

Connecting the dots – a shared vision to best prepare young people with SEND for key transition points



**Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum
Week of SEND 26.01.23**

Welcome!

SEND Employment Project

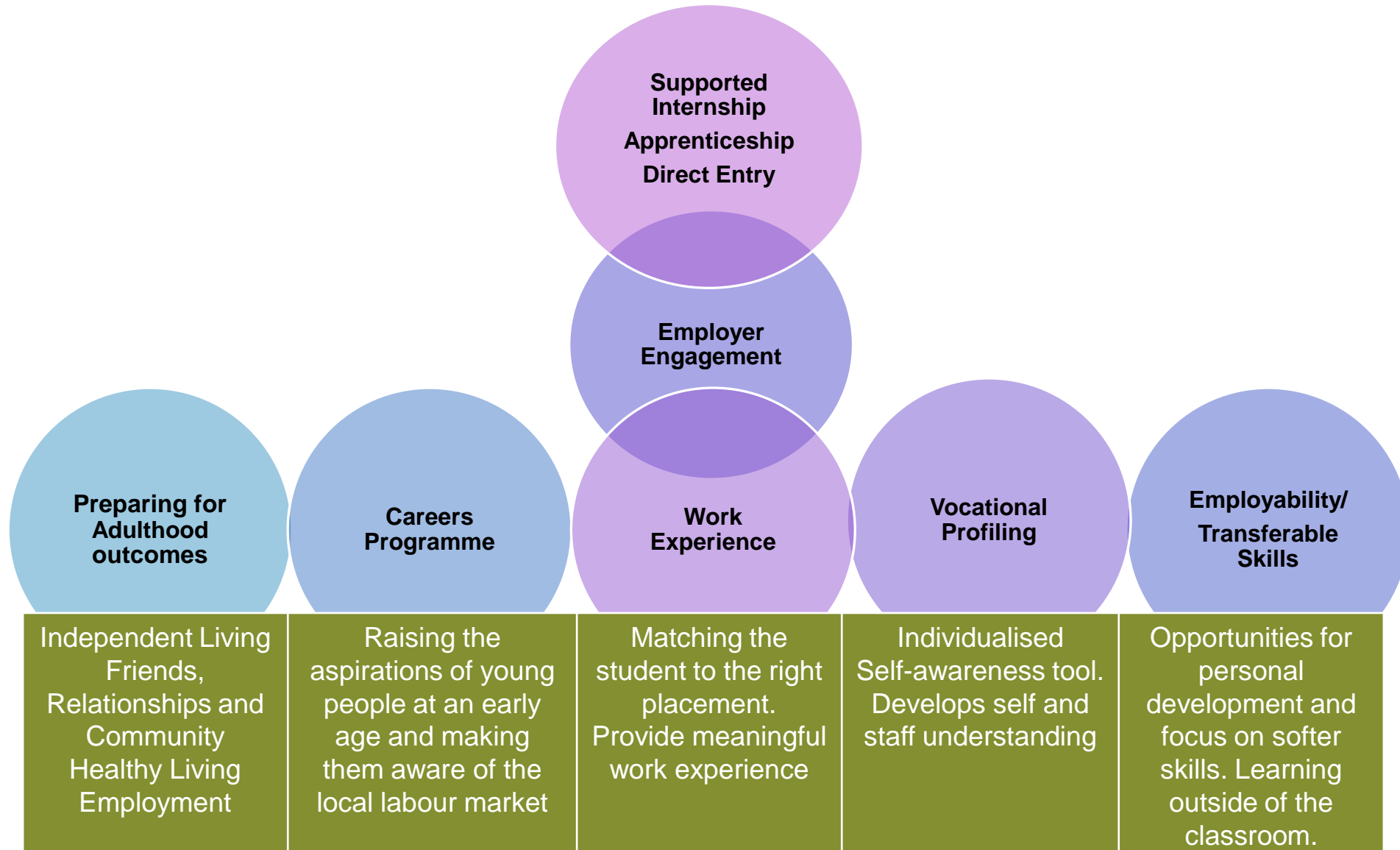
Fixed term project since August 2019 to raise career aspirations and employment outcomes for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Currently working with nine specialist settings across the county with 16-19 (years) provision with three key aims:

1. To embed a Supported Employment pathway into their Post 16 Provision (3-year model).
2. Promotion of employment at a whole school level to best prepare young people for this pathway.
3. Create and maintain our SEND Employer Forum

The project is now widening to include all Post 16 settings to increase the number of supported internship opportunities as well as supporting Adult Services and the Virtual School Team

Education Settings Employment Model



Starting point

Culture change

School priorities – to be healthy and attend school

Changing Special School cohorts

Improving destinations – being ambitious for individual learners





Employer Engagement

- SEND Employer Forum now taking place face to face.
- First school business breakfast hosted at St Francis School.
- All special schools have an allocated Enterprise Advisor
- Micronclean and PepsiCo new companies to engage with the SEND Employment Project this year.
- Excited about new leads in last few weeks.





