



connexions

WEST

For parents and carers of young people who have a learning difficulty and/or disability.

**[ About Connexions  
West and planning  
for the future 2010/11 ]**

*Includes details of transition  
planning and section 139a  
assessment*



## What is Connexions West?

Connexions West is an organisation that helps young people aged 13-19 think about and plan for the future.

Young people, who have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities, will be eligible for support from Connexions up to the age of 25.

Referral to other adult services will be made where appropriate.

Connexions West works with other agencies, including schools and social services. This helps to make sure you and your family get the help and support you need.



## What can a Connexions West personal adviser do?

A Connexions West personal adviser can give young people information and advice about things that matter to them, such as:

- › staying at school
- › going to college
- › getting some training
- › getting a job
- › independent living
- › money
- › relationships
- › housing
- › health
- › leisure activities.

Young people can see their personal adviser in school or in their local Connexions West centre. You are welcome to come along to any meetings as long as the young person agrees.

# Their transition plan – their future

In Year 9, young people with a learning difficulty or disability will be supported to plan for his/her future. This usually happens during a transition review (if s/he has a statement of special educational needs). After the meeting, a transition plan will be produced. A transition plan is a way of saying:

- what the young person wants to do at 16, or older if s/he stays on at school.
- how to make the plans happen.
- who can help.

It covers many aspects of life, including education, training, getting a job, housing and health.

Other people at the meeting, to listen to the young person's opinions, could include you, teachers, a Connexions West personal adviser and other professionals.

The young person will probably meet with the personal adviser before the transition review to talk about:

- what subjects to study
- what activities to be involved in while still at school
- making decisions about the future
- local opportunities to learn, train or work
- what support might be needed
- what questions to ask the professional people attending the meeting.

The young person can have someone (called an advocate) speak for him/her at the meeting. This person could be you, a teacher, a personal adviser or someone else.

After the meeting, you and the young person will get a copy of the transition plan. Other relevant professionals will also get a copy. The local authority will consider providing the support and services listed in the transition plan.

The transition plan will be updated at every annual review, while the young person remains in school.

# Section 139a assessment

Section 139a assessment covers:

- a young person's education or training needs
- the support s/he will need.

A young person will get an assessment before leaving school or college to take up a different course at a new college or going on to work-based learning if s/he:

- has a statement of special educational needs  
**or**
- needs extra help and support at school.

A number of people are involved in the assessment process.

These include:

- the young person, whose opinions are the most important  
**and**
- the Connexions West personal adviser.

Other people might include:

- you
- teachers and other school staff
- the young person's social and/or health worker (if they have these)
- other professionals.

The personal adviser writes the section 139a report. This is shared with the college or work-based learning provider the young person has chosen. This will help to make sure that support is provided to manage the course or training.

The information in the report is shared only if the young person has said it is okay to do this.



- **Connexions Direct:** information and advice for young people. Most sections contain disability content.  
[www.connexions-direct.com](http://www.connexions-direct.com)
- **Connexions West easy read site:** information about learning and life. Includes links to organisations that can help and support.  
[www.connexionswest.org.uk](http://www.connexionswest.org.uk)
- **Future Finder:** local learning and training opportunities.  
[www.futurefinder.org.uk](http://www.futurefinder.org.uk)
- **It's Your Choice:** information on work and learning options.  
[www.connexionswest.org.uk](http://www.connexionswest.org.uk)
- **Jobs4U:** job descriptions and the qualifications needed.  
[www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u](http://www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u)
- **Money to Learn:** financial help to stay in learning.  
[www.direct.gov.uk/moneytolearn](http://www.direct.gov.uk/moneytolearn)
- **National Parent Partnership Network:** information, advice and support for parents and carers. Includes links to local support groups.  
[www.parentpartnership.org.uk](http://www.parentpartnership.org.uk)
- **Skill:** National Bureau for Students with Disabilities.  
[www.skill.org.uk](http://www.skill.org.uk)
- **Which Way Now?:** choosing options in Year 9. Includes information for parents/carers.  
[www.connexionswest.org.uk](http://www.connexionswest.org.uk)

## Your local Connexions West centres

### **Bath and North East Somerset:**

T: 01761 430 900

E: [bath-enquiries@connexionswest.org.uk](mailto:bath-enquiries@connexionswest.org.uk)

### **Bristol:** 4 Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4ST

T: 0117 987 3700 Minicom: 0117 907 4514

E: [enquiriesbristol@connexionswest.org.uk](mailto:enquiriesbristol@connexionswest.org.uk)

### **North Somerset:** 45 Boulevard, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1PG

T: 01934 644 443

E: [enquiries-nsom@connexionswest.org.uk](mailto:enquiries-nsom@connexionswest.org.uk)

### **South Gloucestershire:**

21–23 High Street, Kingswood, South Gloucestershire BS15 4AA

T: 0117 961 2760

E: [enquirieskingswood@connexionswest.org.uk](mailto:enquirieskingswood@connexionswest.org.uk) and

28 Gloucester Road North, Filton, South Gloucestershire BS7 0SJ

T: 0117 969 8101

E: [enquiriesfilton@connexionswest.org.uk](mailto:enquiriesfilton@connexionswest.org.uk) and

Yate West Gate Centre, 21 West Walk, Yate, South Gloucestershire, BS37 4AX

T: 0117 961 2760

E: [enquirieskingswood@connexionswest.org.uk](mailto:enquirieskingswood@connexionswest.org.uk)

### **Head Office:** 4 Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4ST.

T: 0117 987 3700 Minicom: 0117 907 4514.

**[enquiries@connexionswest.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@connexionswest.org.uk)**

**[www.connexionswest.org.uk](http://www.connexionswest.org.uk)**



Connexions West is part of  
Learning Partnership West.  
[www.lpw.org.uk](http://www.lpw.org.uk)