
Post-16 options

The supported learning department in one college of further education offered a range of opportunities for people with learning difficulties, from post-school age onwards. Some of these course routes provided students with opportunities to gain qualifications. Some students with learning difficulties (and/or additional needs) were supported in mainstream college courses (such as bricklaying, painting and decorating or catering, for example); others followed discrete provision within the department (often with a focus on developing literacy and numeracy skills or skills for life). Some learning opportunities were accessed via several specialist facilities and resource bases off-campus in surrounding locations in the community (for example, specialist training in horticulture at a nursery or work in the creative arts at a charity project). Students attended the college for differing amounts of time each week and over differing time periods. Some attended full-time; others part-time or even on a sessional basis. Some attended courses for one year; others continued to access variations of appropriate courses over a number of years.