

Update on the review of High Needs funding in FE Colleges

Aims

- For students with the most complex SEND
- Clear pathways
- Coherent approach to SEND provision
- Used effectively with other available resources
- FE College engagement

Best Practice in FE Colleges

Colleges that:

- Plan SEND provision: tutors responsible for in-depth provision mapping and involve students with oversight from the Senior Leadership Team.
- Use data to improve outcomes
- Utilise the totality of resources available
- Use EHCP outcomes, set SMART targets set and track time limited interventions
- Qualified SEND lecturers working with students
- Trained support delivering evidence based interventions.

Best Practice in FE Colleges

- Use assistive technology to support students' learning and in work placements.
- Plan transition programmes and offer link courses.
- Have travel training as an integral part of support plans
- Offer appropriate programmes shared with students and families with clear and pathways to next steps.
- Focus on independent learning and employability skills as well as achieving SEND outcomes.
- Have strong links with community and local employers.
- Work in partnership with SEND Officers, Special Schools, Adult Social Care and Health.

FE HNF Review Findings

- Wide variations in use of HNF in colleges e.g. staff skill sets; approaches and interventions; targeted courses
- Limited evaluation of use of funding
- Considerable variation in offer guidance on and use of resources is variable
- Effectiveness is variable; sustained destinations
- Over-reliance on support staff not interventions
- Lack of systematic evidence to track impact and variations in impact data about interventions.

Recommendations

- Address gaps in provision e.g SEMH and mental health
- Weak transition from school, and into adult social
- Reduce numbers of NEETs and Not Known
- Agree transition protocols
- Develop guidance on appropriate pathways
- Improve referrals and supporting information
- Ensure EHCPs are FE and next step focused
- Streamline HNF template

Next steps

- Three year plan for 16-24 SEND commissioning
- Review funding methodology and systems
- Review pathways with Kent Special schools
- Agreed dataset; retention, outcomes and destinations
- Co-ordinated approach to workforce development