**Transition to Adulthood for Visually Impaired young people. What are the choices?**

**Transition is progressing from one stage of life to another. Very often many aspects of life change during a transition. Opportunities to attend establishments other than school open up and funding to pay for this and any support you may need to access your chosen service can change. It is, therefore, good to know what to expect when the time comes for transition.**

**When do I need to start thinking about my future?**

**As a sight impaired young person if you receive extra support in school then your school should hold a review to discuss your needs every year. From your Year 9 there should be discussion within your review about what you wish to do when you leave school.**

**As a teenager leaving school there are a number of opportunities for what to do next:**

* **Further Education including 6th forms in school & colleges & other college courses/ Residential college**
* **University**
* **Apprenticeships/Supported Internships**
* **Voluntary work**
* **Employment**

**Those with sight impairments between 11-29 who are either at school, university or searching for employment could benefit from a mentor who have been through the experience via LOOK.** [**Peer Mentoring Projects for VI Young People – Look UK (look-uk.org)**](https://www.look-uk.org/mentoring/)

**The Thomas Pocklington Trust (**[**Student support - Thomas Pocklington Trust (pocklington-trust.org.uk)**](https://www.pocklington-trust.org.uk/student-support/)**) also run support programmes for students from 11+ to ensure they have the help they requires to achieve their potential in all areas of education. Email:** **studentsupport@pocklington-trust.org.uk** **or phone 0203 757 8040**

**Blind in Business provide support for 13-19 year olds with careers and technology advice. They also promote post 16 options with workshops about achieving your aspirations, talking about your sight issues, obtaining work experience as well as support during and after university in studying and job seeking. Contact 02075881885.** [**Blind in Business About Us - Blind in Business**](https://blindinbusiness.org.uk/about-us)

**General Support**

**Inspira**

**Inspira CAN give guidance on your career choices from Year 9. Please speak to your child’s school about the possibility of getting them involved.**

**Cumbria’s Local Offer.**

**This can be accessed on line and provides a comprehensive list of provision available to people with additional needs and how to access it. The Local Offer is not a guarantee that all services will be available but is a general guide to what support to expect in the local area.**

**The Local Offer can be found on line at** [**Families Information | What is the Local Offer (westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)**](https://fid.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/kb5/westmorlandandfurness/directory/advice.page?id=1lC2kVQ_T7E) **(Barrow, Eden and South Lakes) or by phoning 07766 133 865 if you do not have access to a computer.**

**Rehabilitation Officer for Visual Impairment**

**A ROVI (Rehabilitation Officer for Visual Impairment) can work with adults with sight impairments to help them prepare for transitions. For instance the ROVI could provide support with mobility training such as walking routes, using public transport, exploring specialist equipment as well as providing support/advice about activities of daily living required to live independently. To access the local ROVI you will need to make a referral to Adult Social Care by phoning 0300 303 2704.**