Achievements

- Development of the Vocational Profile
- Inclusive Apprenticeships
- Speaking at National Careers Conference showcasing our joint working
- Collaboration with Adults Services

The QUAD Café

- County Offices, Newland, Lincoln – open to the public
- Day Opportunities Café at RAF Scampton
- Scampton closing/QUAD opportunity
- Six month set up from January 2022 and opened in July 2022
- Significant investment to bring the kitchen up to scratch and be food safety compliant

‘The Quad project and shared approach to support into employment are two great examples of joint working we have entered into with Children’s Services. I am exceptionally pleased, as they demonstrate a coherent approach to transition into adulthood that ensures the system is working smoothly for young people to promote active citizenship and inclusion as they move into adulthood.’

John Waters – Head of Service for Day Opportunities.

The QUAD Café

- Work experience opportunities for SEND students from local Special Schools, Lincoln College and YPLP (rotate each day of the week).
- Meaningful day opportunities for Service Users



JACK - 22– student development



Jack McGhie, Lincoln College student

Jack has attended St Christopher's and St Francis School

Moved to Lincoln College to do Skills for Catering and Hospitality course.

Studying mainstream course for Level 1 Diploma in Catering.

Volunteers a day a week at The QUAD restaurant

'I really enjoy coming here. It is the sense of working in a mainstream environment. At first it was a bit daunting but I'm getting a lot better. I'm good at interacting with the staff and customers'



Parent thoughts!

‘I never thought I would ever say that Jack would be on a mainstream course.’

‘This opportunity has really helped his confidence. Jack had been really isolated through the pandemic and previous to that, he would have gotten really stressed in a new environment and meeting new people.’

‘Working in the café has really helped him socially and with his cooking skills.’

‘Rachel (pic left) has been fantastic for Jack. He wouldn’t be here without her. She just gets him.’

‘There are so many young adults that are more suited going into volunteering or employment than day opportunities.’

OBIE– 17 - student development



‘Obie has really changed since being on work experience at The Quad. He has gained confidence and has a great repour with all the staff their so much so he has told Rachel that he will take over her job!

‘Obie found it difficult to start with talking to new people but has since lowered his face mask and has been smiling and talking much louder and clearer in recent weeks.

‘Obie has said how much he's really enjoyed his time at The Quad and wants to continue after Christmas.’

The next steps for Obie will be to attend without support and to build on his Independent Travel Training to arrive at The QUAD by his own means.

Local Supported Employment Trailblazer

- Successful bid written with Adults Services to be one of 20 Local Authorities to set up a Supported Employment Service.
- Service will be for adults with learning disabilities and autism
- 60 participants required to take part in the initiative which will finish in March 2025
- 3 Job Coaches appointed for January start.
- The Job Coaches will fall under the Maximising Independence Team
- It is hoped that the service will then become self sustainable beyond March 2025.

The LSE Trailblazer Service offer

MI Job Coaches will:

- work with the participant to identify what skills, experiences, talents and strengths they have by arranging short term unpaid work tasters.
- help participants to look and apply for the right job.
- will contact and negotiate with employers on the participants behalf.
- will provide advice and guidance on benefits and the impact of work on participant finances
- will support to understand and resolve the issues relating to benefits or employment
- will support to prepare a CV, complete application forms and prepare for interviews
- will support the participant to apply for funding for equipment, adjustments in the workplace, ongoing support with their job or travel to work, through the Access to Work scheme
- will support the participant to learn the job and settle into the role with support in the workplace if needed at the start of employment. If required, a signer / interpreter can be arranged also.

LSE - Participant Eligibility Criteria

Participants have a learning disability, autism or any individuals who have a learning difficulty who meet the Equality Act 2010 definition of disability (<https://www.gov.uk/definition-of-disability-under-equality-act-2010>).

The participants must be economically inactive (not in paid employment or paid self-employment).

The participants must not be on another DWP contracted employment programme or provision. They must also not be on another programme or provision delivered by another government department, charitable trust, or third party.

Individuals must be of Working Age (18 years old in England/16 years old in Wales) or over.

Individuals must show willingness and understand the benefit of participating in LSE to find and sustain paid work.

Local Supported Employment Trailblazer

- Referral form currently being developed for professionals (more to follow).
- We want to create a referral stream from the SEND CW Team for those young people that have plans ceasing but employment is an aspiration.
- We want to avoid that cliff-edge of transitioning out of education with no next step.
- Expressions of interest can be emailed to myself in the interim at scott.eley@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Next steps

- Adults Supported Employment Service
- Increase number of internship opportunities
- SEND Careers Awards
- Armed Forces Day

Get involved

As a young person myself that was 'lost' in my mid-late teenage years, careers input is vitally important and that parents hold the most influence.

I would be delighted to host a parent session on employment capturing your views. Interest?

Could you speak with your own employer or network to see if there are any organisations that would like to become involved?

Please contact me at

scott.eley@lincolnshire.gov.uk