

Where can I find out more?

Here are some websites that you may find useful:

Youth Support Service – Cambridgeshire County Council
www.youthoria.org

Courses available in Cambridgeshire
www.ucasprogress.com

National Apprenticeship Service
www.apprenticeships.org.uk

National Careers Service
www.gov.uk/careers-helpline-for-teenagers

Department for Education
www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/youngpeople/participation/rpa

If you need a copy of the text in this leaflet in large print, Braille, audio tape or in another language, please call 01480 373774.



www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk



Cambridgeshire
County Council



Raising the Participation Age (RPA)

Staying in learning until 18 - Information for
Parents and Carers

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

What is RPA?

By 2015 all young people will be required to stay in education or training until at least their 18th birthday.

Why raise the participation age?

The changes to the participation age will give every young person the best chance to achieve and succeed because:

- ◆ continuing in learning for longer brings benefits for individuals, the economy and society (young people who stay on after 16 years old are more likely to gain higher levels of qualification, increasing their earning potential)
- ◆ the world of work is changing. Young people without higher level skills and qualifications are going to find it much harder to find and keep employment in the future
- ◆ this will improve the life chances of all young people irrespective of their ability level.

Does this mean continuing in full-time education?

No, it's not just about staying on at school or college.

A wide range of learning opportunities will be available.

Your young person will either:

- ◆ continue in full-time education, such as school 6th form, sixth form college or FE College
- ◆ follow a full-time work-based learning route (e.g. Apprenticeship)
- ◆ undertake part-time education or training for about one day a week (280 hours of learning per year) if:
 - ◆ they are employed
 - ◆ self-employed
 - ◆ volunteering full-time (which is defined as 20 hours or more a week).

What does this mean for me as a parent/carer?

You will be able to support your young person to plan their future by:

- ◆ talking to them about their aspirations for a future career
- ◆ helping them research/find out about types of careers/jobs and what qualifications or training are required
- ◆ looking at job profiles on the National Careers Service website <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>
- ◆ looking at types of jobs in different sectors using free careers websites: icould www.icould.com, or careers box www.careersbox.com
- ◆ helping them to talk about and establish their qualities and skills and how these will link to certain types of study and work
- ◆ using our area wide prospectus www.ucasprogress.com to search for post 16 learning and training opportunities across Cambridgeshire
- ◆ visiting post 16 open evenings to talk to staff about courses and to find out what it might be like to study at a particular provider
- ◆ looking at Cambridgeshire's website for young people www.youthoria.org for information about decision making at 16+ on the work and learning pages
- ◆ contacting potential employers to check what qualifications they are looking for and any training they can offer a young person.

Support is available to both you and your young person to help your family make informed choices. Speak to the careers co-ordinator at your school or contact the National Careers Service <https://www2.cxdirect.com>