

# Post 16 opportunities for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Hillingdon

This brochure has been made for young people with SEND, by young people with SEND, to help you understand the options available after the age of 16.



Hillingdon Parent Carers Forum



North West London  
Integrated Care System



Hillingdon SEND  
and AP Partnership



HILLINGDON  
LONDON

[www.hillingdon.gov.uk/send-post-16](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/send-post-16)

# What can I do after school?

When finishing Year 11, all young people are required to be in some form of education or training up until the age of 18.

There are lots of options available to you. You may choose to go to sixth form at a mainstream school, stay on at sixth form at a special school, apply to college, or try an apprenticeship or supported internship.

This leaflet provides more details on options for tailored programmes and support services aimed at nurturing individual strengths and guiding students towards fulfilling independent futures.



## Processes for Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) post 16

1. We recommend you start looking at post 16 options the year before you are moving on, so you have plenty of time to visit colleges or settings and understand what they can offer as they are each different and have their own qualities.
2. When you find somewhere you like, enrol with the college and tell your EHC Coordinator so that they can send a consultation (this means we send your paperwork to the college), but you also need to apply online directly with the college or provider.



3. We will need to know your preferences by October of your final year in your current setting. This is earlier than young people without an EHCP, as we need to prepare the paperwork to make sure the right support is put in place for your placement, and we will let you know your placement by 31 March.
4. If you change your mind after October, we can still make your application, but we do need to work towards the 31 March deadline. If you don't meet the deadline, tell your EHC Coordinator, apply directly and we can still support you.

You should expect to receive tailored careers advice from your school or college, and your EHC Coordinator can also tell you about options available. For impartial advice and support, visit [www.hillingdonsendiass.co.uk](http://www.hillingdonsendiass.co.uk) or contact SENDIASS by emailing [sendiass@hillingdon.gov.uk](mailto:sendiass@hillingdon.gov.uk) or calling 01895 277001.

If things don't go to plan, contact the SEND EHCP Team and we can discuss your options. You may need to have entry requirements for a specific course, but sometimes you can enter at a lower level. SEND EHCP Team will support you to find a different placement if needed.

# Why is the process different because I have an EHCP?

The EHCP will tell people at your education setting what you need to help you with learning, and having an EHCP means it must be put in place.

## Will my EHCP carry on when I'm in college?

Yes, if it is still necessary and you continue to make progress.

## Will my EHCP carry on until I'm 25?

An EHCP can continue until the year you turn 25 but won't always. There are reasons a plan can be ceased, including:

- it is no longer necessary to maintain the EHCP
- you no longer need the support listed in the EHCP
- you no longer wish to carry on in education or training
- the council is no longer responsible for the young person

- you have gone into paid work (not including apprenticeship)
- you have started a higher education course, university or other Level 4 course
- you are over 18 and no longer wish to engage in further education
- you are aged 25
- you no longer live in Hillingdon (your new local authority will be responsible for your EHCP).



## Do I have to reapply for an EHCP every year?

No, you do not have to reapply every year for your EHCP. If you want to stay at your college once you have finished your course, you should tell your college and they will advise what you need to do, but every college is different. The SEND EHCP Team might ask what your plans are, and it is important to let us know.

The SEND EHCP Team is available to support you and please do not be afraid to contact your EHC Co-ordinator who will be able to signpost to further services or advice.

"Following my passion to become a vet, after completing my studies in 'Inclusive Learning' I enrolled at the Royal Berkshire College of Agriculture on an animals based course."





## Your options

Take a look at some of your options below.

### Sixth form and further education

Please visit [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/Post-16-Prospectus](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/Post-16-Prospectus) to see what's on offer at sixth forms across Hillingdon as well as further education settings.

### Courses at Uxbridge College

A large number of students choose to attend Harrow, Richmond and Uxbridge Colleges (HRUC), which is our local further education provider and one of the largest in England. The college offers a wide range of high-quality courses, apprenticeships, and programmes for young people, so it's important to find out what suits your interests and future plans.

If you are not quite sure what you want to do, don't worry. The college has a dedicated careers team available to talk through the options, so you have the information you need to help you make the right decision.



If you choose to study at Uxbridge College, your study programme will include your main qualification, English language, and maths (if you have not gained a minimum of grade 4 in each subject), tutorials and individual support, work experience, enrichment activities and skills to help you become career ready.

**For more information, visit**

**[www.uxbridgecollege.ac.uk](http://www.uxbridgecollege.ac.uk)**

"After attending Meadow High School (starting on a school links programme) I enrolled on an Entry 1 programme and then Entry 2 and Entry 3, then Level 1. I progressed through Entry 2, Entry 3 and Level 1. I then joined the Supported Internship programme at the Sheraton and now at the age of 25 I am in paid employment."

### Inclusive learning

Foundation Learning and Skills for Life courses at Uxbridge College are suitable for students who have less or no formal qualifications and would like to progress onto a vocational course in the future. They are suitable for people with special needs.

Students study employability, maths and English, as well as learning various skills, such as IT and customer service.

Friendly staff provide a supportive and caring environment to help students reach their potential goals and progress to further study or employment.

One young person said: "I finished mainstream school at the end of Year 11 and completed a foundation course, and as a result I am now progressing to Level 3 business."

**Find out more at [www.uxbridgecollege.ac.uk/courses/foundation-learning-skills-for-life](http://www.uxbridgecollege.ac.uk/courses/foundation-learning-skills-for-life)**

## Supported internships and Project SEARCH

There are several different supported internships and Project SEARCH programmes in Hillingdon. These are at Hillingdon Hospital, Hillingdon Council, the Pavilions shopping centre, the Sheraton and Marriott hotels, Heathrow Airport and HS2.

