where possible, new opportunities relevant to the young person's career aspirations.

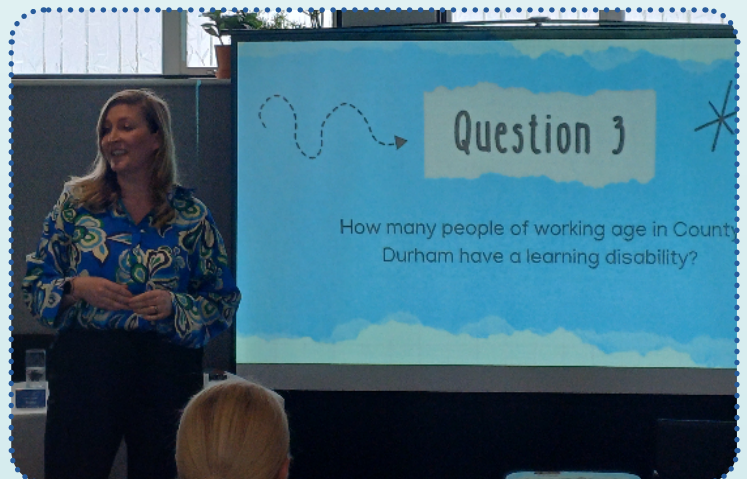
Supported Internships are available to young people with a current Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). DurhamLearn invites learners aged 18-24yrs, who have achieved a minimum of Entry Level 2 in maths and English (or equivalent) to apply.

To find out more email: CYPALSSSEND@durham.gov.uk



Provision Updates for 2024 - 25

- East Durham College will be expanding their Supported Internship programme after a successful first year. They have recently presented at the Durham Employment Connections forum.
- Bishop Auckland College will be partnering with HIYED training to further improve their job coach support and employer engagement.
- Choices College will not be running their Supported Internship programme in Durham in 2024/2025 however they will continue to have numerous bases in the North East, including Hartlepool, Darlington and Stockton.
- Durham Learn will be continuing their successful partnership with Durham Enable, DCC's supported employment team.
- Durham Learn held an information session on 20th May 2024 for new and prospective students for the Supported Internship programme. This was held at Town Hall in Durham and Durham Learn staff, Durham Enable staff, current interns and some employers were there for people to chat to and find out more information.
- Catch 22 training will be partnering with DFN Project Search and Amazon in Durham. They will be offering Supported Internships on-site with Amazon starting in September 2024. Recruitment for new candidates is now open, for further details please email Louise Hickley, louise.hickley@catch-22.org.uk.



Senior Progression Coordinator Update

What have I been up to as Senior Progression Coordinator? Article by Amber Elliott



- SEND Employment Forum has been developed and held bimonthly to discuss relevant Supported Internship related topics such as quality assurance, access to work, programme successes and future planning.
- 3-year Action Plan completed and updated regularly with progress.
- Inclusive Employer Network (IEN) event held in January 2024 with over 40 attendees including employers, education provisions and relevant professionals.
- Durham County Council has more than doubled Supported Internship numbers from last academic year.
- I have completed a SIQAF peer assessment of the Amazon Supported Internship in Yorkshire.
- I am now the Assistant Chair of Durham Employment Connections Forum operational group – implementing PFA and Supported Internships into our bimonthly employer forums.
- I have completed NEET exploration work with Durham Works team to identify potential Supported Internship candidates.
- I am updating and improving DCC local offer including Further Education options, Supported Internships and supported employment information.
- I have created and shared promotional #SID2024 animation with schools, colleges and specialist provisions.
- Shared good practice regarding young person going onto self-employment with Internships Works programme for national report.
- I have provided tailored Supported Internship related guidance for my colleagues as well as young person IAG sessions for Supported Internship progression.
- Coordination of TSI training for job coaches and regional Internships Works regional meeting in June 2024.

What's coming next:

- Inclusive Employer Network event in late June 2024 at Marriott Hotel with more young people and employers presenting.
- Specialist sixth form learner voice work with David Curry, visiting County Durham specialist sixth forms to meet with Year 11-14 students and gathering their understanding of their progression opportunities after school and introducing Supported Internship programme options.
- I will be assisting with development of new Supported Internship provisions which will be starting in 2024.
- Young person's event to be held in 2024/2025 with Durham Employment Connections (DEC) forum.
- 2024-2025 recruitment support for Supported Internship providers which includes liaising with Durham Works, Durham Enable, SEND casework team and similar to help coordinate young people onto programmes for September 2024.

Preparing for Adulthood in County Durham

Updates on the local picture regarding Preparing for Adulthood as it continues to be a priority area for the County Durham Local Area Partnership

There is a newly established Preparing for Adulthood Board – made up of senior health, education and social care colleagues. They are currently working on shared principles for transitions between services to ensure they are always effective, supportive, well prepared and planned for and a child/young person questionnaire about preparing for adulthood has been distributed.

