

# Case study of local good practice in identifying young people with SLCN

**Peterborough Regional College**  
Cambridgeshire

## Identifying needs

Most young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) receive their diagnosis before they begin Further Education. The College use a structured approach to capture information about past and current needs. This involves checking Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) and reports from the student's secondary school and, if relevant, from their speech and language therapist (SLT). This is used alongside additional information from discussions with the student and his or her family.

Students can also self-identify SLCN on their application or by completing the College's 'Additional Learning Support (ALS) Disclosure' form (which they can hand in during their interview or after enrolment). Once they are enrolled, students are encouraged to speak to their tutor if they feel they need additional support.

## Supporting learning and development

When support is requested, the College's internal specialist, who is trained in identifying

communication concerns and implementing strategies, contacts the student to assess their needs. From that assessment, the specialist compiles plans for tutors and teaching staff to help support the student's transition to further education and subsequent studies.

Students with SLCN have access to a range of resources and support strategies, such as PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System), Makaton and other communication systems. They are also provided with opportunities to practice functional speech, language and communication skills to support independent living, such as cooking, personal care and shopping.

## Staffing structure and partnerships

Peterborough College encourages staff to develop expertise on specific areas of need in order to build the College's skills base. This work is supported and overseen by the ALS and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) managers. The ALS

## Introduction

Peterborough Regional College is a mainstream further education college close to Peterborough city centre. It offers education and training to over 9,000 students aged 16 and over. Around 58 students are supported by the College's Inclusive Learning Department. These students tend to have more significant learning difficulties, including communication. In mainstream, students' communication needs are usually linked to other conditions or disorders such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or deafness.



manager oversees 80 to 90 support workers, including a core team of support workers in the Inclusive Learning Department. The SEND manager oversees a team of specialists who have responsibility for different groups of students, such as those with SLCN or ASD. They also work with local services, such as SLTs and occupational health, to enhance the support they provide.



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