

What needs to be done next - particularly for young people in Year 11 in September 2012

Please talk with your parents about your interests and plans for the future, and talk to staff at school about your options and progression routes for after July 2013. Each school will have its own arrangements for careers guidance which should include information about apprenticeships, further and higher education, and employment. Where a young person has greater need for support and guidance, schools may refer a young person to a Connexions Personal Adviser.

There may be open events at school or elsewhere which will give you and your son or daughter the opportunity to find out more.

Decisions do not need to be made at the start of Year 11. However it will be in young people's interests to firm up plans well before the Summer break.

What happens if the chosen route doesn't work out?

Sometimes young people find they are not suited to the course or job they have started. If that is the case, Connexions will follow up and, if required, provide information, advice and guidance to support the young person to move on to another course or job.

Further Information

Parents and young people can get further information about a range of options from:

- The National Careers Service website **[www.direct.gov.ukNationalCareers Service](http://www.direct.gov.ukNationalCareersService)**
- The National Apprenticeship Service website **www.apprenticeships.org.uk**
- Local colleges, schools and training providers (either from their websites or by direct contact).
- Bath & North East Somerset Council's Family Information Service **www.bathnes.gov.uk/fis** has contact details for local providers of education and training and other useful sources of information. You will also be able to get more detailed information on the regulations on raising the participation age (including Questions and Answers) and on the Government's expectations in terms of careers guidance.
- The Career Pilot website **www.careerpilot.org.uk** which provides useful information on local opportunities for young people over the age of 16.
- The Learning Partnership West website **www.lpw.org.uk** which provides information about targeted Connexions support and other opportunities for young people.
- Specific enquiries: contact children's_services@bathnes.gov.uk

Raising the Participation Age

New information for Young people in Years 10 and 11, parents and carers.

September 2012

The minimum age for young people to continue in education or training is changing.

From September 2013 all young people will be required to continue in an approved form of learning or training until the end of the academic year in which they are 17 years old.

From September 2015 they will be required to continue until they are 18.

This change is often referred to as “raising the participation age” (“RPA” for short).

Who will this affect?

All young people starting Year 11 in September 2012 will be required to take part in some form of learning for a full academic year after they have completed Year 11. They will be required to stay in learning or training until the summer of 2014.

All young people starting Year 10 in September 2012, will be required to take part in some form of learning until their 18th birthday. This will apply to all subsequent year groups.

What does this actually mean?

This does not mean that a young person has to stay at school, though many will choose to do so. It does not take away the choice of moving to a different education provider, for example to take a vocational course. It also does not mean that a young person cannot get a paid job. What it does mean is that young people will be expected to do one of the following things:

- Continue in full-time education (at a college, school or training provider)
- Follow a full-time work-based route (an Apprenticeship)
- Undertake part-time education or training for at least one day a week (or equivalent) if they :
 - Work
 - Are self-employed
 - Volunteer for 20 hours per week

Why has this change been made?

The Government believes it is not in young people’s interests to stop taking part in learning of some sort as soon as they reach

16. Many young people in Bath and North East Somerset study full-time for two years after they are 16, and a number take up an Apprenticeship. However, some young people only study for one year after 16, or are keen to get a job whether it offers training nor not.

The change has been made to ensure that all young people can continue to learn, or learn alongside work (this already happens with an Apprenticeship). In young people’s interests, a job without recognised training is no longer considered to be enough.

The change will also help young people who have not been able to find a job or suitable full-time course. They will be able to take part in other positive activities whilst still learning for some of the time.

The Government is convinced that continuing in learning in one of these ways will open up new opportunities and help ensure that that young people get useful skills, experience and qualifications for their future.