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**ISLES OF SCILLY PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD**

**INFORMATION SHEET**

**Accommodation**

The Local Authority and FE Colleges are no longer able to give out a list of accommodation of providers of accommodation. It remains parental responsibility to ensure that your child has appropriate accommodation. A parent run Facebook page has been set up for parents and accommodation providers to share information. This can also be used for parents to exchange information about their experience, accommodation coming up and all things useful if your young person is moving on.

We advise that you prepare well ahead to secure accommodation and visit beforehand to discuss with the provider what they can offer and if they can meet the needs of your son/daughter. We advise that DBS checks are completed and we can support you to have this completed. We will be sending out more information soon to give more detailed advice and support about making this move successful.

**Finance**

Until now funding for accommodation and travel has been paid separately, some in advance, some in arrears, and the restraints on how travel money could be spent were not very helpful or flexible.

To make things simpler the annual amount for accommodation and travel is now a single amount and paid three times per year for you to use flexibly for either travel and or accommodation. This means you will get up to £1905.32 three times per year, paid in advance in September, then paid in December and April, dependent on the value of receipts. If you do not submit travel and accommodation costs to the value of £1905.32 prior to your December payment the difference will be deducted from the subsequent payment. This new funding arrangement will particularly support those who are based on Scilly for their education and training and will need a higher allocation for travel than accommodation. For those young people who are keen to explore those opportunities please organise a meeting with us to discuss eligible expenditure.

**Support**

Many of the colleges have excellent pastoral support and some young people are choosing to go to boarding school both in and out of county.

In order to try to prevent crises and ensure young people get the most out of new opportunities we are looking to improve the preparation and readiness of young people to move on, particularly those young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

We recognise this is a key transition time for everyone and you never know how it is going to affect all of your family until it happens.

We would like to set up some informal support for parents to share the things they learned and what they would do differently so please let us know if you would like to be involved in this.

We will be sending out much more detailed information soon, but hopefully this short information sheet will help you to start thinking about plans.

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