

# EXPLAINING RAISING PARTICIPATION AGE



## Your Responsibility?

You can leave school on the last Friday in June if you'll be 16 by the end of the summer holidays. You must then do one of the following until you're 18:

- stay in full-time education, for example at a college or sixth form
- start an apprenticeship or traineeship
- spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training

## Why?

Most young people continue in education or training to give them the best chance to get the skills and knowledge for achieving their future career goals. Leaving education early with few or no qualifications can limit your choices later in life. We understand that there are many reasons why getting into education, employment and training can be difficult but we would like all 16-18 years old to feel supported to find suitable opportunities if this is what they want, or to find help to overcome any barriers preventing this being possible. Raising participation age means that all young people have the opportunity to explore options that are right for them.

## Our Responsibility?

UP in BCP must promote participation in education and training to young people aged 16-18 in the area and report figures to central government. This means making regular contact to keep information up to date and to encourage and support young people to find a suitable education or training place.

## What if I don't participate?

UP in BCP will identify young people aged 16 - 18 years old who are not participating in education or training. This means we can offer support and will do all we can to try and ensure everyone has the chance to explore all the options available to them, and to become enrolled in a suitable education or training place. If you are NEET (Not in Education, Training or Employment), we will make regular contact to offer support to you until you find an opportunity that suits you. We will do this via telephone, email, letter and occasionally visiting young people at home.

## What next?

Whatever you are thinking of doing, it is really important to look at all the options, make well informed choices and then apply as soon as you are ready. UP in BCP can support you with this. The government has committed to fully-funding education and training places for all 16-19 year olds. Remember you don't have to be in a full time course, you can do training alongside working or volunteering.