

# Area Board Project

## 1. What is the project?

### **Develop and deliver a mentoring project for young people with Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) in transition. – Cllr Simon Jacobs**

Currently the problems can be summarised as:

- *Support through transition* – Too often a cliff edge is reached when the young people reach 16 and leave school and then again once they have finished their additional training.
- *Help with careers* - For those who are able to work there seems to be limited opportunity and a lack of specialist careers advice.
- *Employers* - It is very difficult for employers to take on SEND workers especially due to the complex employment legislation and that they can often require ongoing support and attention.
- *Lack of coordination* - The different processes and support available are not always joined up and there is a lack of awareness of what each other is doing

The situation is changing with the the ‘Children and Families Bill’ due to be introduced in September will introduce a brand new approach to support. It will mean a focus upon a person-centred streamlined service. There will be a single plan and a one key contact and assessment. The funding that will be made available by central government will be for individual packages. The Council has a supported Employment Team and it is currently in the process of setting up supported internships.

Devizes is ideally situated to work with Wiltshire Council to develop an approach that can be replicated throughout the County. The Cabinet member for children’s services and the portfolio holder for schools are both on the Devizes area board. Rowdeford School, Green Lane Hospital and much of the voluntary sector’s head quarters are based within the Devizes area.

Devizes area Board is already successfully working with DCAP and Devizes school to develop mentoring for those leaving school, offer careers advice and work with employers. This project will develop this model looking at the specific challenges of SEND.

This was identified as a priority in the recent Devizes ‘What Matters To You?’ event held on March 4<sup>th</sup> 2014

## 2. Where is the project taking place?

Devizes Community Area

## 3. When will the project take place?

During 2014/15

#### **4. What are the Community benefits?**

The key benefit is to provide a better offer for young people with SEND and to increase community cohesion

#### **5. Who will manage/be responsible for this project?**

The project will need to be developed further. However a preliminary meeting has identified a number of key stakeholders who are keen to support and help with this initiative. These include Rowdeford School, Wiltshire Council services, individuals and businesses. The area board will be initially responsible for the project but it is envisaged that someone with the required expertise from the community will be found to lead on this work.

#### **6. Funding?**

It is proposed that the remainder of the area board's funding is allocated to this project. This will be @£5k

#### **7. Additional information**

Once the project has been developed and run, it will be evaluated with a view to rolling it out in other areas