

Short Breaks Innovation Fund 2022

short breaks reimagined by young
people with SEN



OCTOBER 2022

Introduction

This report looks at the opportunities that young people would like to be provided with in order to get them prepared and excited for adult life.



At the Growing Up and Moving On event hosted by Wiltshire Council on 14th October Wiltshire CIL asked young people with SEN two questions:

- What do you want to do before you are 25?
- What do you need to make it happen?

Over 90 young people shared their thoughts and ideas about the things that they would like to do before they reach the age of 25 and what they may need in order to make it happen.

A paperchain was created to show all of the unique ideas that the young people had about things that they would like to do before 25.

In this report we analyse the themes and ideas that the young people shared with us.



"WE WANT THE CHANCE TO MAKE OUR OWN CHOICES, DO THINGS FOR OURSELVES AND DECIDE ON OUR FUTURE "

To Have Purpose

When asked what they would like to do before the age of 25 the most popular responses were around having purpose and meaning to their lives. For many this was around **working, getting a job or finding a job.**

They had very clear ideas about the kind of jobs they wanted or strived for, such as joining the **RAF, become a chef, working in an old peoples home, joining the police** or become a **mechanic.** Others wanted to work in a **cafe** or a **pub, work at Disney,** work with **animals** or **coach sports.**

If the young people then thought about what they need in order to make it happen they recognised that education, knowledge, experience and skills were essential.

Many wanted to go on **work experience** as this would prepare them for finding and **getting a job.** Doing work experience in a **restaurant, helping at horse stables** or at a farm/sanctuary with **animals** were all suggested as possible work experience placements.

Finishing education and **doing my GCSE's** or **finishing my college course** would contribute towards achieving their goals as would lots of **hard work.** There was also the ambition to **go to college or further education, go to university** and **join RAF college.**

Short Breaks funding could be utilised to facilitate young people getting ready for work and to do work experience. Enabling purchasing of 'interview clothes', equipment needed to do a job such as being a chef or a mechanic would be beneficial.

The young people came up with lots of ideas of training courses or learning opportunities that they would like to participate in to enhance their employability. Young people could utilise short breaks funding to attend skills and leisure courses such as **photography, motor mechanics** or **learning how to cook.**

Or to purchase books, work clothing (overalls etc) and equipment needed to do work experience, attended a college or university course.



Real Connection in Real Communities

Community is important to young people and they want to have a real connection to a real community and be part of it.

There were many suggestions from the young people about interests and hobbies that they would like to do and take part in in their community such as **dancing, drama, going to the pub, performing singing and gardening.**

Young people also wanted to give back to their communities and would like to **end world hunger** and work with local organisations to **make animals better.**

Many young people talked about the importance of living in their communities and wanting to **buy a house.** Independently navigating the community was also popular with lots of talk about **learning to drive, passing the driving test** and **buying a car.**

The idea of hosting a **podcast** was also suggested.

Short Breaks funding could be utilised to fund young people attending a huge array of community activities such as a leisure centre membership, a thespian/drama group, rock choir, membership of a sports team or club - a season ticket.

The necessary attire or equipment needed could also be purchased to support and facilitate participation.

Driving lessons or the cost of materials for revising for and passing the theory test could be covered.

The technology to record and promote hosting a podcast could be funded.

Or, set someone up to enable them to perform their music in the local pub - a microphone, an amp etc.



Seeing the World

The desire to broaden their horizons and explore the world were very high on the agenda for almost all of the young people that we talked to and something that they would like to do whilst they were young.

Some wanted the traditional backpack experience of **going travelling**. Others were more focused and specific about where they wanted to go which included **Rio de Janeiro** - because they are **studying at school, learning about the favelas and wanted to go and see what it is really like in real life**.

Other suggestions included **Jamaica, Japan, New York, Disney Land** and **Tenerife**. The idea of moving to another country to live was also mentioned, with **Australia** being a popular destination.

All of the young people recognised that they needed money and to save up in order to realise their travelling ambitions. This links back to short breaks funding supporting young people working.

Support to learn and understand budgeting, handling money and opening and administering bank accounts would all be needed and could be funded through short breaks funding.

The young people also talked about the practicalities of travelling and booking flights, having a passport, applying for Visas. Short breaks funding could cover the cost of applying for a passport and visas. Travel guide books would also enable young people to plan and research their travel destinations.

Travelling abroad also raised being able to speak the language of the country which you are visiting - being able to fund and access language courses and materials could also be an option.



