

**YOUTH CONNECT
SOUTH WEST**

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

INFORMATION BOOKLET FOR REFERRING AGENCIES



- **LEARNING 4 WORK**
- **PARTNERSHIP 4 LEARNING**
- **EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICE**



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Youth Connect South West is registered in England as charity. Charity No: 1186059.
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About Alt Education



YCSW offer 3 alternative education programmes all of which differ but share the same core values and pedagogy. These programmes support young people age 13 – 25 who have SEND and have been collaboratively developed in response to the local need. All the young people referred to YCSW have experienced disruption to their education, whether that has been exclusions, multiple moves or periods of absence due to ill health or school refusal.

The alternative education curriculum is fully differentiated, each young person has their own personalised timetable, helping them work towards their goals and aspirations. The staff focus on building supportive relationships with young people to help them access education and navigate the transition towards adulthood. Each young person has a named worker who acts as a trusted adult, providing consistency and positive feedback.

All the programmes prioritise young people's well-being, helping them to build confidence and self-esteem. Staff are experienced and well trained to support students with SEND and manage young people's emotional needs. Staff ensure young people feel welcome, valued, safe and experience success. Each programme focusses on providing holistic support with well-planned transitions. We have a proven track record, succeeding in helping young people take next steps, whether that be progression in education or first steps into the world of work.

Learning 4 Work (L4W)

Learning for work is for post-16 young people who have an EHCP and for whom mainstream provision is not suitable or where the placement has broken down. L4W provides young people with an opportunity to build a supportive relationship with a Key Worker who can help them to access the curriculum and opportunities in the community.

Student Profile

YP on Learning 4 Work typically have an interest in developing vocational skills and gaining qualifications to help them into employment. Many of the young people on Learning 4 Work have social emotional mental health needs, speech and language needs and have a history of disrupted education.

Number of Spaces

48

Student Status

Enrolled @ Bath College

Location

Southside Youth Centre or Radstock Youth Centre. Sessions can also be delivered at YP's homes and in the community

Referral Process

Consult to Bath college, referral form to YCSW via Globalscape or BANES staff can email AltEdreferrals@ycsw.org.uk

Curriculum Offer



Key Workers provide 4 to 6 hours one to one support each week. In addition to this there are a wide range of sessions that young people can attend. These include Maths and English, Music, Art and Craft, Forest School, Thrive & Well-being, Hair and Beauty, Motor Vehicle, Bicycle repair, Constructions Skills, Sports and Fitness, Parkour, Fishing, Employability, Sexual Health, Animal Care, VR and coding.

In addition to this we deliver a comprehensive Enrichment curriculum which includes personal development opportunities, visits from partner organisations, careers guidance, housing support and employer visits.

Qualifications Available

AQA units in a wide range of vocational subject areas. Art Award qualifications. ASDAN short courses. Maths and English – GCSEs are available online or at Bath College. At Radstock and Southside sites students can receive face to face tuition to gain Ascentis unit qualifications or Functional Skills qualifications, these can also be delivered remotely when necessary.

Additional Support Available

Speech and language, OTR listening support, college nurse, exam access arrangements. Staff work closely with partner organisations such as P28 and Children’s Social Care who often meet young people at our centres.



Key Workers help young people develop key life skills and prepare for adulthood by supporting with finances and budgeting, travel training, opening bank accounts, obtaining identification documents, applying for benefits and referrals for further support in adulthood.

Additional Learning Opportunities

Students can complete a wide range of additional courses to help them develop vocational skills and prepare for the workplace. These include, but are not limited to; CSCS labouring card, First Aid, Food Hygiene, Driving theory, CBT moped licence.

Progression Route

Upon finishing L4W many of the young people secure paid employment and some start an apprenticeship. A large percentage of young people progress onto a mainstream FE college course, typically in the foundation learning department or a LI vocational course. We have also had young people move onto Princes Trust, Project Search and Traineeships.

Case Study

Lola (pseudonym) joined Learning 4 Work programme after receiving the last stage of her compulsory education from hospital education, which had helped her obtain some GCSE's whilst studying at home. Lola has an Educational, Health & Care plan for Social, Emotional & Mental Health needs, as well as cognition and learning. A huge barrier for Lola was being able to access education due to her complex mental health needs, concerns around her behaviour and dyslexia and her ability to access a mainstream placement resulting in gaps of education. However, since starting the Learning for Work programme, Lola thrived – she grew in confidence, resilience and built a wonderful working relationship with her Key Worker.



Lola blossomed whilst on the L4W programme, she was previously highly anxious and had a strong attachment to Mum. L4W's holistic approach has supported Lola to feel confident moving onto her next chapter through independent learning, group sessions and 1-2-1 support.

Lola enjoyed helping others and has a very mature and empathetic nature. She helped at the charities stall at the Bath Christmas market and supported interviews by being the young person representative on interview panels. Lola has completed qualifications and gained an AQA certificate in Introduction to Animal Care at Bath City Farm. She regularly attended sport and fitness sessions, as well as seeking employability guidance. Lola was particularly interested in Hair and Beauty so staff supported her to complete an ASDAN in Hair and Beauty as well as attending a some sessions in a Hair Academy in Bristol, hair and beauty workshops with a beautician at Southside, interviews with Salon managers, college open days and completing work experience, applications and CVs.

