



EMPOWER-ME

Enabling Independence



WE ARE BEAMS

EMPOWER-ME

PROSPECTUS

UK Register of Learning Providers

Provider Reference Number: 10098785

Registered Charity Number: 1054129



A Competency Framework



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WELCOME TO BEAMS EMPOWER-ME

Your College in Your Community

Welcome to Empower-Me, an innovative way of learning the skills required to become independent. Our provision is designed around the learner, with all learning taking place in the young person's home and community. Empower-Me is a college without a classroom!!

Young people with disabilities or who are neuro-divergent often need additional support to fulfil their ambitions and aspirations and to achieve as much independence as possible. For many young people with disabilities, functional skills and learning how to cope with everyday situations overrides any conventional qualifications.

Often independence skills cannot be realised, or adequately embedded, within a traditional school or college setting. Transferring skills learned in a classroom to real-world situations, for example into the home, community or workplace, can present difficulties which can be overwhelming.

EMPOWER-ME has been designed to provide a highly personalised independence journey which supports young people to achieve their empowerment goals and to live their best life. Our curriculum is broad and covers all elements of independence, but can also be developed to cover any specific learning needs of an individual. Learning the right things, in the right way, with the right level of support is imperative to developing true and sustainable independence.

Utilising the Gradually Fading Support (GFS) model, we combine specialist education with social support, challenging the belief that these two should be delivered separately. Learners are taught in their real-world environment. Their learning starts at their door as soon as their tutor arrives, with all learning delivered in their own home, their community and their work placements. They will learn the skills that are applicable to their daily life in the situations they are needed and will build and generalise these skills to enable them to thrive in every situation. This is key to independence.



Empower-Me's Approach

Utilising GFS' unique model

STAFFING - Our full, meaningful and functional curriculum is delivered via 1:1 specially trained Learning Support Assistants(LSA), backed up with qualified teaching staff, and covers all necessary independence skills enabling all learning to be targeted, specific and relevant.

HOW GFS WORKS - Our staff provide as much support as is required by each learner, with LSA's initially working side by side with the learner as they work on a new challenge, reducing the proximity of the support in a planned way as they require less help. Our staff monitor the learner's skills through a robust assessment system to evaluate the level of support needed. This provides reassurance to learners and their families that relevant support is on hand whenever needed, whilst also developing freedom and independence.



GENERALISATION - To become independent, learners need to take learned skills into any environment. For example, just because a student can cross the road outside their home does not mean they can independently cross every road in every area as each road presents different challenges. Students need to utilise learned skills to develop strategies which enable them to use their knowledge in new situations. The GFS model of working recognises the difference between functional ability in familiar contexts and the ability to generalise skills across all contexts and builds this into the learning experience.

LEARNING IN REAL WORLD SETTINGS

Learning in the context of everyday life builds confidence and independence. Once contextualised learning is achieved, learned skills can be further developed for use in any environment - this is called generalisation.

OUR ASSESSMENTS - Simple, clear assessments, utilising the RARPA Portfolio (Recognising and Recording Progress and Achievement) ensure all parties can clearly see and understand skills learned, progression and areas requiring further work. This is invaluable when discussing support needs with the appropriate authorities.