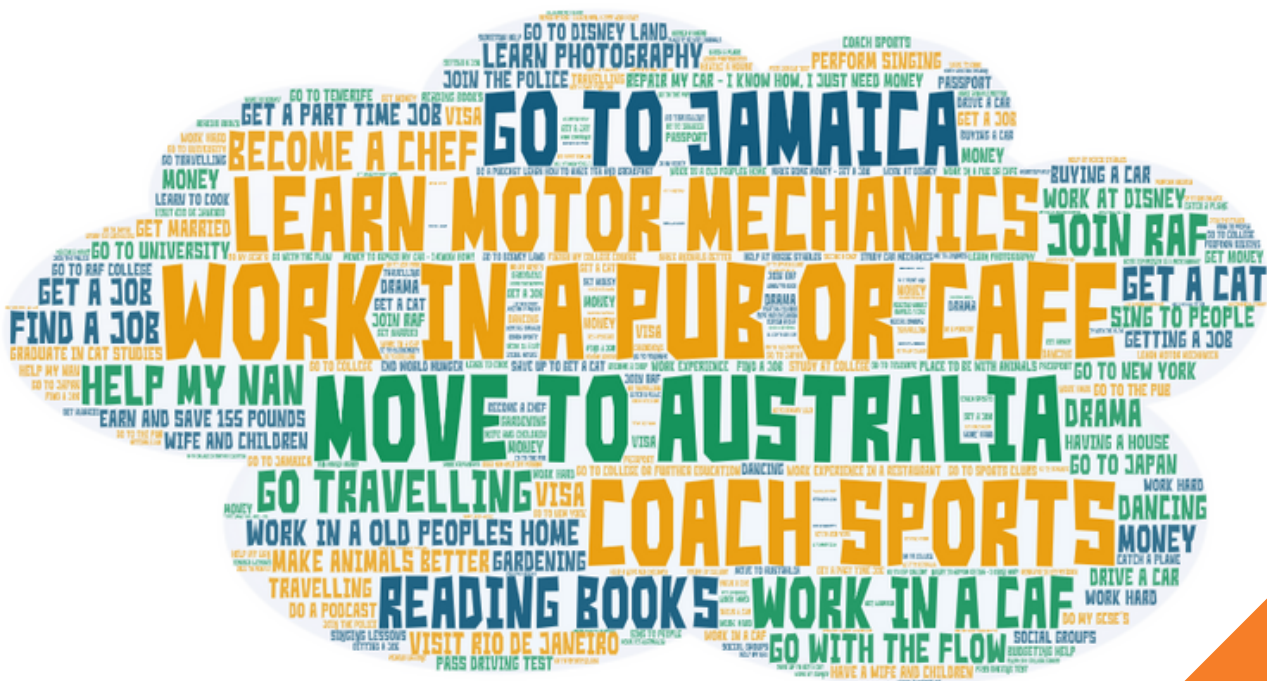
Relationships REALLY Matter

Relationships that are meaningful and reciprocal really matter to young people, especially when thinking about the future and what this may mean and look like for them.

Getting married - having a **husband** or **wife** and **children** were all talking points. As were extended family and the want to **help my nan** and care for family members.

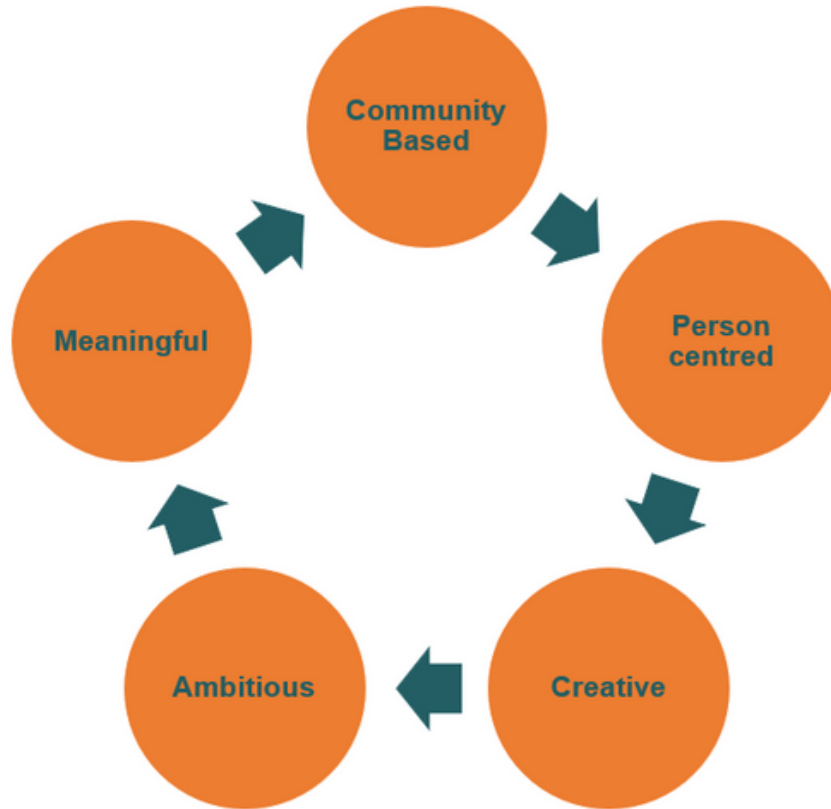
Pets were also something that young people wanted to have in their life such as **buying a cat** and also learning how to car for a cat by **graduating in cat studies**.

In order to build and develop meaningful relationships young people need to be active fully integrated members of their communities where they are able to meet new people. Therefore young people being able to spend short breaks money on community based connections will aide the development of meaningful relationships.



Conclusions

Feedback from young people with SEN clearly provides a framework within which short breaks opportunities should be considered and made available to young people. Short break opportunities should be:



Community based: utilising existing community resources promoting inclusivity.

Person centred: young people decide how and what they want to spend the short breaks funding on.

Creative: enabling young people to use short breaks funding more creatively to meet their needs rather than fitting them into traditional services.

Ambitious: short breaks funding should enable and facilitate ambition in young people, promoting the the 'can do' attitude.

Meaningful: contributing to a young persons hopes and dreams for their future, getting them excited for their future.



*Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living
11 Couch Lane, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1EB
0300 1233 442
www.wiltshirecil.org.uk
info@wiltshirecil.org.uk
Charity no. 1120611 Company no. 5480761*