

More information about RPA and Post-16 Options is available at:

Department for Education
www.education.gov.uk

Connexions
www.connexions-tw.co.uk

Child Benefit Queries
www.direct.gov.uk

National Apprenticeship Service
www.apprenticeships.org.uk

National Careers Service
www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk

Contact Connexions:

Telephone: **0191 643 6965**

E-mail: **Connexions.NT@northtyneside.gov.uk**

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Raising the Participation Age (RPA) information for parents and carers

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NORTH TYNESIDE



North Tyneside Council



What is RPA?

The Government has raised the age at which young people are required to participate in learning or training. If your son or daughter is currently in Year 11 or below, they will have to continue in learning or training until at least their 18th birthday.

This does not mean they will have to stay on at school after Year 11. They will have a choice about how they want to participate post-16, which could be through:

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

Why make this change?

Participating in learning for longer means young people are more likely to get the skills and qualifications that will open doors to future employment and help them make the most of their potential.

Evidence shows that being in education, employment or training at age 16-18 means young people are more likely to be employed, earn more, have healthier and more fulfilling lives.



What does this mean for me as a Parent/Carer?

The requirement to participate lies with your son or daughter. However, we also know that children look to you for advice and support.

Making choices about education and training can be a challenge, so your child will receive support to help them choose well. The careers information they will receive includes options information from school, information and advice via the Connexions service or through online resources, such as the National Careers Service. Your child will receive careers advice and guidance from many people including their subject teachers, careers co-ordinators or careers advisers. This will help them to think through their ideas and weigh up the pros and cons of different options.

You can still claim Child Benefit for as long as your son or daughter is in full time education or some form of training.

What are the options?