EMPOWER-ME

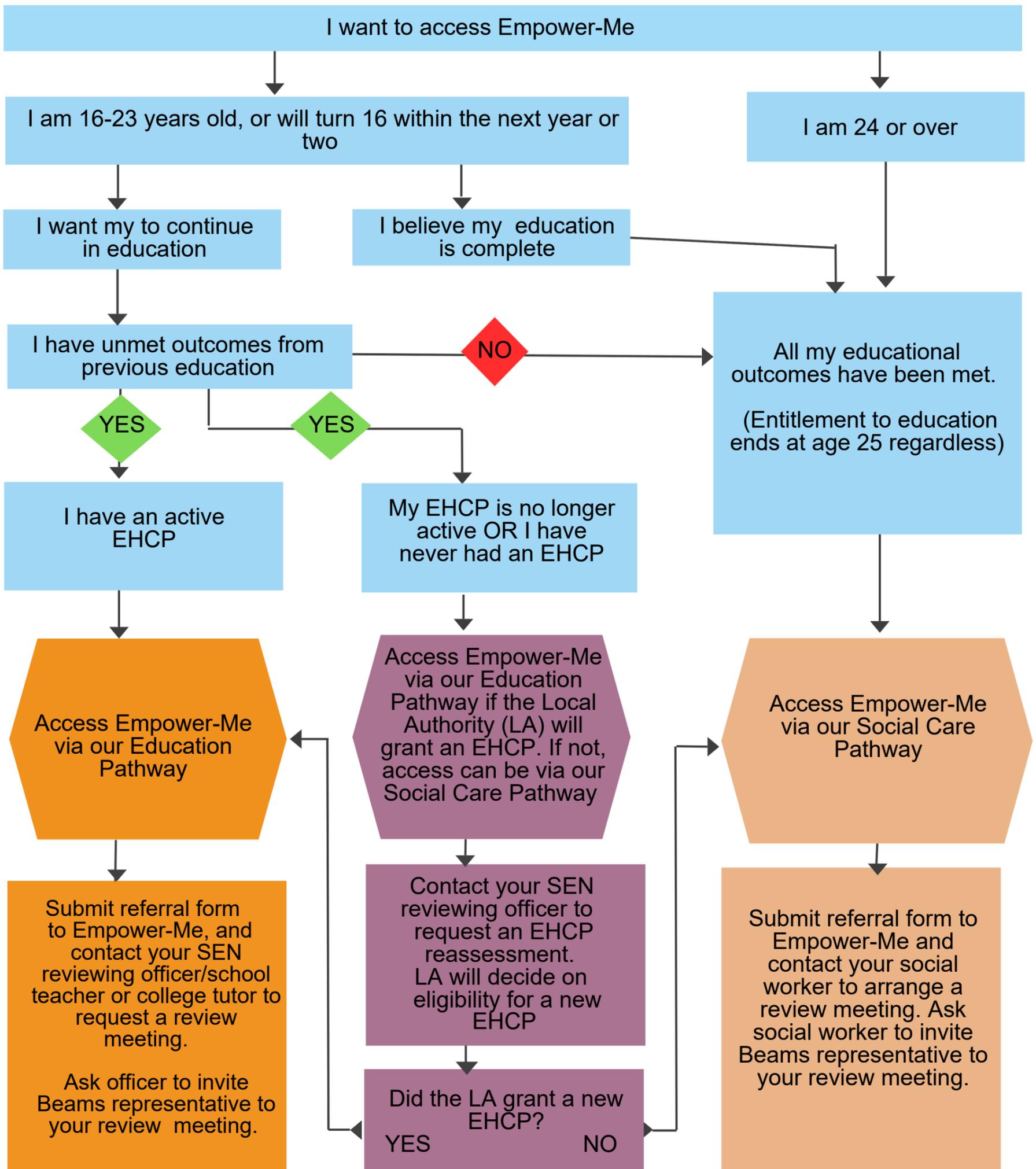
Enabling Independence



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EDUCATION OR SOCIAL CARE PATHWAY?



Example Timetable

Below is an example of the type of activities learners could complete. Staff will ensure that learners have an adequate mix of health, living skills, community and work related activities to meet their target outcomes.

As services are delivered on a 1:1 basis, each learner's timetable can be truly person centred and flexible to meet their needs, whilst enabling them to participate in activities they enjoy.

DAY	AM	PM
MONDAY	Daily Living Skills at Home	Swimming
TUESDAY	Travel Training in local area	Core Skills Curriculum RARPA Portfolio Building
WEDNESDAY	Dance Class	Money Skills
THURSDAY	Food planning and shopping	Cookery Group
FRIDAY	Work Experience	English & Maths

Some activities are only accessed through the education pathway.

