

ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH

Learning Difficulty Assessments

1. When deciding whether education or training is able to meet the needs of a young person aged 16-25 the Royal Borough of Greenwich will have regard to the young person's age, ability and aptitude; any learning difficulty the young person has; the quality of available education and training opportunities; the location of education and training opportunities.
2. We anticipate the education and training needs of the majority of young people, including those who have additional needs, will be met through mainstream providers.
3. The Royal Borough of Greenwich must and will conduct a Learning Difficulty Assessment (Section 139a Assessment) where a young person has a statement of SEN and is expecting to leave school to continue their post 16 education.
4. The Royal Borough may conduct a Learning Difficulty Assessment in situations where a young person has needs that are equivalent to those requiring a statement but where the young person has not been formally assessed and where it is believed this will be beneficial to the young person. These situations may include where a young person has experienced a significant change in circumstances as a result of illness or an accident.
5. The assessments are conducted by qualified Personal Advisors (PA) on behalf of the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Prospects Services Ltd. are contracted to deliver all assessments on behalf of the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Written permission is obtained from the young person and his/her family and/or carer, to share the Learning Difficulty Assessment.
6. When conducting the Learning Difficulty Assessment a qualified Prospects PA will collate information on current attainment and further education or training needs; the short and long-term goals and aspirations of the young person themselves; options for education or training that have been explored throughout the transition reviews; and the provision currently being considered; the support that will be required; how non-learning needs can be met; which agencies, including Health and Social Care may be involved in supporting the young person.

7. This information will come from a number of sources including but not limited to the most recent statement of special educational needs; the most recent school report and transition plan; relevant medical, psychological and social care reports; the views of professionals working with the young person.
8. The completed assessment will be shared with the young person and their family. The assessment will then be shared with local mainstream providers to determine if the needs of the young person can be met locally. Where a mainstream provider makes an offer of a place of study a young person should accept this place.
9. Where mainstream local provision is unable to meet the identified needs of the young person and does not make an offer of study the Learning Difficulty Assessment will be considered by the local authority Transitions Panel, a multi-agency panel which includes representatives from Children's Services, Adult and older People's Services, health and a representative from Prospects.
10. The Transitions Panel will review the assessment and may recommend that the young person should explore a specialist college or specialist residential provision. In these circumstances the Prospects PA should identify one specialist provider identified as being potentially able to meet the young person's needs. The LDA will be sent to the specialist provider which will invite the young person for an assessment and will submit a report to the Transitions Panel describing how they can meet the needs of the young person
11. The Transitions Panel will meet again to review and discuss the LDA and specialist provider report. The Panel will reach one of four possible decisions: the education and training needs of the young person can be met in a mainstream college; the education and training needs of the young person can be met by accessing day provision at a specialist provider; the education and training needs of the young person can be met by accessing residential provision at a specialist provider.

The Transitions Panel will meet again to review and discuss the LDA and the report prepared by the named specialist provider. The Panel will reach one of four possible decisions:

- the education and training needs of the young person can reasonably be met through day-based provision at the named specialist provider (Independent Specialist Provider);

- the education and training needs of the young person can only reasonably be met through residential-based provision at the named specialist provider (Independent Specialist Provider);
 - the education and training needs of the young person can reasonably be met through social care provision (possibly already determined at Point 8);
 - the education and training needs of the young person can be met through different provision and will ask the young person to explore alternative options with the support of Prospects and the Royal Borough.
12. Where the fourth decision is given further options for education and training will be explored. Reports on these options will be presented to the Transitions Panel for a final decision.