

Easy Read



North Wales **Together**
Gogledd Cymru **Gyda'n Gilydd**

*Seamless services for people with Learning Disabilities
Gwasanaethau ddi-dor i bobl ag Anableddau Dysgu*

Life after school

A report about school leavers with a learning disability in North Wales

'This document was written by **North Wales Together, Learning Disability Transformation Programme**. It is an easy read version of the '**Life After School report**.'

May 2022

How to use this document



This is an easy read document. But you may still need support to read it. Ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. You can check what all the words in blue mean on **page 18**.



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Introduction



We are **North Wales Together Learning Disability Transformation Programme**.



We want people with a learning disability to have the same chances as everyone else.



Especially after they leave school.



There is a new law called the **Additional Learning Needs Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018**. We will call it the **Act** for short.



The **Act** has rules about helping people with a learning disability after they leave school.



We wanted to make sure we follow this new **Act**.



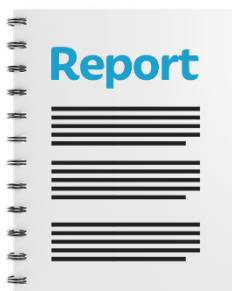
We needed to check that school leavers with a learning disability get enough options and support.



For example, so they can go to college. Or can get a job.



We talked to lots of people about this.



This report is about what we found out.

What we did



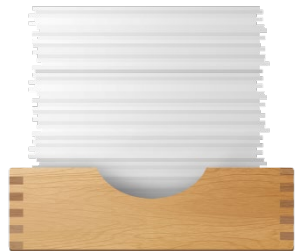
We did this project between 2020 and 2021.



The project was run by people from local councils, **North Wales Together** and **Conwy Connect**.



Conwy Connect helps people with learning disabilities in North Wales.



We collected lots of information about what people did after they left school or college.



We got information from schools, colleges, **Careers Wales**, councils, health and **third sector**.

We also got information from people with learning disabilities, their families and carers.

The **third sector** is another name for voluntary, charity or campaign organisations.



We talked to 86 people in total.



26 of the people we talked to had a learning disability.



6 of the people we talked to were parents of someone with a learning disability.



Everyone else we talked to were service providers. Like schools, colleges, health and social care staff, the **third sector** and **Careers Wales**.

What we found out

What we found out from Careers Wales:

Most people with special educational needs and a learning disability:



- Stay on in school until year 14.
- Or**
- Go to college in year 11 or year 13.



Most people from special secondary schools go to college.



A few people go to colleges with specialist support. So they can get more help with their learning disability.



We didn't hear about anyone who went to work. Unless it was work experience.

What we found out from local councils:



After they leave school, most young people do day activities.



Or have work opportunities. This is a service that the council pays for.



Some people do volunteer work. This is work where you don't get paid.



Not many people with a learning disability are in paid work.



There are not enough options for people with a severe learning disability.

About the information we got:



Different services showed us their information in different ways.



This makes the information confusing.



Most services don't know what people with learning disabilities do after school or college.



This makes it hard to know what happens to school leavers with a learning disability.



But we **do** know that school leavers with a learning disability have less options. And get less support.

About going to college:



People with a learning disability often go to college for short courses.



But some school leavers do not want to go to college.



School leavers with a learning disability feel they need more advice about their options.



For example, they might want help to get a job instead of going to college.



Or they might want help to be more **independent**. And to live on their own.

Independent means doing things for yourself and making your own decisions.



A lot of colleges have separate classes for people with a learning disability.



This is not **inclusive**.

Inclusive means everyone can take part, and everyone has a fair chance.



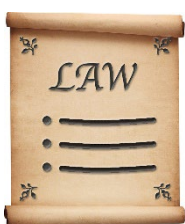
Citizens and families told us that they want more **inclusive** options at college



Studies show that young people with a learning disability have a better life when they attend college along with other students.



Sometimes it is the best option for people to go to a college with specialist support.



But the Act says that people with a learning disability should be able to go to their local college. And colleges should be able to meet the needs of the people.

About the new Act



The **Act** has rules about helping people with a learning disability after they finish school. And are planning the next steps.



But most people don't know much about the new **Act**.



And how the **Act** could help school leavers with a learning disability.

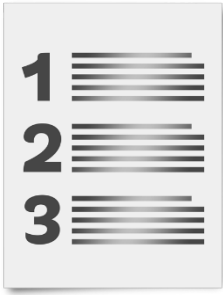


People who know about the **Act** think it is good. And that it will help people with a learning disability.



But some people are worried it will be hard to make it work well.

What we want to happen



We have a list of things we want support services to do next.

Things to do in the next year



Services should make sure staff are ready for the new **Act**. And know all about it.



Services should make sure people with a learning disability and their families know about the new **Act**.



Councils should make public transport easier to use. So people with a learning disability can be more **independent**.



Services should look at how technology can help young people to be more **independent**. And safe.

Things to do in the next 2 to 3 years



Colleges should do more for people with a severe learning disability. So they have more options when they leave school.



Services should create support groups for school leavers. So they can get better advice about what to do next.



Services should give better advice about local and specialist colleges. So people know which college is better for them.



Services should help school leavers to make career plans. And to learn more about different job options.



Services should make sure information is easy for people to use. For example, on websites.



Services should help create more jobs for people with a learning disability.



Services should help school leavers to plan for their future. And to think about what kind of life they want.



Services should keep better information about what young people do after they leave school or college.



Services should help people with a learning disability to make new friends.

Things to do in the next 5 years



All education in North Wales should be more **inclusive** for children with a disability.



So that people with a learning disability learn alongside other students.



All staff should be trained in how to be more **inclusive**.



Services should help school leavers to plan what they want to do next.



This will also help services plan what they need in the future.

Hard words

Inclusive

Inclusive means everyone can take part, and everyone has a fair chance.

Independent

Independent means doing things for yourself and making your own decisions.

Third sector

The third sector is another name for voluntary, charity or campaign organisations.