
Staff commitment

In one college, the commitment and adaptability of staff in the learning support department were very powerful, creating a valuable resource for the college and an important source of support and stability for the students. We saw ongoing evidence of the ways in which they invested their own time and energy in order to support their students. We heard from parents and young people about involvement in extra-curricular activities led by staff in their own time. Several of the young people had taken part in an art exhibition in London, for example, because a tutor gave up her own time and effort. The students all really valued these opportunities. However, we became increasingly aware of the frustrations felt by staff as they were constantly faced with many obstacles in accessing the best provision for their students. Opportunities often seemed to be gained in spite of the difficulties thrown up by the system rather than being promoted as an integral part of the college's core business.