

Supporting pupils who may need specialist college placements



Gyrfa Cymru
Careers Wales

For the 2024 -25 academic year Careers Wales is only responsible for submitting funding applications for anyone in year 14 or anyone over 19 but under the age of 25.

The Local Authority has the responsibility of determining whether or not a young person requires a specialist college placement (ISPI) for young people in years 11-13 (or those of equivalent age who are no longer in school).

From August 2025 Careers Wales will have no duties in relation to the funding of specialist college placements for young people of any age but can continue to support young people and LAs/Schools.

Careers Wales advisers can:

- Provide one to one impartial, person-centred guidance interviews for all young people in maintained settings.
- Contribute to the IDP by sharing the young person's goals for their future
- Provide verbal feedback to schools to let them know if a young person or family have told us that they wish to consider specialist college placements.
- Meet with parents to provide information and advice about local opportunities and where local provision can't meet need, information on specialist colleges.
- Make families aware of local authority processes for decision making.
- Attend IDP reviews
- Provide information to school and/or local authority staff on specialist colleges that may meet a young person's needs.
- Where agreed, as part of a local authority's formal process, attend local authority arranged meetings to discuss post 16 progression.
- Provide guidance to young people placed in specialist colleges who are about to leave and are looking to enter further learning or employment.

Based on ALNET, Careers Wales's understanding is that:

- Schools and FE colleges will work together to identify if local college could meet a young person's needs and that colleges will provide evidence of their decision back to the school/LA.
- Where a young person needs an ISPI placement post school that the school will provide any referral required to the local authority as they are best placed to identify and summarise the ongoing needs of the young person based on the IDP they have produced.
- The school and/or LA will work with the learner/parents to make any required application to a suitable specialist college.

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