



WHAT'S NEXT?

DEBP Direct Education Business Partnership

In February 2025, our third 'What's Next?' event was held at the Arkwright Centre in Arkwright Town. DEBP brought together a broad range of education, health and social care providers and the event was well attended by over 120 young people, parents/carers and school staff. Schools and colleges in attendance included: Ashgate Croft, Stubbin Wood, Alferton Park Community Special School, Dawn House, Holly House, Hope Valley College and Swanwick School and Sports College. With support from providers including Fair Play, Derbyshire County Council, Chesterfield College and MacIntyre Care.

AT A GLANCE

DEBP's extensive experience in working with schools, young people and families means we know that easy access to information and support around transition is vital.

'What's Next?' is an engaging and meaningful event allowing young people with SEND, and the adults who care for them, valuable opportunity to talk to a broad range of professionals and providers, supporting them to navigate the transition planning process.

WHY WHAT'S NEXT?

When young people with SEND approach transition, it can be a daunting and overwhelming process. Young people and their parents/carers need to explore as many options as possible to ensure their next steps are right for them. These options may include Supported Internships, FE colleges, Specialist Colleges, Social Care provision, Supported Living and Community Activities. This process can involve lots of visits and meetings with social workers and health professionals.

The aim of our What's Next? event is to have a range of professionals and providers in one space at the same time, allowing important information to be exchanged and for conversations about provision and opportunities to be had.

IMPACT

The transition process for young people with SEND significantly influences their emotional well-being, confidence, and future outcomes. The complexity of navigating multiple pathways such as Supported Internships, Further Education, Specialist Colleges, and Social Care options can be overwhelming for young people and their families. With access to events such as 'What's Next' this process can be made more manageable and empowers young people by giving them greater control and choice over their futures, leading to more personalised, meaningful, and sustainable outcomes in education, employment, and independent living.

FUTURE PLANS

Plans are underway to host 'What's Next?' in 2026.

Feedback from the providers, schools, parents and carers who attended will be taken into consideration to ensure the event continues to be well timed, accessible and beneficial to everyone.

"We love attending the 'What's Next?' events. They are a great opportunity for our pupils and parents to find out what is available when they leave school."

**AMY NAYLOR, POST-14 LEAD,
ALFERTON PARK SCHOOL**

"It is a very worthwhile event which enabled many services to come together. It gives you more knowledge of what services are out there for the people that draw on our support."

LIZ MORDUE
MacIntyre Care

120

**PEOPLE
ACCESSED
THIS EVENT**