

## Raising the Participation Age Briefing for Young People

Were you born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> September 1997? If so read on...



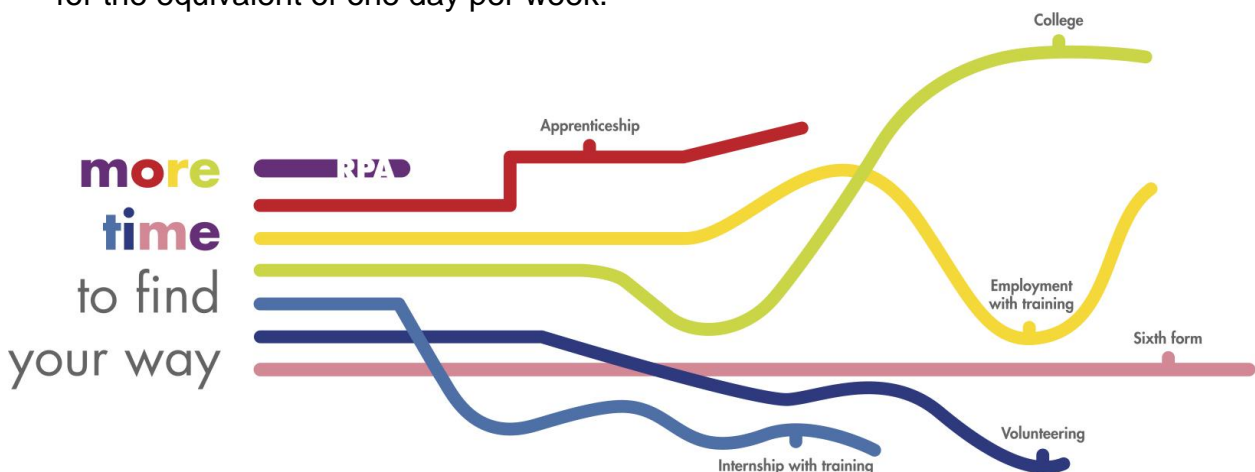
**WOKINGHAM**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

From the last day of the school year in 2014 **you** will be expected to stay in learning until your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, or achieve a level 3 qualification, such as 2 A-levels, or similar (*at present, in England, the age for this is until the end of the academic year in which you are 17*). This is referred to as '**Raising the Participation Age**'.

### What this means for you.

**Raising the Participation Age** means that you can choose one of the following at 16:

- Become an Apprentice or take part in a Traineeship.
- Remain in full time education, such as school or college.
- Be: employed, self-employed, volunteer (including caring) or in an internship for at least 20 hours a week for more than 8 weeks *and* attend part-time learning for the equivalent of one day per week.



### Why do you want to do this?

You will have better job prospects and increased earnings over your lifetime. The opportunities for unskilled work are shrinking drastically and your learning will help you compete and hold down work in the future.

### Are you able to get a job?

Yes, earning and learning might be the right choice for you. If you are not on an Apprenticeship or Traineeship, to participate you will need to either:

- Train towards an accredited qualification as part of your job, or
- Enrol on an accredited part-time course for the equivalent of one day per week, off the job.

### More information

For further information about Raising the Participation Age and the various learning options visit: <http://www.adviza.org.uk/>

or ask your school about speaking to an independent careers adviser.



## Raising the Participation Age Briefing for Parents and Carers

Do you have a child born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> September 1997?



