

## Looking at the hopes and aspirations of young people through trees of life

A tree of life is a visual representation through writing and drawing of future hopes and aspirations of young people with SEND.

67 trees were developed with young people from year 8 to post 16 from 6 different schools.

We are planning to explore how the trees of life approach could potentially be used in the annual Education Health and Care Plan Reviews.

What did we learn?

### The main things that are important in your lives now are:

- The most important thing in young people's lives now was family and relationships; this was followed by friends, leisure activities and home comforts.

### The skills and qualities you have:

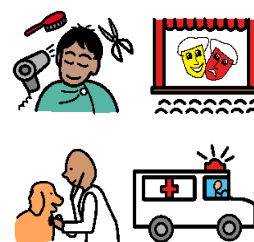
- The overwhelming majority of young people said they were good at creative things such as art, cooking, music and dancing. This was closed followed by young people being caring.
- Lots of young people said they had a variety of educational skills such as reading, science and maths.
- Half of the young people said they were good at leisure activities such as sport and video gaming.

### Where do you want to live in the future and who with?

- The most popular place for young people to live in the future was in Leeds, some young people wanted to live on their own where others wanted to live with friends and family.
- Some young people would like to live abroad.

### What jobs would you like to do in the future?

- The most popular jobs young people aspired to do were creative jobs, such as hair dressing or acting.
- Other jobs included medical and veterinary positions, as well as roles within the emergency services.



### What would you like to do for 'fun' in the future?

- Most young people said they would like to take part in activities such as playing games, drinking and swimming in the future. This was followed by some young people wanting to travel abroad.



### What is your big dream / ambition for the future?

- Most young people said their main dream / ambition for the future was to independently travel, this was either by learning to drive or simply using different modes of transport such as planes and trains.
- Young people said they would need to get a job and earn money in the future to make their dreams happen.
- Some young people had dreams of getting married and living with their partner in the future.



### What would stop your dream / ambition happening and what would you need to do to make it happen?

- Most young people said they would need to go to college to achieve their ambition and gain qualifications and training.
- Young people said they would need money in the future, and if they didn't have money this would stop them achieving their dream.
- Young people said they would need support from their family and friends to achieve their dream / ambition.

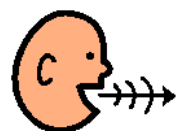


### How will the findings be shared once the summary is available?

The report is being shared with Cllr Mulherin (Lead member for children and families) and the Complex Needs Management Team.

Key messages from the trees of life and examples developed by young people will be included on the Preparing for Adulthood strategy and webpages.

Barry Jones (Complex Needs Area Lead) talked about the trees of life work and shared some examples in a presentation at a SENSAP staff away day. Barry will be sharing the findings at the Careers network in early in 2017. Blank trees of life will be shared at the event for others to complete with young people when thinking about careers in the future.



We are exploring how young people's tree of life could potentially be used in the annual Education Health and Care Plan Reviews. If you have any ideas we loved to hear them. You can e-mail us at [preparationforadulthood@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:preparationforadulthood@leeds.gov.uk)