Each internship is specifically aimed at supporting young people with an EHCP in preparing for finding a paid job. The programmes typically offer young people three 10-week work placements throughout the academic year to gain experience, learn new skills and increase their confidence to find a job that suits them.

### Job coaching

During your internship, you will be allocated a job coach who will support you throughout your work placements and help you to learn the rotation tasks.

This could involve supporting you to settle into the workplace, breaking down the task, and writing visual instructions. After the supported internship, the job coach will continue to support you for an additional 9 months if you haven't found paid employment. Once you have found paid employment, support continues to be available if you require this.

### Apply for a supported internship or Project SEARCH programme

1. Contact the education provider of the supported internship/ Project SEARCH programme you are interested in. The programmes can be found here: **[www.hillingdon.gov.uk/supported-internship](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/supported-internship)**



2. The college will contact you with next steps in the application process.
3. If suitable, you will be invited to a taster or insight session
4. You will visit the site to learn more about what the programme is all about and for the programme staff to also learn more about you
5. If the programme is a good match, you will be offered a place

**If you are unsure of which programme would be best for you or you just want to find out more about supported internships or Project SEARCH, please email [projectsearch@hillingdon.gov.uk](mailto:projectsearch@hillingdon.gov.uk)**

## Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are for young people over the age of 16 and combine studying with gaining skills and knowledge in a specific job. During the apprenticeship programme, you will be required to spend a minimum of 30 hours on-the-job training that includes:

- core knowledge modules learning through a combination of online learning and practical classroom workshops
- Level 2 English and maths
- a work-based portfolio to demonstrate the skills you have learnt at work-related projects
- an assessment at the end.

**To find out more, visit [www.hruc.ac.uk/apprenticeships-and-skills](http://www.hruc.ac.uk/apprenticeships-and-skills)**



## Your options

### Work experience

Work experience helps you gain practical skills and learn about the business while working for an employer on-site. This allows you to get more of an understanding of how the business operates and what is expected of you. It allows you to carry out some of the tasks that a paid member of staff would do daily.

This allows you to get more of an understanding of the type of career you would like to go into, as well as being able to experience what day-to-day working life is like. Also, work experience is a good way of finding out about a new business if you are looking to change careers.

For more information and advice around work experience visit:

- Skanska: [www.skanska.co.uk/about-skanska/careers/early-careers/work-experience](http://www.skanska.co.uk/about-skanska/careers/early-careers/work-experience)
- Hillingdon Council: [www.hillingdon.gov.uk/school-work-experience-programme](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/school-work-experience-programme)
- Princes Trust: [www.kingstrust.org.uk](http://www.kingstrust.org.uk)



## Meet our interns

Many young people with SEND who have successfully completed a supported internship or Project SEARCH programme have gone on to gain full-time employment or a higher-level apprenticeship.

Jobs that young people have moved into include retail, hospitality roles, healthcare, administration, customer services or roles at their local library.

### Ben, a supported intern at Hillingdon Council

"My current rotation department is a library assistant at Uxbridge Library! I had numerous responsibilities at the library including shelving books, providing support with events such as reading books to children, and shredding paper from old books."



"Project SEARCH offers three different rotations at the council, and training such as interview skills and gaining a qualification Level 2 for getting ready for work. You can gain confidence, skills and learn the different aspects of a working environment."

"It has helped improve my confidence massively as well as allowing me to learn new skills, meet new people, try things that I have never done before and more."

### Alex, a supported intern at Hillingdon Council

"I work in the facilities team, and I previously worked in the brokerage team. I prefer the facilities team because I prefer more practical work and more hands-on work."





It allows you to see what you are good at before going into full-time employment.

“We have two job coaches helping us write applications and work on our CVs.”

### Interns at the Marriott Hotel

We spoke to several interns about the work they are doing in the Project SEARCH transition to work programme at the Marriott Hotel in Heathrow. They said: “An internship is for students that have special needs, and it helps special needs people to understand what it is like to work in the workplace to get a job.

“You can work in the lounge, help to clean items, work in the canteen, plus different types of rotation include engineering, housekeeping and working at the hotel’s pool facilities. You also get certain benefits, such as getting a free lunch every day and attend work events and job fairs.

“You could gain knowledge on how different businesses work and you get to work in different teams. You could gain more confidence because you are surrounded by different types of people that you get to work with daily.”



“You are supported by a job coach who helps with the work that is being done and helps you look for work. This helps with confidence.”

The council are keen to hear the views and experiences of young people and want to include everyone in improving services for the future. Our Aim High SEND Youth Forum is open to new members and if you would like to join please visit: **Aim High - SEND youth forum - Hillingdon Council**

## Further support

### Hillingdon Autistic Care and Support

Hillingdon Autistic Care and Support (HACS) is a charity that supports autistic adults and young people and those with special educational needs. It helps young people to gain full-time employment with supported internships, support to complete CVs, and advice with job applications.

HACS offer various services, such as family support, training and events, skills and employment, adult support, autism hub and also help with mentoring to develop your skills and confidence. They also offer vocational courses in partnership with colleges, work-related benefits support, in work support through access to work, travel training and training for employers.

### Hillingdon Empowering Local Lives Offer (HELLO)

HELLO provides information for children and young people with SEND and their parents/carers. It allows families to see what they can expect from a range of local agencies and how to access them.

### Useful links

- SEND Local Offer - Hillingdon Council  
[www.hillingdon.gov.uk/SEND-local-offer](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/SEND-local-offer)
- SENDIASS -  
[www.hillingdonsendiass.co.uk](http://www.hillingdonsendiass.co.uk)
- Post 16 Prospectus -  
[www.hillingdon.gov.uk/Post-16-Prospectus](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/Post-16-Prospectus)
- National Careers Service -  
[nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers](http://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers)