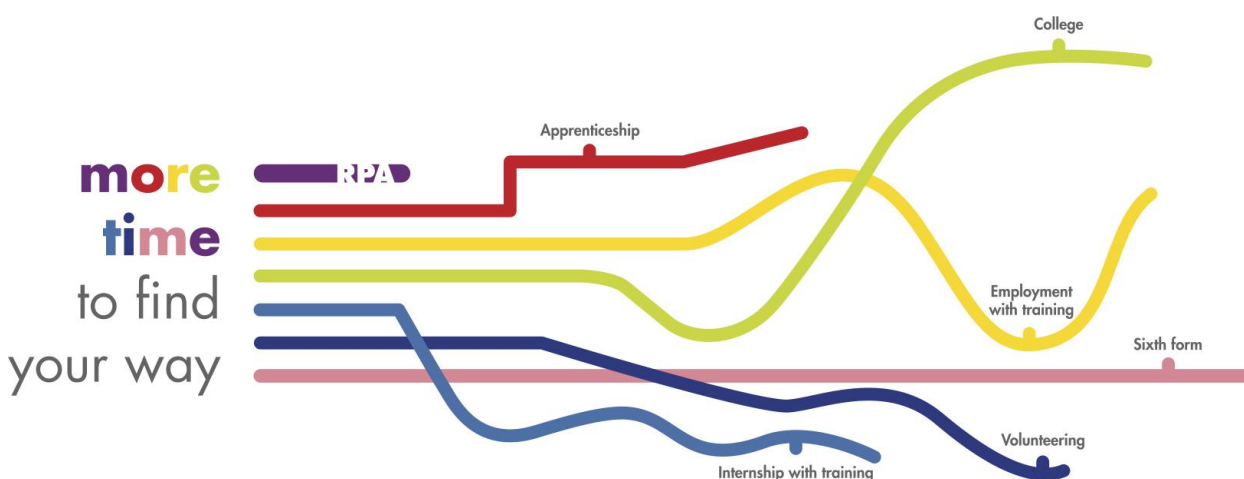
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From September 2014, all young people in England will be expected to continue learning until their **18<sup>th</sup> birthday**, or earlier if they achieve a level 3 qualification beforehand. *Currently, young people are expected to remain in learning until the end of the academic year in which they are 17.* This increase is called, '**Raising the Participation Age**'.

### What does this mean for my son or daughter?

The options are:

- An Apprenticeship, or Traineeship.
- Full-time education, such as a school sixth form, or further education college, or sixth form college, or training provider; or special school, including independent specialist provision for those with the most significant disabilities and learning difficulties; or home education in line with the regulations pre-16. *However, this does not mean young people must stay on at school.*
- Full or part-time employment, or self-employment with the equivalent of a day per week for training, either as part of the employment or off the job.
- Re-engagement provision for those who have been absent from learning before they were 16.
- Volunteering (including caring) or an internship for 20 hours or more a week, for more than 8 weeks combined with the equivalent of a day off per week for training.



### Why should my son or daughter take part in this?

Increased participation will give your child **better job prospects and higher earnings over their lifetime**. *For example, getting a level 3 Apprenticeship increases earnings by an estimated £105,000 and a level 2 Apprenticeship by £73,000.* Continuing and achieving in further learning will prepare your child with the skills needed for the world of work, helping them to compete where unskilled work opportunities are decreasing.

For further information about Raising the Participation Age and the various learning options visit: <http://www.adviza.org.uk/>

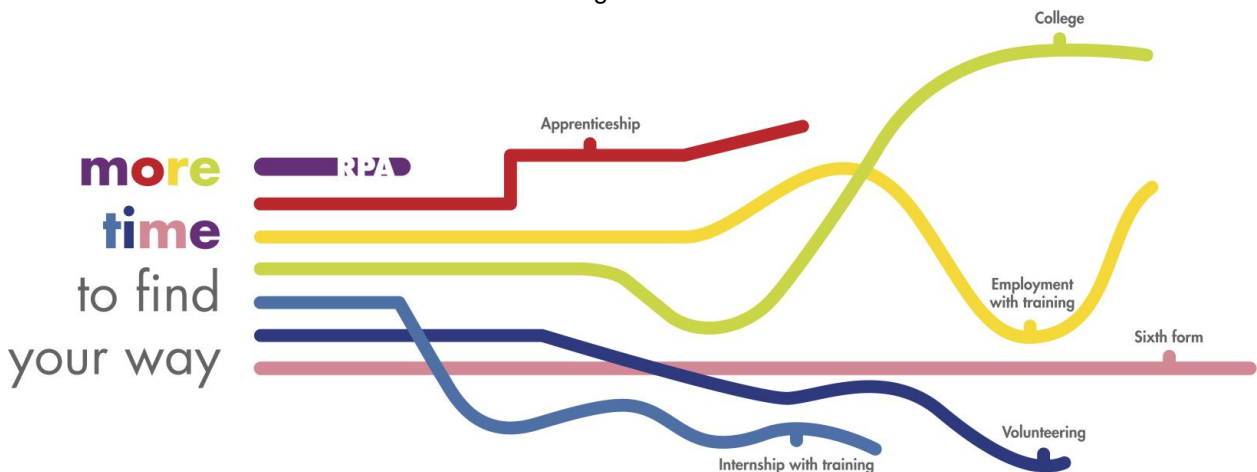
## Raising the Participation Age Briefing for teaching and careers guidance professionals



