

Preparation for Adulthood –
Oaklands Special School Coffee
Morning
4th June 2026–
Paul Arista



Early Help and
Prevention Service



Cheshire West
and Chester

Agenda

- Paul Arista
- SEN team – Overview
- Planning for Transitions -Preparation for Adulthood – Year 9 upwards
- Panel Process
- Supported Internships – Route to employment
- Successes
- Conclusion
- Health – Update

Paul Arista

- Experience – background
- Operational/Strategic Role
 - Manager of the SEN team from year 7 Upwards
 - Develop provision that meets learner's needs in our borough.
 - Champion PFA for young people with SEN

SEN PFA team

- The Team are area based – Caseworkers work in Chester/EP and Northwich/Winsford.
- Team will aim to attend Annual Reviews if they are asked.
- Liaise with Health and Care professionals if provision required

Planning for Transitions

- The aim is to start preparation early – even as early as Year 7
- Use your Annual Reviews to discuss options
- We have support from agencies within the Local Authority such as Young Peoples Service.
- Use the Local Offer and the information in there. [Home | Live Well Cheshire West \(cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk\)](https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk) – Padlet

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Year 9 –

- Research local offer – Live Well
- Padlet – opens up information on what is available.
- Annual Reviews – led by Oaklands and you can discuss your YPs aspirations.
 - Employment, Education etc
- Visit Colleges and Training Providers and go to College websites.

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Year 10 –

- Continue to visit providers and use the Annual review to note options.
- Plans are maintained in Year 10 unless major changes are required
- Continue research and keep discussing with schools.

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Year 11 –

- If young people are moving to Further Education (FE), Annual Reviews should take place in the Autumn Term. Oaklands organise the reviews.
- Final Plans need to be completed by 31st March. This year we had over 93% completed in time.
- That is not the end, young people may and can change their mind, and so changes can happen in the summer term.

Panel Process

- Weekly panels
 - Assessment Panel
 - Review Panel
- Panels made up of representatives from Education, Health and Social Care
- Decision making/Recommendations

What is a Supported Internship?

An SI is a full-time 1-year study programme that includes tailored employability training alongside an extended unpaid work placement for young people 16-24 years with special educational needs (SEN) in receipt of an education, health and care plan (EHCP).



What is a Supported Internship?

- The aim for the programme is to give each learner the best opportunity of securing paid employment at the end of the programme.
- Cheshire West and Chester Council's Skills & Employment team launched its new Supported Internship programme in October 2020.
- Other providers such as Cheshire College, Pettypool, Reaseheath, Warrington Vale Royal and Wirral Met also deliver this programme.

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Successes:

- Updated PfA Strategy on LA Website
- Recent SEN Area Wide Inspection noted positives in this area.
- Lots of Post 16 College Options
- Only LA provider directly delivering Supported Internships
- Positive links with the PCF
- The Post 16 Pathway – PfA information on Livewell
- Strong College Network – sharing best practice across the LA area.

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Conclusion:

- Use Open days to visit Colleges
- Regular information sessions and events are organised if schools request this – communicating and helping parents/carers
- Young People's Service support parents and young people - highlighted by Ofsted as good practice.

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Conclusions (cont'd)

- Transition as early as possible
- Use support agencies and school
- Use the resources on Livewell
- Supported Internship – more employment opportunities.
- Remember help is available