Skills are integrated throughout the normal daily routine, for example swimming will require travel, use of money, communication, taking care of clothes etc

Education Pathway

Empower-Me is a Post-16 education setting for young people with learning disabilities, who are neuro-diverse or NEETS. Our education pathway can be accessed by young people aged 16-24 who have unmet outcomes in Section E of their EHCP or who are NEETS.

ONE TO ONE TUITION

Learning is delivered on a ratio of 1:1. in the home or community. There is no classroom or group learning. All learning commences when our dedicated LSA or tutor arrives at the learner's home or chosen location.

PERSON CENTRED CURRICULUM

Empower-Me develops a personalise timetable incorporating the learner's chosen activities and linked to the Core Skills Curriculum (CSC), a portfolio-based qualification which meets the criteria for RARPA (Recognising and Recording Personal Achievement) qualifications framework. The Core Skills Curriculum has a wide variety of modules covering all aspects of independent living, including (but not exclusively) travel, home maintenance, food, nutrition and employment skills.

50 WEEK CURRICULUM

Empower-Me provides support up to 50 weeks per year. Consistency is imperative to help learners to maintain their knowledge and skills. Whilst formal tuition (Maths/English) will not be continued through traditional non term time, all other skills based learning will continue. Qualified teaching staff will guide the learner and LSA through the Core Skill Curriculum and oversee assessment and outcome evidence.

FUNCTIONAL SKILLS

Whilst Empower-Me does not currently employ staff to deliver functional Maths and English, this can be procured for any learner requiring this.*

*This service is currently under development

REFERRALS: Please submit a referral form to Empower-Me@wearebeams.org.uk. A Beams representative will need to be invited to the learner's next Annual Review at school/college.



Social Care Pathway

Our Social Care Pathway can be accessed by young people aged 19 upwards who have no outstanding educational outcomes on their EHCP, provided they receive support from their Local Authority social care department.

TIMETABLE

Each learner will complete a programme of activities that they have chosen and which support their progression in all important areas. These include health, life skills, employment and community engagement.

ASSESSMENTS

Each learner activity will have an activity assessment combining the unique GFS task analysis and traffic light evaluation system. This ensures every learner, and the staff working, with them have clear direction and understand how to support the young person to progress.

STAFFING

Specially trained Learning Support Assistants (LSA) will deliver the chosen curriculum. Our LSA's are trained to combine best practice from education and social care to provide effective, engaging and stimulating support.

TRANSITION

Transition from education to adult services is challenging for young people and their families. We use person

centred practices to develop our training to ensure each learner receives the right support for them, built on the foundation of post-16 special educational needs.

Embedding day to day life and living skills into the curriculum means young people learn while taking part in activities they love. This prepares them for life after education, whether that be employment or independent living.

Developing valuable life skills in a contextual way sets young people up for a more independent life, with less dependency on statutory services.

REFERRALS: Please submit a referral form to Empower-Me@wearebeams.org.uk. A Beams representative will need to be in contact with the learner's allocated social worker or reviewing officer.



Family Story

My 23 year old son, Sean, will be finishing at college in July but does not currently have the skills he needs to live independently or to maintain a job. Beams Empower-Me has been working with Sean to help him identify what life skills he needs to succeed in the future.

Sean is autistic and often finds it difficult to concentrate and listen. Empower-Me has only been working with him for a few hours a week outside of college but Sean has made real progress in the areas that they have concentrated on and this is so easy to see and understand in the simple paperwork that is produced. I think this works for Sean because he is not in a classroom and everything he learns is in his home, or doing things he wants to do. This makes everything relevant to him and I can see how this will help him learn to navigate his way into work in the future. I am hoping that Sean will continue his education with Empower-Me when his college placement ends.

Caron Faulks

Hello, I'm Sean. I live at home with my mum and dad. We recently moved and I have a separate annex so that I can learn to be more independent. I want to have my own home one day, but at the moment I still rely on my parents a lot.

I want to have a job one day and be able to earn my own money that I can spend on what I want.

I like learning with Empower-Me because I do the things I want and I don't even know I am learning most of the time. I am learning how to look after myself properly, look after my home, and cook healthy food safely. I also learn how to navigate and travel around safely.



Contact Us



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