



Raising of the Participation Age (RPA)

Information for staff that support young people

What is the 'Raising of the Participation Age'?

It is Government policy that by 2013, all young people will be expected to stay in some form of learning until they are 17. This will increase to age 18 by 2015.

This means that those leaving Year 11 in 2013 will need to remain in learning until they are 17. Those leaving Year 11 from 2014 onwards will need to remain in learning until they are 18.

Why is this needed?

The economy and the world of employment are changing. More and more jobs in the future will require a higher level of skills, training and qualifications. The changes to the participation age will help to prepare our young people for successful careers and equip the UK workforce for the demands of the 21st Century.



Does this mean staying at school until the age of 18?

Not necessarily, although lots of young people will choose to stay on. Young people will be able to choose one of the following options:

- Full-time education, such as school or college
- Work-based learning, such as an Apprenticeship
- Part-time education or training if they are employed, self employed or volunteering for more than 20 hours a week

They will have the choice of lots of different qualifications including A levels, more GCSEs, Apprenticeships and vocational courses.

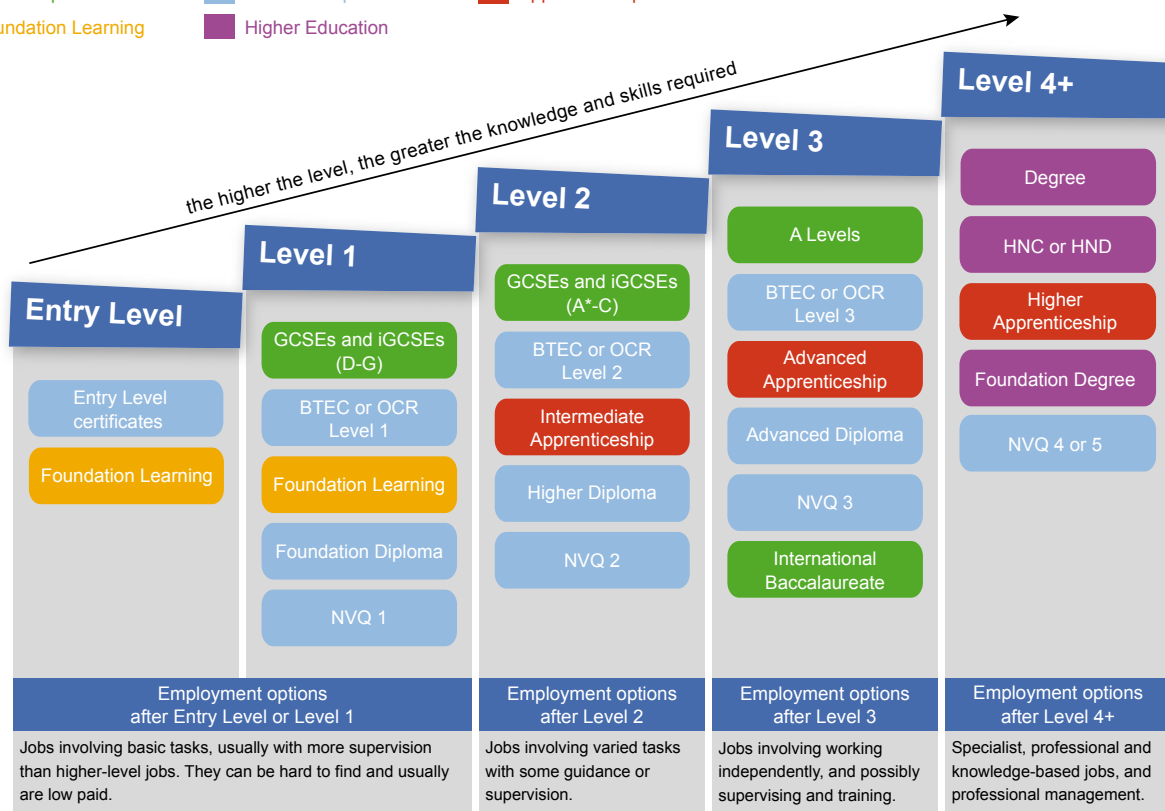
What does this mean for young people currently in years 9 and 10?

It means that they should start planning ahead now because they will be involved in learning until they are 17 or 18 and need to start looking at the whole range of options available to them from the age of 14.

To give you an idea of qualifications that are available at different levels take a look at the diagram below...

Learning Options @ 14-19

Key: ■ General qualifications ■ Vocational qualifications ■ Apprenticeships
■ Foundation Learning ■ Higher Education





How can you support young people and their families with this?

All staff who work with young people can support the process by helping to raise their aspirations, reminding them about the benefits of staying in learning (and the requirement to do so until 18) and signposting them to suitable sources of information and advice.

