

East Lothian Works – Disability Plan

Further to the Enable Report 'Decreasing the Disability Participation Gap' 2018, we are looking at experiences our young people with ASN are having as they prepare to move in to further education, training and employment. In addition to the work already ongoing, we plan to work with schools to identify pupils with disabilities who would benefit from additional support to ensure that they receive the same opportunities as young people without disabilities, to explore a wide choice of career paths and further learning. This could include tailored work experience placements, employer engagement to broaden understanding of disabilities and additional support to move into positive destinations e.g. travel training.

The Enable Report 2018 found that 'young people (with ASN) have diverse career ambitions in a variety of industries' and that they 'require personalised support to identify and work towards career ambitions'

We are considering offering a pilot project with one school to work with a small group of young people with disabilities, preparing to leave school. As part of this, we would want to have an Employability Intervention Officer (EIO), working with these young people – supporting them to move into positive destinations through a series of meaningful routes. We also envisage that the EIO could have a caseload of 1-1 young people leaving school or post school, who have disabilities and require specialist support.

We are also working with East Lothian's Health & Social Care Partnership to develop a specialist provision for adults with disabilities and mental health barriers. We are in the planning stages of this and the proposals are not likely to be heard by the Integrated Joint Board before October. There is potential for the Into Work employee, seconded to ELW, to support this service.