

Plain facts

Leaving a special residential school or college



Some young people with learning difficulties go to school or college a long way from home. They live at their residential school or college most of the time.



It can be difficult for young people when they leave these schools or colleges.

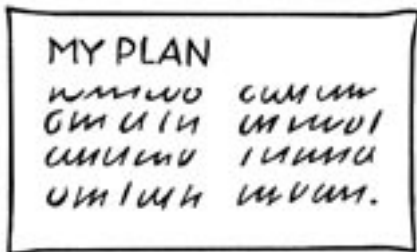
Pauline Heslop, David Abbott and Lisa Johnson did a research project. They found out what happened when young people move on from their residential school or college.



Making plans



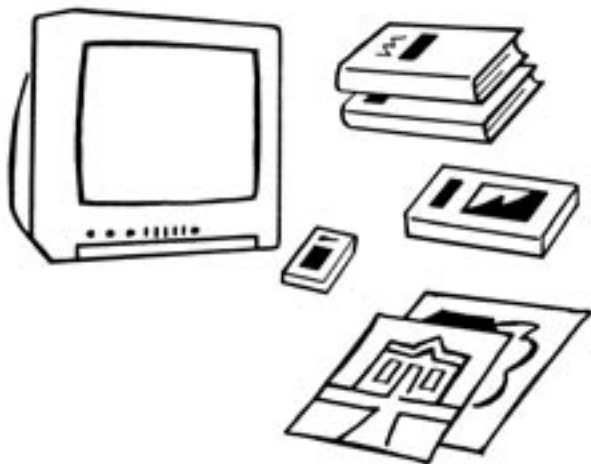
Some people get worried or stressed when changes happen. Leaving school or college can be a big change.



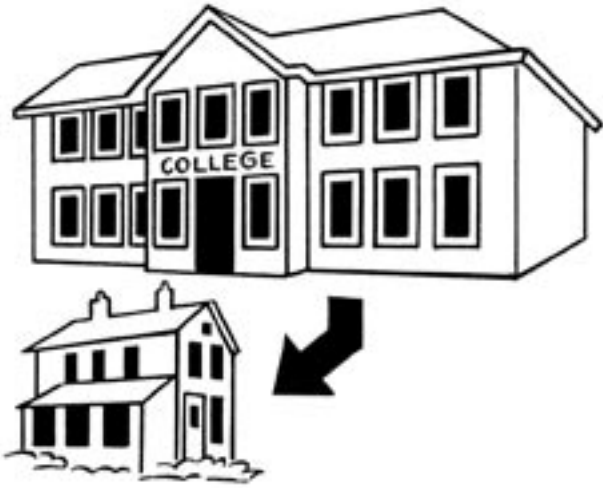
It helps to plan what will happen. But it can be hard to make plans when a young person lives a long way away from their family.



Schools and colleges are supposed to help young people with their plans.



Young people with learning difficulties and their families said they needed more help. They wanted more information about what choices there were after the young person left school or college.

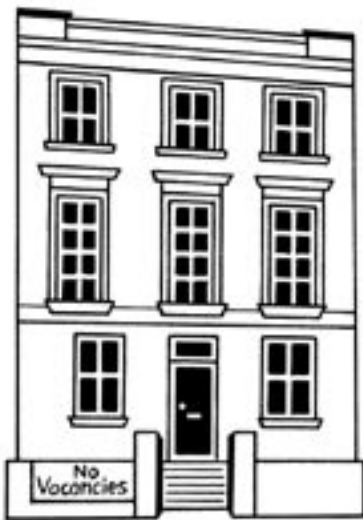


Leaving school or college

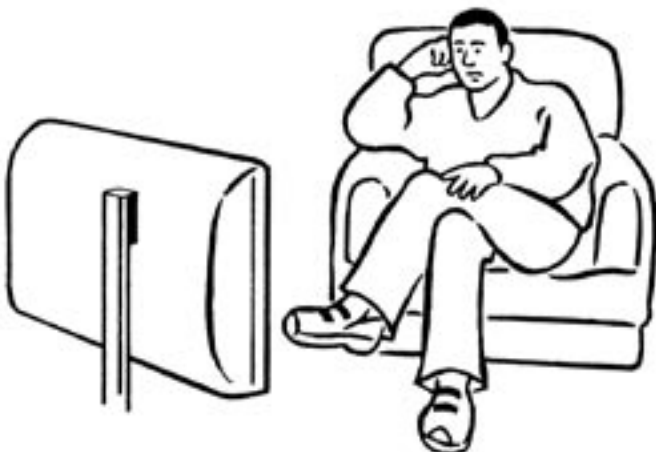
Most young people had to go back to their home area when they left school or college.



