

Bedfordshire and Luton signs pledge of commitment to support learners with difficulties or disabilities

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The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in Bedfordshire and Luton has joined forces with partner agencies to sign a pledge of commitment to support learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in the county.

The pledge was signed at a one-day conference held on Monday (May 19th) at Whipsnade. The conference was organised by LSC Bedfordshire and Luton to highlight the innovative developments happening in the county to improve the provision of education for Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities (LLDD) after the age of 16.

The LSC and its partners, including Bedfordshire County Council, Luton Borough Council, Connexions, health representatives and local schools and colleges have pledged to ensure young people with special educational needs are supported in their plans for their next steps after school so they can achieve their educational aims, meet their aspirations and go on to find jobs.

As part of their LLDD work, the LSC has developed a tailored brokerage service which offers young people additional support post 16. An Assessment Officer, who will develop quality standards for all assessments in Beds & Luton, has been appointed, and Transition Coordinators have also been appointed to improve the transition for young people from pre to post 16 education.

Ben Pearson, Partnership Manager for the LSC, said: “By signing the pledge the partner agencies have agreed to work together to build the capacity of local specialist provision to increase the number of 16-25 LLDD learners accessing learning. The pledge also supports the Learning for Living and Work strategy, which sets out how the LSC will improve education and training opportunities for Learners with Difficulties and/or Disabilities (LLDD). This will make a real difference for parents and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities going on to Further Education (FE).”

The government’s vision is that by 2025 disabled people will have full opportunities and choices to improve their quality of life and will be respected and included as equal members of society. The LSC has been working to support this aim and Bedfordshire and Luton are leading the way across the country by being the first area to sign a specific pledge of commitment to LLDD learners in the county.

-ENDS-

Notes to editors

The signatories of the pledge were:

Suzie Webb, Area Director Beds & Luton LSC
Geoffrey Farr, Chair of the Beds & Luton Learning for Living and Work Forum
Margaret Palmer, Palmer Consultancy (& author of the Pledge)
Sue Reed, Head of Connexions for Bedfordshire
Krysia Connelly, Mayflower Project Manager
Sam Fuller, Transition Coordinator Bedfordshire County Council
Harriet Martin, Head of Educational Psychology and Assessment, Luton Borough Council
Sandra Connolly, Deputy Head St Johns Special School
Sandra Hulett, Campus Principal Barnfield College

Guest speakers at the event were Gareth Parry, Head of Learning from Remploy and Lucia Winters, Transition Development Officer from Council for Disabled Children.

Two digital images attached: (8196) Margaret Palmer, Palmer Consultancy, Craig Smith, LSC Partnership Manager, and Ben Pearson, LSC Partnership Manager.

(8156) The Pledge group, from left to right: Harriet Martin, Head of Educational Psychology and Assessment, Luton Borough Council, Sam Fuller, Transition Coordinator Bedfordshire County Council, Margaret Palmer, Palmer Consultancy, Suzie Webb, LSC Area Director Beds & Luton, Geoffrey Farr, Chair of the Beds & Luton Learning for Living and Work Forum, Sue Reed, Head of Connexions for Bedfordshire, Krysia Connolly, Mayflower Project Manager, Sandra Connolly Deputy Head St Johns Special School Sandra Hulett, Campus Principal Barnfield College.

LSC

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

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