The Preparing for Adulthood group has been refreshed and will re-commence in June 2024 with a new action plan for 2024/2025. There are representatives from education, health and social care as well as Making Changes Together and Investing in Children.

Preparing for Adulthood continues to be embedded within practice across the SEND team and Progression and Learning team and we continue to support providers to focus on Preparing for Adulthood in annual reviews from Year 9 onwards and to encourage partners to plan for transitions at an early age. Our current focus is developing a Strategy for the County Durham Local Area Partnership to reflect the 4 key outcomes for Preparing for Adulthood in relation to SEND. We have been catching up with partners to identify areas of good practice and areas for improvement to inform the strategy and subsequent action plan. The draft strategy will be distributed for consultation in June 2024.

Some examples of good practice that will be included in the strategy are:

- The development of DurhamEnable – new supported employment service and SEND Employment Forum.
- The continuation of DurhamWorks programme for school's service – careers guidance and support with transition from Year 11 into post-16 education.
- Clear examples of some schools and FE providers changing their curriculum to better reflect and work on PfA outcomes with young people. For example, Durham Trinity's Preparing for Life curriculum.
- Inclusion Officers in post to support access to community activities for children and young people with SEND.
- Autism Strategy and neuro-developmental pathway work.

Please get in touch with us if you would like to help to develop this.

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SEND Casework Team
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Cheryl Temple, Progression Manager
Progression and Learning
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Family Hubs from the North East Autism Society **north east autism society**

Supporting your Autistic Child (under 18 years old)

If you are looking for advice, information or support in caring for a young autistic family member, the North East Autism Society (NEAS) can help!

Parents, carers, and family members of autistic children and young people aged under 18 years old in County Durham can access support from NEAS at Horden and Willington Family Hubs.

Group workshops provide families with a range of information covering action planning, common misconceptions about autism, differences in autistic children, and practical strategies that can be used in day-to-day life. Workshops take place between 10 am and 12 pm in a welcoming and informal space and are a great place to make connections with other parents. If you would like to discuss issues in confidence, need bespoke support more tailored to your family's needs, or don't feel ready to attend the group workshops yet, you can also make a one-to-one appointment with NEAS.

"The levels of support we can offer differ greatly depending on your family needs. It may be information and advice, or it may be signposting and making referrals to other services."

Rebecca Weatherstone, Senior Family Worker, NEAS

One-to-one support can be booked in the family hubs between 9 am and 10 am, and again from 1 pm to 3 pm. While places must be booked, there is no formal referral process that needs to be completed to attend sessions. Families don't have to jump through hoops, sign any forms, or meet any criteria to access support. Those barriers have been removed and families just need to email or phone. To book your place on a workshop or make a one-to-one appointment, contact:

Rebecca Weatherstone
Senior Family Worker, NEAS
Telephone: 0191 410 9974
Email: rebecca.weatherstone@ne-as.org.uk



"The family hub meetings are designed to support families before, during and after a diagnosis of autism. We offer one to one support at the hubs as well as group workshop sessions"

Rebecca Weatherstone, Senior Family Worker, NEAS

Upcoming Dates

Horden	Willington
04/07/2024	11/07/2024
01/08/2024	08/08/2024
05/09/2024	12/09/2024
03/10/2024	10/10/2024
07/11/2024	14/11/2024
05/12/2024	12/12/2024

Ofsted and Care Quality Commission thematic visits: Preparing for Adulthood

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) have jointly published a new framework and handbook for inspecting arrangements in the local area for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

As part of the new area SEND inspection arrangements, Ofsted and CQC will carry out a series of thematic visits each academic year. They will conduct visits to a small number of areas to investigate a particular aspect of the SEND system in depth. In 2023, they investigated alternative provision (AP).

Read the [‘Alternative provision in local areas in England: a thematic review’](#). The theme they will investigate in 2024 is preparation for adulthood.

These visits will provide insights for Ofsted, the CQC, government, strategic leaders and frontline education, health and social care practitioners that will be used to promote improvement in the sector and update their approach to inspection, as appropriate. Similarly, where they identify good practice on the visits, they will share this with the Department for Education (DfE) and the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) to contribute to their policy development through the ‘SEND and alternative provision improvement plan’.

They will not be making judgements about individual areas during these visits, although they will share their findings in a national report to be published in autumn 2024. The national report will list the local areas visited but will not attribute findings to individual areas.

Additional information: [Thematic reviews of preparation for adulthood arrangements in local areas - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/themes/thematic-reviews)

The purposes of the 2024 thematic visits are to:

- Find out the extent to which local area partners across education, health and social care are working together effectively to prepare children and young people with SEND for adulthood. This will include children and young people who are receiving SEND support or have an education, health and care (EHC) plan.
- Better understand what support local area partners are providing to children and young people with SEND and their families to achieve their full potential. This could be through educational pathways such as post-16 education, training or employment. Inspectors will also look at how children and young people with SEND develop independence, are made to feel visible and valued in their community, and are supported to be as healthy as possible in adulthood.
- Identify factors that enable local area partners to work together effectively to support children and young people with SEND to transition successfully into adulthood. This could include transferring from children’s to adult services.
- Identify factors that prevent local area partners from working together effectively to support children and young people with SEND to transition successfully through education into adulthood.
- Highlight good practice in preparing children and young people with SEND for adulthood. In particular, we will highlight where transition planning in local area partnerships (LAP) is timely, collaborative and focused on the aspirations, interests and needs of the young person.

