

SEND NEWS SPLASH

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Resources for young people with learning disabilities: podcast

The NSPCC has released an episode of its podcast in which the NSPCC's joint head of safeguarding in communities and Dr El Stannage discuss Love Life, a series of films and resources developed to help young people with learning disabilities, learn strategies for staying safe as they grow up and gain independence.

Listen to the podcast:

Supporting young people with learning disabilities



See also on NSPCC Learning > Safeguarding d/Deaf and disabled children and young people



Young People's Roadshow

The first ever Young People's Roadshow was held at Commonweal school on 21st October 2019. The event was planned by Swindon Borough Council, Swindon SEND Families Voice, STEP, Great Western Hospital, and Crowdys and Commonweal School, and was supported by volunteers from Swindon Borough Council Transitions and SEND Team. Young People had asked us for an event for them that was similar to the Transitions Preparing for Adulthood Roadshow (held annually in June), which is for parents and professionals.

The Roadshow was attended by 20 young people from Commonweal and 20 from Crowdys, so they could experience different activities to help them think about what life might be like when they leave school or college.

There were 4 stalls, and students went round the Roadshow in groups of 5, with 20 minutes at each stall, including time for them to complete a booklet with their notes on the activity and ideas on how they will use their new skills. Each group was supported by school staff and by 2 volunteers from Swindon Borough Council's Transitions Team and SEND Team.

The 4 stalls were:

- Mindfulness in a Busy Environment, run by STEP, with an activity focused on the five senses, practicing techniques that can help them in busy or noisy situations. Each student left with a Mindfulness kit, which included a breathing technique sheet, a stress ball and a lavender bag.
- Money and Budgeting run by Swindon Advocacy Movement. The activity included the use of giant calculators, discussions about incomings and outgoings and the difference between 'needs' and 'wants'. The young people engaged in lots of conversations around what to prioritise if you were on a tight budget.
- Activities and Social Life run by Disability Sport Swindon. Each student engaged in a boxing circuit where they threw a series of punches at Lewis' boxing pads. Afterwards Lewis talked them through how to find out information from the internet on the classes that are available to them, and how to get in contact by either phone, text or email.
- Getting a job run by Department of Work and Pensions. Students took part in a quiz, working through company logos such as Instagram, Job Centre Plus and others, and finding out how each of these could help the students to find a job and which organisations could support them in work.

The morning was relaxed, calm and great fun. STEP visited both schools to get (brilliant) feedback from the students, and we are planning the next Roadshows, which based on student feedback will be called 'Growing Up and Getting On', and will include new stalls that the young people have suggested.

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