From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 **all** young people in England will be required to remain in learning until their **18<sup>th</sup> birthday**, or earlier if they have achieved level 3 qualifications e.g. 2 A-levels or their equivalent. This is being referred to as **Raising the Participation Age (RPA)**.

### What does 'remain in learning' mean?

Under the Education and Skills Act 2008 and the Education Act 2011, **RPA** means that your students will be able to choose one of the following:



- An Apprenticeship or Traineeship.
- Remain in full-time education (including Foundation Learning) such as school (already defined as 190 days per year); or college; or a training provider, including specialist provision for those with the most significant disabilities and learning difficulties; or home education in line with the regulations pre-16 for 540 hours per year – about 18 hours per week.
- Be employed (full or part-time), self-employed, volunteering (including caring) or in an internship for 20 hours or more a week for more than 8 consecutive weeks and attend part-time learning for 280 guided learning hours (i.e. about one day a week - or its equivalent after work).
- Alternative provision that re-engages young people in learning.

### Can my students just take a job as part of RPA?

Yes.

- The young person has a duty to make arrangements to train towards gaining an accredited qualification for the equivalent of one day per week over the course of a year.

Employers are encouraged to support their young employees to undertake training, but there are no regulations being enforced on employers. The local authority will require schools and other learning providers to inform them about young people have dropped out of learning, to ensure they are offered an appropriate alternative.

### How can I support my students?

- Research all the available options with your student to ensure they choose the right one for them
- Refer to <http://www.adviza.org.uk/> for other tips on how to help your child choose well.

For further information about Raising the Participation Age and the various learning options visit <http://www.adviza.org.uk/>

## Raising the Participation Age Briefing for Employers



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### **What is it and what does it mean for me as an employer?**

From 2014, if you employ a 16 or 17 year old for 20 hours or more a week and for eight or more weeks consecutively there is a duty on that young person to participate in learning until at least their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. The requirement is for the equivalent of a day per week – either during the day or in the evenings after work in order to gain an accredited qualification.

There is **no legal requirement on employers** with regard to young people's participation. However, the government would wish you to support your employees taking into account the needs of your business by agreeing reasonable hours so that the young person can attend training. You do not have to pay them for the time that they are away from work and learning.

### **Why the Participation Age is being increased?**

Continuing in learning or training post-16 will help young people develop the skills they need that matter to you and your business and to succeed and progress in their education and careers.

### **The technical bit**

From the last day of the school year in 2014 **all** young people in England will be required to remain learning until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, although if they gain 2 A-levels (or equivalent) after age 16, they would no longer be required to participate.

*Currently, young people are expected to remain in learning until the end of the academic year in which they are 17.* This is referred to as '**Raising the Participation Age**'.

### **More information**

For further information about '**Raising the Participation Age**' and the various learning options visit: <http://www.adviza.org.uk/>

### **If you would like to find out about Government programmes to support businesses employing young people:**

- Apply for a 'small employer Apprenticeship incentive' (if applicable). This enables a small employer to recruit new employees aged 16-24 that provide the opportunity for the young person to achieve a recognized qualification.
- Offer an Apprenticeship to a 16 or 17 year old.
- Search for a learning provider in your sector, or an organisation to manage your Apprenticeship: ([www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Employers.aspx](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Employers.aspx)).