



Preparation for Adulthood

Health | Employment | Housing | Friends,
Relationships and Community

MONTHLY UPDATE – APRIL 2024

Monthly Update – June 2024

Working in collaboration with the National Careers Service.

We represented TAPS at the well-attended Parent Carer Forum, at the Birmingham City Football grounds on Tuesday 20th February. We engaged with a wide range of citizens and SEND providers. It was a good opportunity to promote our service and to respond to the varied enquiries.

“The event was SEND – Parent and Carer Forum at Birmingham City Football Club. On the day we had a table for the presentation of our service Transitions and Preparation for Adulthood Service, we included pens and chocolates on our table to encourage people to look and learn about the service we provide.

As the set up at the venue allowed the service providers with a great plan to showcase their service and provide information to the delegates that attended, it was easy for the delegates to follow a route when visiting the stands so no-one was missed during the day.

There were conversations taking place between the delegates and the professionals and I am sure there was a lot of interest in what was being offered in the terms of support for the people that they cared for. There were a few parents that attended our table and we gave them detailed information about the service encouraging them to make a referral to us”





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Story of Difference

HA was referred to the Preparation for Adulthood Team in April 2023. **HA** was also on the programme with his older brother. Both **HA** and his brother are diagnosed with autism, and this is something that initially **HA** struggled to come to terms with. Before joining PFA **HA** was completing an employability course with NOVO training and was struggling to get through the course. He eventually finished the course without achieving any outcomes.

As part of his action plan, we started to look at other opportunities that **HA** felt he could do. The issue was that **HA** felt that getting a job would be easy and did not understand what skills employers would be looking for. He then started to engage with the PFA Skills and Employment Officer who helped him to create his CV and spoke about the skills he would need to gain employment.

HA was then referred onto a 2-week employability programme by the Jobcentre where he completed work experience with Solomon and Cutler. There was an opportunity for **HA** to gain employment with Solomon and Cutler but unfortunately, **HA** was unable to gain work but did gain some well needed work experience.

As he now had experience in hospitality **HA** and his brother were referred onto a hospitality training programme called Springboard. Springboard's aim was to help support young people with learning disabilities and autism into employment with the hospitality industry. At this point **HA** was still in denial about having autism which impacted on his progression on the course. Springboard felt that **HA** would need extra support to address his autism before he could continue which meant that **HA** and his brother could not complete the 6-week course.

We then started to address **HA**'s issues with autism and discussed in depth what autism is. **HA** and his Coaching & Resilience Worker went through his diagnosis and how it affected him. He then realised that having autism was not a bad thing and started to come to terms with his condition. He was then supported by his Coaching & Resilience worker and Independent Living Officer to apply for Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

HA then started to focus on learning the employability skills he will need to gain employment. Eventually **HA** was referred onto a 12-week employability programme with The Princes Trust without his brother. Within the first few weeks of starting the course **HA** went onto a residential and learned team building skills which helped him with his communication and enabled him to build confidence and make friends.

HA is still currently on the Princes Trust programme where he is making progress. He is hoping that once he has finished the programme, the Princes Trust will help him to gain employment.



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Update from the YES group...

The YES Group (Youth Empowerment Squad) is a group of young people aged 16-25 with additional needs who meet bi-weekly via Microsoft Teams. As a group, we aim to raise awareness of disability, and advocate on behalf of young people with disabilities living in Birmingham to ensure there's "nothing about us without us", so we always welcome people from various organisations to co-produce with us to support accessibility and inclusion with services on offer to young people with disabilities in the Birmingham area.

If you know of any young people aged between 14 – 30 who want to use their voice and experience to improve the future for young people with additional support needs, then please contact:
Ashleigh Jones ashleigh.jones@midlandmencap.org.uk



RSPCA

TAPS are working in partnership with the RSPCA in Frankley – RSPCA are putting on courses specifically for our TAPS cohort. The length of these courses vary – usually 6 x 2 hours sessions across 6 weeks. They are going to trial a 3-day intense course in the summer holidays. We run around 4-6 cohorts a year depending on demand. Unfortunately, there are limited spaces on the courses though. I usually send the info out when a new cohort is starting. Each week focuses on a different topic – e.g. Animal welfare, animal grooming, RSPCA aims, outdoor projects. If the young people complete the course, they are awarded with AQA certificates.



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Referrals to our team

IF SOMEONE REQUIRES SUPPORT FROM PFA AND THEY ARE BETWEEN 14- 25, THEN OUR TEAM CAN HELP WITH THESE 4 OUTCOMES (EMPLOYABILITY, INDEPENDENT LIVING, EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING, FRIENDS, RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNITY) THEY CAN MAKE A REFERRAL BY CALLING 0121 808 0028.



Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to be diverted straight to our content page



OFFIC

How to contact us

If you would like to make a connection request to the Preparation for Adulthood Service, then please call: 0121 808 0028

For any other queries:

- Email: preparationforadulthood@birmingham.gov.uk
- Website: <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/preparation-for-adulthood>