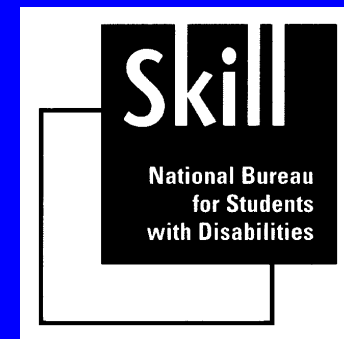


Transition from School to Further and Higher Education



Barbara Waters
Chief Executive
Skill: National Bureau
for Students with
Disabilities
10th March 2006



Legal and educational framework



- Disability Discrimination Act Part 4 – Education – Post 16 code of practice individual right not to be treated less favourable and concept of reasonable adjustment
- FEFC 1996 Tomlinson report ‘Inclusive Learning’ LSC review just published Nov 2005, chaired by Peter Little OBE ‘From Inclusion to Excellence’.
- Beattie Report in Scotland
- Aim Higher/HEFCE



Inclusive learning

‘Put simply, we want to avoid a viewpoint which locates the difficulty or deficit with the student and focus instead on the capacity of the educational institution to understand and respond to the individual learner’s requirement. This means we must move away from labelling the student and towards creating an appropriate educational environment; and see people with disabilities and/or learning difficulties first and foremost as learners.’



Social model of disability

‘The barriers that exclude disabled people from full participation in society are the result of the way the social and built environments are constructed, and society’s attitudes towards disabled people, rather than just being the result of individual impairments’

DRC



Legal and education framework cont.

- Learning and Skills Act 2000 setting up Learning and Skills Council and Connexions, section 140 assessment
- Additional Support for Learning Act 2005 Scotland, removing record of needs (statement)
- Childrens Trusts in England
- Youth Matters – green paper



DDA 2005

- Brings disability equality duty to public sector including colleges and universities and requirement to promote equality for disabled people and have disability equality scheme by Dec 2006
- Brings general qualifications including GCSE's, A levels and Scottish standard and higher grades under Act, implementation 2007



Reasonable adjustments

- Alternative assessment arrangements
- Accessible work placements
- Accessible applications procedures
- All student services, libraries, catering etc
- Handouts in advance and accessible
- Accessible teaching practice



Funding

- Additional Learning support in FE from LSC - up to £4,500, up to £19,000
- Specialist colleges, funded by LSC, likely changes following recent Review
- Disabled students allowance 3 levels, from LEA via Student Loans Co
- Direct payments entitlement for disabled people from 16



Learners' experiences

- Skill survey showed learners in schools said they and their parents lacked information about support available in F and HE
- Teachers and others not clear on course content, some learners made choices on poor information
- Skill developing additional information resources in consultation with learners



Skill survey - what learners like about FE

- Doing practical things and learning new skills
- Provision of ALS and high quality support
- Being treated as adults
- Working with computers
- Making friends
- Rich programme offer including sport music and cooking, often missed out at school for medical procedures
- Team work and group discussions

Influences on transition



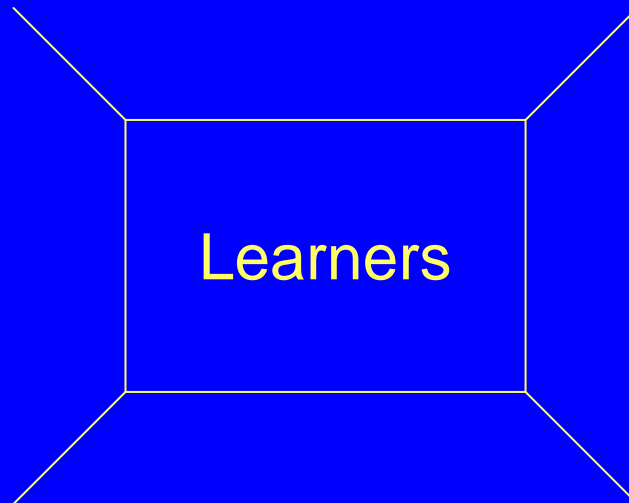
Learning offer

Information

Learners

Support

Experience





Information

- Timely
- Appropriate to decision
- Unbiased/independent
- Accessible
- Accurate

From

- Connexions
- Senco
- careers teachers
- Relatives/friends
- Voluntary organisations – Skill, RNIB, etc



Experience

- Visits
- Talks
- Role models
- Tasters
- Work experience
- Link courses

From

- Connexions
- Learning providers
- Employers
- Students
- Family/friends
- schools



Support

- Learning support/DSA
- Community care/non medical helpers
- Benefits – DLA, direct payments
- Transport
- Fees remitted
- Access/reasonable adjustments



Support

From

- Connexions
- learning providers
- CAB and other disability organisations
- LSC
- Social services
- Local Authority - DSA



Learning offer

- Choice
- Inclusive/appropriate
- Accessible
- High quality
- Planned progression – next transition



Useful resources

- Skill publications – Into series and Information Sheets EQoL and Aasha
- Website www.skill.org.uk – Into FE and Into HE sections plus information sheets and FAQ
- Disability Rights Commission website and guides www.drc-gb.org
- LSC website (DDA) www.lsc.gov.uk
- Learning and Skill Development Agency website (DDA) www.lstda.org.uk
- www.disability.gov.uk



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