Sometimes going back to their home area caused problems. The young people hadn't lived there for two or three years. Services weren't set up for them there. They often didn't have any friends there anymore.



Some young people didn't know where they were going next. They had to leave school or college but they didn't have a place to go to.



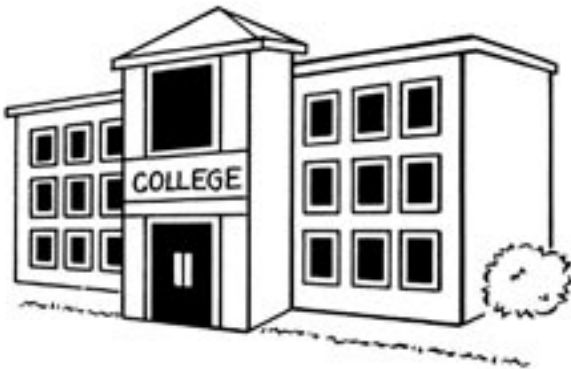
They didn't have plans for things to do in the daytime.



A few young people got good support. College or school workers listened to what they wanted to do. Some young people were able to visit different places.



Some young people moved somewhere they liked. They knew some of the people in their new place. They had lots of things to do in the day.

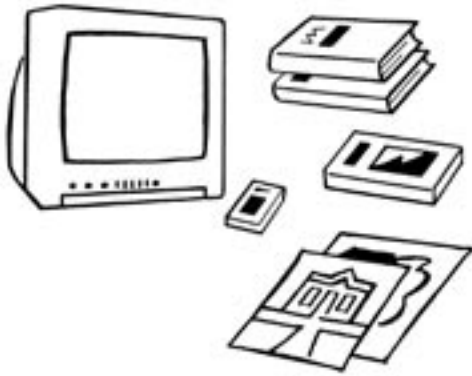


Most young people were helped to move on to new colleges in their home area.



Hardly anyone was having any help to think about getting a job.

What helps?



It helped if someone spoke to young people about what they wanted to do. It helped young people to have lots of information about what might be possible.



It helped to go and visit new places before deciding.



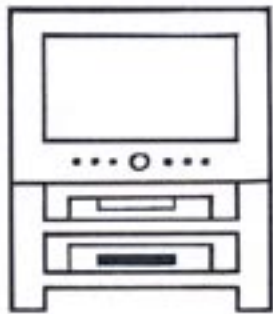
It helped if there was lots of time to plan for moving on from a residential school or college.



The thing that young people said helped the most was knowing in advance where they were going next. It helped to know some people who were already there. If they were moving to a new home it helped to have stayed in the new place already.

Things to do

Talk to other people about what it was like for them leaving school or college. Find out what other people did when they left school or college. Think about what you would like to do.



Watch the DVD called '**Making Plans**'. It was made by young people with learning difficulties living in Bristol. You can get a copy from Susanna Delve in the Transitions Team. Call her on

0 1 1 7 3 7 7 3 8 7 8 or
0 1 1 7 3 7 7 3 6 8 6.

You can e-mail her on
susanna.delve@bristol.gov.uk



Ask someone to support you in going to visit different sorts of places to live. You could speak to someone about getting a job. Ask someone to support you to find out what things you could do in the day. Try out as many things as you can.



Read the section for young people in the '**All Change**' pack. You can find out more about this from Pavilion Publishing.

Their web address is:



www.pavpub.com



or call on:

0 8 7 0 8 9 0 1 0 8 0.

About the project



Pauline, David and Lisa did the project. Tim and Cath from North Somerset People First were Advisors. They gave Pauline and David advice about how to do the project.



Pauline and David talked to 15 people with learning difficulties. They all lived a long way from home at a residential school or college.



Pauline and David also talked with someone in their family. And they spoke to workers who supported the young people and their families.

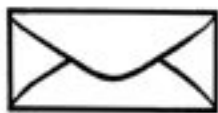


Pauline and David have written a report about the project.

You can get a free summary of the findings at:



www.bristol.ac.uk/norahfry/online.html



Or you can get a free copy from the Norah Fry Research Centre, 3 Priory Rd, Bristol, BS8 1TX.



Tel: 0 1 1 7 3 3 1 0 9 8 7.

www.plain-facts.co.uk



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