Whilst on L4W Lola met with the Off the Record staff who provide listening support to our students at YCSW's centre, this helped her discuss some of her ongoing mental health challenges in a safe and familiar environment. Lola also frequently attended Speech and Language sessions and built strong working relationships with her Key Worker and many of the Learning for Work staff.

Lola finished on L4W in summer 2022 having achieved a lot and grown in confidence. Her Key Worker supported her to apply for an Apprenticeship with a local Hairdressing salon and accompanied her to some transition and settling in sessions. Lola remains in contact with staff and reports that she is doing well and enjoying the new challenge.

Partnership 4 Learning (P4L)

Student Profile

P4L has been developed to support young people who find it difficult to leave home to access learning opportunities. Young people join the programme for a range of reasons, often they are experiencing challenges with mental health and many have health needs that mean they are unable to attend an education setting. Students on Partnership for Learning often have academic aspirations and staff can support them to access learning opportunities as well as delivering a range of activities to support confidence, well-being and develop key life skills.

Number of Spaces | 23

Student Status | Enrolled @ Bath College

Location

Staff generally work from young people's homes so there must be a parent/carer present at the property. As young people become more confident, they will be supported to access opportunities in the community. Staff can also book rooms to use with young people at the YCSW Radstock, Southside and City centre sites.

Referral Process

Consult to Bath college, referral form to YCSW via Globalscape or BANES staff can email to AltEdreferrals@ycsw.org.uk

Curriculum Offer

Learning Mentors provide 4-6 hours of one to one support each week during term time. In addition to this there are sessions the young people can choose to attend including VR and coding and photography. Young people can also be supported to attend P4L sessions where appropriate. Group dynamics and support needs are carefully managed by staff to ensure young people feel comfortable and well supported. Young people are also encouraged to access Careers Advice and Guidance and a Sex and Relationship curriculum.

Qualifications Available

AQA units in a wide range of vocational subject areas. Art Award qualifications. ASDAN short courses.

Maths and English – GCSEs are available online or at Bath College. At Radstock and Southside sites students can receive face to face tuition to gain Ascentis unit qualifications or Functional Skills qualifications, these can also be delivered remotely when necessary.

Additional Support Available

Speech and language, OTR listening support, college nurse, exam access arrangements.

Additional Learning Opportunities

Working with the young person and drawing from their EHCP, Learning Mentors work creatively to provide young people with opportunities to explore interests and try new things. Examples have included, sewing, Dungeons and Dragons club, bouldering, film studies, work experience, animal care, arts and crafts and visits to museums.

Progress Route

Young people aim to progress onto further and higher education or into work/vocational training opportunities depending on their needs & aspirations



Education Support Service (ESS)

Student Profile

The ESS has been developed to provide support to young people aged 13 – 16 who are of compulsory school age but not accessing full time mainstream school provision. Young people have a range of needs preventing them from attending school; some may be struggling with high levels of anxiety, others have reduced timetables in mainstream due to challenging behaviour and some do not have a named school place.



Number of Spaces | 18

Student Status

ESS offers support packages rather than an education placement. Many of the young people on the programme will be on roll with a mainstream school or on an EOTAS package as arranged by the SEND team. The ESS team work closely with other providers to ensure a comprehensive package of support to meet young people's needs.

Location

We work with young people where they feel comfortable – this may be in their homes (with an adult present), out in the community or at one of our centres

Referral Process

BANES SEND team have commissioned 18 spaces. Referrals are agreed in regular review meetings with SEND and YCSW. Any enquiries should be sent to AltEdreferrals@ycsw.org.uk.

Curriculum Offer

Education Support packages are offered as single or double placements. A single place provides 6 hours one to one support each week. Sessions and activities are tailored to the young person's interests. There is a focus on supporting young people to engage with activities they enjoy, identify goals and consider post 16 options. Young people can also be supported to attend L4W group sessions where appropriate; group dynamics and support needs are carefully managed by staff to ensure young people feel comfortable and well supported. Popular activities include gym and fitness, parkour, art and crafts and beauty.

Qualifications Available

AQA units in a wide range of vocational subject areas. Art Award qualifications. ASDAN short courses. The ESS team work closely with SEND to identify and arrange online tutoring where appropriate.

Additional Support Available

OTR listening support. The team work collaboratively with a range of other services supporting young people to ensure a joined-up approach.

Additional Learning Opportunities

Education Support Workers encourage young people to explore interests and try new things. Where appropriate (and depending on age), students can complete short courses to help them develop vocational skills and prepare for the workplace. These include: CSCS labouring card (16+), First Aid, Food Hygiene, CBT moped licence (16+).

Progress Route

Where young people are able to reintegrate into mainstream education, they will be supported to do so. Staff will support all ESS young people to explore and apply for suitable post-16 opportunities including YCSW programmes such as L4W and P4L, mainstream college courses, apprenticeships and other educational opportunities. Transitions will be carefully planned with the young person, parents / carers and SEND.



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