

Using Plan-it: the benefits

1. Introduction

Plan-it is an online system available for use with young people in Y9, 10 and 11 (The Y9 system is available to Y7 & 8) There are two versions, one for learners in mainstream schools and one for young people attending Pupil Referral Units or Special Schools (Moderate Learning Difficulties)

Plan-it helps young people complete an Individual Learning Plan as they positively engage in planning their own progression - with the support of key adults - through a three-stage planning process, considering:

- Where are you now?
- Where are you trying to get to?
- How are you going to get there?

This document details the benefits that the various users of Plan-it could gain, including:

- Learner benefits
- School managers and teaching staff benefits
- How Plan-it can contribute to strategic school planning

2. Learner Benefits

2.1 Plan-it helps learners:

- Assess and record (bank) their skills, qualities, interests and achievements so that they can use the information later to support CVs, applications and personal statements;
- Consider and explore their future ambitions and career options by providing detailed information on an extensive range of careers, including qualifications needed;
- Access data provided by their school on their academic performance so this can be used in conjunction with ambitions, careers, etc. to ensure good choices are made at transition points and to reinforce the requirements for qualifications, etc;
- Record and assess their current and future course choices through a careers library and a directory of course options;
- Create a printable summary or report of their work so that they can engage in informed discussions about their future plans with key, supporting adults;
- Use the information gathered through the Plan-it system to devise a multi-levelled, online action plan – they can then manage the action plan electronically;
- Complete electronic CVs by providing a template and direct electronic links to previously generated information on skills, qualities, etc;
- Collect evidence for a Plan-it Certificate that can earn credits for ASDAN's Youth Award Scheme and Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE).

2.2 What the learners say:

"It helped me understand more about my targets. My tutor now knows more about me and my plans and was surprised about some things I am doing – like GCSE French."

"I liked the way it set targets. These were some things I could stick to for the next few years."

"I realised I could do things. It made me think more about what I want to do in the future."

Using Plan-it: the benefits

3. School managers and teaching staff benefits

3.1 Plan-it helps school managers and teaching staff:

- Deliver the aims and objectives of most aspects of Careers Education and Guidance, Work-related Learning and the Progress File;
- Challenge and extend aspirations and current academic performance by showing careers/ambitions alongside academic achievements and predictions;
- Support young people's achievement as the Plan-it Certificate can earn GCSE equivalent points – through the ASDAN CoPE Award;
- Refer young people for specific support from tutorial staff or a Connexions PA.

3.2 Plan-it provides school managers and teaching staff with information to support young people in planning their futures, as staff can - through the Supervisor Area:

- Monitor young people's progress through the system and access student data;
- Search for reports, by tutor group, whole year group, individual on:
 - Issues raised through quizzes – wanting to go to university/HE, children at 16, be unemployed, etc;
 - Careers choices – with qualification level;
 - Learning styles;
 - Subjects/courses wanted for next year/phase.
- Conduct electronic communication as teachers send comments to learners on their Plan-it work;
- Manage progress towards the Plan-it Certificate;
- Find out whether a learner is experiencing a 'barrier' to their learning e.g. bullying, level of work, etc.

3.3 The Plan-it information can be used by school managers and teaching staff to:

- Inform the role of the tutor and Connexions Personal Adviser;
- Provide a careers/ambitions context for academic monitoring;
- Provide a recording tool for academic monitoring;
- Inform parents;
- Motivate young people to re-engage as they realise the education and training requirements needed for their career choices;
- Set SMART targets;
- Extract detailed information on a range of careers, including qualifications needed;
- Contribute to the Transition Review process for young people with a Statement of Special Educational Need.

3.4 What the teachers say:

“Plan-it is definitely useful to the students. It gave them a chance to find out their own skills and attributes, they will be able to use these later when writing CVs. The Plan-it information provided a good stimulus for discussion.”

“By having an individual tutorial with students to look at the Plan-it outcomes: I developed a better relationship with my tutees. Now I know more about them and their plans.”

“It provided an opportunity to meet and focus on something positive. Helped students to focus on themselves and take their futures seriously.”

Using Plan-it: the benefits

4. How Plan-it can contribute to strategic school planning

Use of Plan-it can be planned strategically so that the information generated by young people can inform the school's planning processes at different levels as follows:

4.1 To allocate resources for the 14-19 phase:

- Plan-it information can be used by strategic planners as a way to target school resources and guidance, for example, at young people wanting a child at 16/17, confused about University starting age, wanting a less traditional pathway in KS4, wanting to be unemployed at 16, never being free from bullying, not being settled in school, etc.
- The Plan-it system has the potential to become a key aspect of the Connexions Service offer as it can be used to refer young people to a Connexions PA for specific support or to support a PAs role with young people at risk of drop out – discuss this with your Connexions Service.

4.2 To support Key stage 4:

- The option choice process: a subject report will show how many young people want to do a specific subject.
- Post 14 planning: a report will indicate which young people want a less traditional pathway in KS4.
- Widening participation: a report will indicate the young people who aspire to go onto University/HE by a specific age.

4.3 To support Post 16:

- Post 16 planning and advice and guidance: reports will show young people's post 16 options, their ambitions to go on to university/higher education, their career aspirations, including qualification level needed, their planned course choices at 16, etc. A 'Cause for concern' report will indicate which learners need additional progression advice.

5. Contribution to self-evaluation for school improvement and inspection

5.1 Self-evaluation Form:

Plan-it can be used to:

Section 2 – Views' of Learners:

- Plan-it helps to gather the views' of learners in an impartial way: On subjects, options, choices at 14 and 16, careers, etc.
- The information gathered could be used to show how the views and aspirations of learners are used to inform strategic planning.

Section 4 – How well do learners prepare for economic well-being?

- Plan-it helps young people record development of their personal skills and qualities and provides detailed information on a range of career options.

5.2 Every Child Matters: Framework for inspection of schools:

5.2.1 On-site Inspection:

Page 12 Para 34:

- To provide evidence of effective individual education plans and transitional reviews.

Using Plan-it: the benefits

5.2.2 Achievements and Standards:

Page 19 Section 2:

- For the acquisition of workplace skills.
- For the development of skills which contribute to the social and economic well-being of the learner.
- To show whether learners make a positive contribution to the community.

5.2.3 The Quality of Provision:

Page 20 Section 3:

- To show the extent to which programmes or activities match learners' aspirations and potential.
- To show the extent to which employers' needs are met.

Page 20 Section 4:

- To show the quality and accessibility of information, advice and guidance to learners in relation to courses and programmes, and, where applicable, career progression.