

The Concern ...

Children with a learning disability and their parents have always wished for a bright and fulfilling future with as much independence as possible.

Schools nurture the young and often vulnerable child, differentiating the curriculum into bite size parts at the level and relevance of the pupil's ability. Alongside this is usually a broad additional curriculum of sensory and life skills coupled with as many outdoor, practical and stimulating experiences as possible, up to school-leaving age. At this point they have the potential to begin to build on this grounding in order to fulfil their expectations, be a useful member of society, live as independently as possible and be happy.

This Further Education stage requires a focussed individual approach combining the wealth of knowledge and skills learned at school with a broad college based education and training programme within a dynamic environment geared to creating pathways into employment, independent living and a full, rewarding life.

There is a distinct shortage of specialist courses in the U.K. in general, and there is a major lack of facilities that cater for students with a learning disability in the South West of England. There are insufficient places at Specialist

Colleges nationally and no Regional Specialist College whatsoever in Devon or Cornwall, necessitating students to access courses where possible in other parts of the country, far away from home and family.

This group of students has a broad range of needs but all have the right to succeed, to be included and lead happy and rewarding lives. We need to respond to the desires of students and their parents and carers, to offer pathways that lead to a bright, fulfilled and happy future, that address the levels of each student's potential and their inclusion within the community.

We have been advising the relevant authorities for many years that these students have potential and are not being catered for properly once they reach adulthood. At last the government is waking up to this fact. It is initiating the Foundation Learning Tier, that for the first time acknowledges that students who are below the National Curriculum level after leaving school can progress and should have nationally recognised pathways that are vocational, life skills based, and that can include all students. At present there are few colleges that have the expertise, knowledge and vision that can deliver such courses that will link the pathways from school through further education and into supported life.

The Solution ...

The Lifeworks vision is not one of an isolated college but of a vibrant energetic centre of education and training within a diverse, socially responsible, exciting, business, leisure and living complex. It will become a model for partnership and will ensure the sustainability of fulfilled lives for learning disabled people, their families and society as a whole.

The new college will offer nationally accredited courses encompassing work based learning, living, social and leisure skills. Sustainability of employment is an outcome criteria together with independent living and social inclusiveness to students on a day or residential basis, from the South West and the whole of the UK. There will also be available a range of sport, leisure and therapies as well as nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech and language support.

The curriculum will be a three year learner centred course of Core Skills, Life Skills, Work Skills and Leisure and Community, designed for students with the capacity and potential to progress into work training programmes, as well as for students who will have a more sensory programme and progress towards supported care and inclusion within the community.

The college will not have entry requirements other than an assessment that demonstrates the student can gain from the course and show the capacity to progress. All students with learning difficulties, no matter how severe, will be considered for entry. Student centred plans will navigate the routes out of college and support the transition into the appropriate balance of employment and supported living or supported care with community access.



Every student will be encouraged to lead as independent a life as possible. The college will have its own student accommodation as well as acquire appropriate housing to develop independent living after college.

