

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: PARENTS GUIDE



## HELP YOUR CHILD DISCOVER THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN HALTON

**Everyone needs some advice when making decisions about their future.**

This simple guide highlights some of the opportunities available to young people in Halton.

If your son or daughter needs support finding work, training or advice on further education, have a look at this guide then contact your local Connexions centre.

They have experienced personal advisors who can help whatever your child's circumstances.

**Details of how to contact Connexions are below and on the back of this guide.**

### DID YOU KNOW?

If your son or daughter stays in learning at school or college or in work based training after 16 that they can apply for an EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance) if your household income is within certain limits.

**It does not affect your rights to Child Benefit.**

If your daughter or son is unemployed there are **financial incentives** to help them get into work. Connexions Advisers can help them find the right opportunity.

**There are a range of opportunities available that enable young people to get their feet back on the career or training ladder. Here's some to consider...**

### GATEWAY PLUS

Gateway Plus is a fun and relaxed training programme that runs for a number of weeks. It will give learners the opportunity to gain accredited qualifications including literacy, numeracy, first aid and manual handling.

Activities will be lively fun and energetic, and include team building, outdoor pursuits and preparation for employment or further learning. Young people can claim EMA if eligible.

### ENTRY TO EMPLOYMENT (E2E)

Entry to Employment (E2E) is a flexible programme of activities that can offer individual support and an opportunity to develop skills.

It is aimed at young people aged 16 – 18 who may require a range of additional support to enable them to progress into other provision including employment or further education or training.

**The programme will help the young person develop skills which employers are looking for such as teamwork, communication and time management as well as basic literacy, numeracy and IT if required. There are no qualification entry requirements for this programme.**

**The young person can claim Education Maintenance Allowances (EMA) whilst on e2e courses.**

### PROGRAMME LED APPRENTICESHIPS

These are work related opportunities leading to a recognised qualification and are open to young people aged 16 – 19.

### APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships provide the chance to 'earn and learn' in a wide range of jobs and sectors and give young people the chance to develop skills, experience and qualifications.

There are currently two levels of Apprenticeships for those aged 16 – 24 both leading to recognised qualifications.

Most employers will be looking for young people who can demonstrate that they are capable of achieving the qualification.

Young people will be matched and notified of suitable opportunities by the Connexions Vacancy Services Team, and individual young people will be followed up by their Personal Advisor and supported with their application.

**More information on apprenticeships can be found on [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)**

## Contacting Connexions

**There are Connexions centres in Widnes and Runcorn.**

Runcorn Connexions Youth Information Centre,  
9 Orchard Walk, Halton Lea Shopping City,  
Runcorn, WA7 2BS.  
Tel 01928 706 000

Open Monday 9:30am - 3.00pm  
Tuesday - Friday 9:30am - 4.00pm  
Also open on Saturdays 10.00am - 2.00pm

Widnes Connexions Youth Information Centre,  
43, Albert Road, Widnes, WA8 6JA,  
Tel 0151 422 9120

Open Monday 9:30am - 3.00pm  
Tuesday - Friday 9:30am - 4.00pm  
Also open on Saturdays 10:00am - 4:00pm

Information on local opportunities for young people can be found via [www.connexionslive.com](http://www.connexionslive.com) plus [www.i-choosehalton.org.uk](http://www.i-choosehalton.org.uk)

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For any help, advice or guidance speak to a Connexions adviser call Runcorn: 01928 706 000 or Widnes: 0151 422 9120 or visit [www.connexionslive.com](http://www.connexionslive.com) or [www.i-choosehalton.org.uk](http://www.i-choosehalton.org.uk)

## EMPLOYMENT

Connexions offers a **FREE** recruitment service to employers. Opportunities are advertised and matched by Connexions Vacancy Services Team. Partners such as Job Centre Plus and Halton People into Jobs provide information on suitable opportunities for young people they have sourced.

*Any adults looking for Connexions vacancies can access [www.connexionslive.com](http://www.connexionslive.com)*

Connexions can advise on new initiatives in your local area to help young people into work. Just get in touch to find out more.

## MOVING ON COURSE

This is support for 17 – 19 year olds to access Employment, Apprenticeships or Further/Higher Education, and an opportunity for up to three months work experience. EMA if eligible plus travel costs.

## FURTHER EDUCATION

Riverside College Halton offer a wide range of courses with over 100 different work related qualifications including diplomas and apprenticeships, and more than 30 A level subjects at Riverside Sixth Form.

The courses range from entry level right up to level three and beyond in our Higher Education department.

Based over three sites at Cronton, Kingsway and Runcorn students can choose to study close to home whilst, if eligible, claiming EMA.

Riverside have also recently introduced a new range of courses with January start dates offered to anyone who found themselves not in education, employment or training at this time.

For more information on courses at Riverside contact Connexions or the college on 0151 257 2800.



## PRINCES TRUST TEAM PROGRAMME

The Prince's Trust Team programme is a unique personal development programme for 16-25 year olds. It is a 12-week action packed course including a residential in the Lake District and Community project to give young people the opportunity to improve confidence and team skills.

Young people will gain a nationally recognised qualification such as a First Aid Certificate, Food Hygiene Certificate, Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award or Millennium Volunteers Certificate. Programmes run several times throughout the year. **Young People can claim EMA if eligible and benefits are not affected.**

## VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering has real benefits. It can help you learn new skills and experience new things. When you are looking for work employers will always ask if you have experience. If you do, it could get you a job ahead of someone else. It can also be fun and personally rewarding. If you're interested in Volunteering contact Halton Voluntary Action: [www.haltonvoluntaryaction.org.uk](http://www.haltonvoluntaryaction.org.uk) or your local Connexions Centre.

## OTHER PATHWAYS TO CONSIDER ...

**For those needing more targeted support specific to their circumstances are also available in Halton. Currently include these:**

### TP2B GROUP

A weekly group in Widnes and Runcorn for pregnant teenagers to access information, advice, guidance and support from a range of local support and guidance agencies..

### YMCA PRACTICAL PARENTING

This course will provide teen parents under 19 with the opportunity to develop in many areas such as:

- social and personal skills
- confidence and self-awareness
- communication
- organisational and team working skills
- the ability to cope with new situations

*Students can use creche facilities although these places are limited.*

## CARE TO LEARN

Under this programme funding is available for teenage parents under 20 years to pay for child care costs.

Care to Learn will pay up to **£160 per child per week** to cover the cost of: child care while you learn, are on placement, doing private study or travelling to/from your child care provider.

**There are other benefits too which your Connexions advisor can explain in detail.**

## HALTON PEOPLE INTO JOBS

This provides a range of paid work experience opportunities for young people in vulnerable groups or from the most vulnerable wards. This includes support for care leavers and young people with mental health issues.

**Connexions can advise on courses that help young people with additional needs to develop their work skills further. Please get in touch to find out more.**

## ACTIVITY AGREEMENT

The Activity Agreement supports vulnerable young people who would not otherwise have been able to make a successful transition into further education, employment or training.

Young people work with a dedicated Personal Advisor to design a tailor made programme to address their barriers and meet their needs.

**Those on the programme are paid a weekly allowance of £30.**

**You can find out if your child is eligible by contacting Connexions.**



Info is correct as of April 2010  
Check with Connexions for more info.

**For any help, advice or guidance speak to a Connexions adviser call Runcorn: 01928 706 000 or Widnes: 0151 422 9120 or visit [www.connexionslive.com](http://www.connexionslive.com) or [www.i-choosehalton.org.uk](http://www.i-choosehalton.org.uk)**