Some young people and their parents/carers may have concerns over finance or transport for post-16 provision. There is support available dependent on individual circumstances.

For information about financial support including Child Benefit, the 16-19 bursary fund and other allowances go to **www.direct.gov.uk/moneytolearn**

For information about post-16 transport in Norfolk go to **www.norfolk.gov.uk/post16transport**

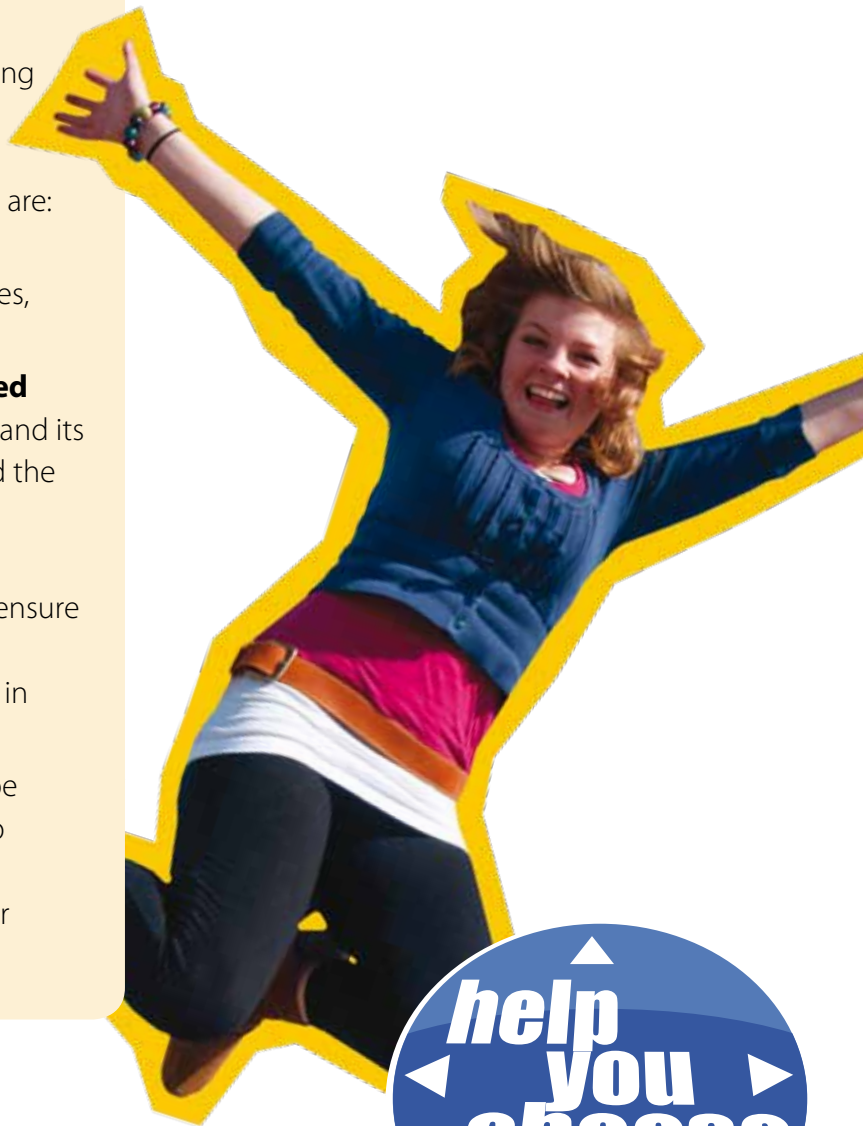


What is happening in Norfolk?

The 14-19 Strategy Group has developed a Raising of the Participation Age strategy and will be working with learning providers and support agencies to implement the main strands, which are:

- **Clearly understand the whole cohort of young people** – their abilities, circumstances, needs, learning aspirations and goals
- **Identify learning provision that is needed across Norfolk** – the types, levels, location and its relevance to the needs of young people and the labour market
- **Ensuring quality information, advice or guidance (IAG)** – a joined up approach to ensure that all young people are provided with the impartial IAG and support they need to stay in learning until 18

During 2011-12, the 14-19 Strategy Group will be trialling activities and giving information to help inform people about the changes and options available and to prepare young people and their parents/carers to make the best decisions.



For more information about learning and training options...

www.helpyouchoose.org

Norfolk's careers information and advice website for 14-19 year olds

www.direct.gov.uk

visit the Education and Learning pages for more information about your teenagers choices in years 9 and 11

<https://nextstep.direct.gov.uk>

for job and careers information

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

for information about Apprenticeships



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