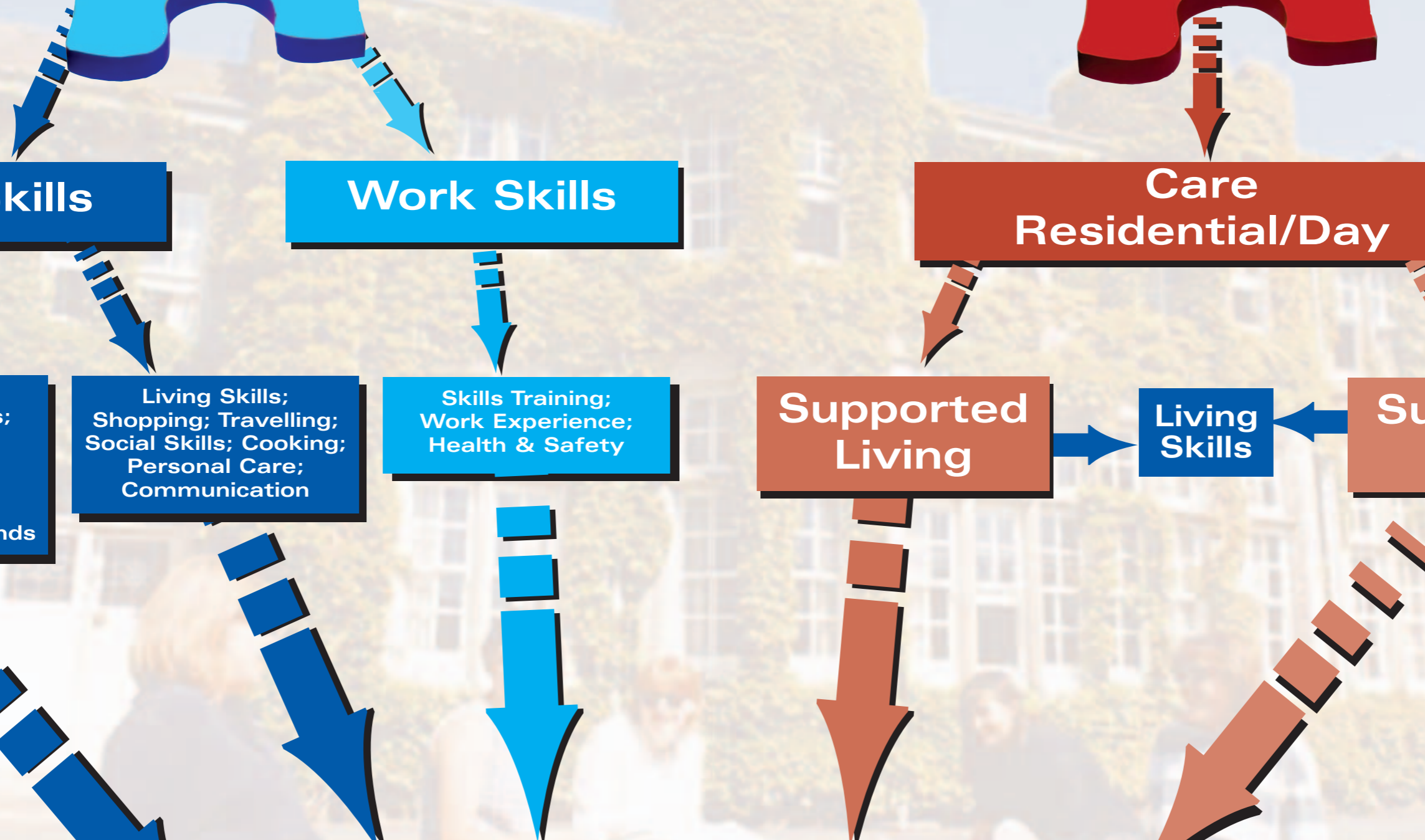
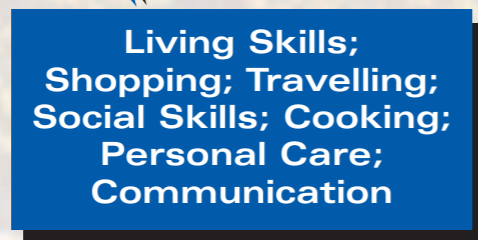
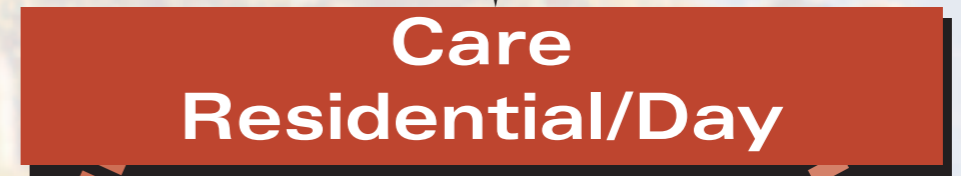
There will be course partnerships with other organisations and colleges to include part time training and support for adult learners. The college will be a professional centre of excellence for health, education, social care and employment specialists, leading the way for social change. Ultimately, the college will become a destination of national and international significance. The college will have the expertise, knowledge and vision to deliver courses that for the first time create pathways from school into life.

Life works here.



The College

Pathways to Independence



The Seale-Hayne Environment

The college will be part of a vibrant, inclusive, working and living community, committed to providing pathways for students with learning disabilities into sustainable employment, leisure and supported living, and dedicated to the equality of employment, education and training.

The site will attract a wide variety of businesses, all of which will be committed to regeneration, environmental design, sustainable architecture, and a genuinely carbon-constrained, eco-friendly community with a further impact on its surrounding environment.

Work Skills Training & Work Experience

This is the only centre in the world that plans bespoke paths into work for its learners, young adults with learning disabilities who hitherto have been largely excluded from employment.

Skills will be taught in a variety of workplace settings. The students will work on their basic life skills in the classroom and learn practical skills such as farming in the work place. As abilities progress, students will spend more of their time in a workplace setting or out in the community.

At Seale-Hayne, students have the opportunity of life-long training and support to achieve productive, rewarding and sustainable lifestyles.

On-Site Businesses

Seale-Hayne will deliver considerable local regeneration, numerous new and expanding business opportunities, many new jobs, and the development of new and improved skills. Seale-Hayne offers a new business model between education and private industry, designed to stimulate economic growth, draw on local expertise, resources and knowledge, to ensure employment, promote profit, undertake and further develop environmentally sustainable practices, and to engage young adults with learning disabilities into the workforce. On-site businesses will include

On-Site Residences

The college will offer placements on both a daily and residential basis for 100-plus students with learning disabilities. Residents will be provided with support and care appropriate to their levels of ability and needs. Whether day students or residents, an on-going programme of life skills training will progress abilities to attain as much independence as possible with the support of all communal elements and on-site businesses

Housing Development

Housing developments on site will be designed to progress independent living, provide supported life-styles and subscribe to energy efficient, sustainable and economic policies. Housing will include complete care facilities, assisted living accommodation and independent units with support as required.

Sports & Leisure

The Seale-Hayne environment will provide access for the college, its students, on-site businesses and the community as a whole to indoor and outdoor sports and recreation, arts, theatre and cinema. It will be an integrated and inclusive environment available to all.

- sustainable organic farming • forestry • veterinary practices • a rare breed s centre • carbon neutral transportation • rural arts and crafts • local bakery
- brewery • butchers • cafes and restaurants • waste recycling and biomass energy systems • farm shop • car and engineering garage • general offices
- landscape gardening • garden centre • book and music shop • indoor/outdoor sports centre • mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineers • recycling centre
- painting & decorating shop • dentist • chemist • media centre • library • internet technology centre • eco utilities • security • conference centre