PATHWAYS CARE AND DOMESTIC SUPPORT

DAY TO DAY TASKS

- Facilitating Arts and Crafts Activities
- Music therapy
- Tabletop activities
- Sensory support
- Maintaining a safe and clean environment

SKILLS YOU'LL DEVELOP

- Working in a team
- Communication skills
- Supporting and caring for people
- An understanding of dignity, confidentiality and safeguarding

If you are passionate about helping others then a career supporting adults with complex needs with Pathways may be for you!

INTERESTED? SPEAK TO OUR TEAM!



DCC

REFUSE & RECYCLING

DAY TO DAY TASKS

- Supporting with the upkeep of DCC's waste transfer stations
- Gardening/maintenance tasks
- Possible progression into Refuse Collection and recycling roles
- Provide technical support for DCC's waste services

SKILLS YOU'LL DEVELOP

- Strong interpersonal skills
- Work in close knit teams
- Get plenty of exercise
- Gain certificates and training
- Learn how to operate a weigh bridge

An incredibly rewarding role, perfect for those who want to keep fit and healthy, work outside and be part of a great team

INTERESTED? SPEAK TO OUR TEAM!

DCC

VARIOUS ROLES WITHIN THE NEIGHBOURHOODS AND CLIMATE CHANGE TEAMS

DAY TO DAY TASKS

- Keep communities clean, safe and tidy
- Supporting with gardening
- Maintaining the high standards of public places
- Supporting with the maintenance of cemeteries
- And a whole lot more!

SKILLS YOU'LL DEVELOP

- Strong communication skills
- Working as part of different teams
- Ways to improve local communities
- An understanding of the local area and being climate conscious

This is a carousel opportunity which means you'll gain experience in many different areas such as Street Cleansing, Winter Gardening and Bereavement Services. This might be perfect for you if you are interested in how your local area changes or have an interest in climate conservation

INTERESTED? SPEAK TO OUR TEAM!





ADMIN AND DATA ENTRY

DAY TO DAY TASKS

- Collecting data and entering it into kier systems
- Supporting with the creation of quarterly and annual reports
- Contacting stakeholders
- Working with Excel and other data software

SKILLS YOU'LL DEVELOP

- Expert knowledge of the construction industry
- Communicating with stakeholders and other professionals
- Recognising data patterns
- How to develop data reports

We've worked closely with Kier's Social Responsibility Manager to develop internships that are built with your strengths in mind. This opportunity could be perfect for you if you are detail oriented and enjoy working with computers and software.

INTERESTED? SPEAK TO OUR TEAM!

DCC CHILDRENS SOCIAL CARE

DAY TO DAY TASKS

- Supporting early help practitioners with preparing resources
- Welcoming visitors to the Hub
- Preparing rooms for group activities
- Helping with business support tasks

SKILLS YOU'LL DEVELOP

- Customer Service
- Working as part of a team
- Understanding of early years social care
- Confidence

This is an opportunity to get hands on experience at DCC's One Point Family Hub in Bishop Auckland. Family hubs provide essential care and advice to families and children.

This opportunity may be perfect for you if you're interested in supporting people in the community or a career in childcare

INTERESTED? SPEAK TO OUR TEAM!



THE HUB CONSETT

DAY TO DAY TASKS

- Supporting with opening and closing the Hub
- Providing customer service
- Merchandising of stock
- Admin duties relating to various upcoming projects
- Plus, a whole lot more!

SKILLS YOU'LL DEVELOP

- Increase your confidence
- Be supported to deliver customer service at a high standard
- Develop your computer skills
- Working as part of a close knit, supportive team

Following the huge success of one of our previous interns, The Hub Consett is hoping to welcome a second intern to their team. The Hub offers support for small business owners, venue spaces for meetings and work, a community café and a marketplace that sells local products.

INTERESTED? SPEAK TO OUR TEAM!

ADMIN AND DATA ENTRY

DAY TO DAY TASKS

- Preparing training materials
- Registering learners on to BASE's training programmes and qualifications
- Contacting stakeholders
- Data entry tasks

SKILLS YOU'LL DEVELOP

- Knowledge of Supported Employment
- Communicating with stakeholders and other professionals
- Recognising data patterns
- IT and digital skills

BASE is the British Association for Supported Employment. They are the regulatory body for supported employment services up and down the country, including DurhamEnable! We work closely with BASE and can guarantee an Internship with them will be hugely rewarding.

INTERESTED? SPEAK TO OUR TEAM!

