Written response to the recommendations from West Lothian College

Overall Response

The College found the Report and its one hundred and fifty-six recommendations to be a useful and informed overview of a range of matters pertinent to the needs of disabled people and particularly in the context of access to further and higher education. In structuring its response, the College has used the headings in the Report's Easy to Read summary section on education.

Careers Advice

The College is fully supportive of the view that good careers advice should be provided and is actively involved in doing so in partnership with Careers Scotland, local schools, higher education institutions and of course its learners.

Transitions to School, College, University

The College is fully supportive of the view that transitions between school, college and university should be effectively supported for all learners. Again, the College is actively involved in doing so in partnership with Careers Scotland, local schools, including special schools, higher education institutions and of course its learners. The College’s curriculum portfolio encourages such progression and a range of support measures are in place that include staff visiting schools and putting in place appropriate transition arrangements, particularly for vulnerable learners. The college’s induction programme for learners is also an effective means of supporting such transition. Transition from college to university is also robustly supported either through discrete access programmes or through the appropriate curriculum sector of the College.

Information Regarding Money or Other Help

The College is fully supportive of the view that access to better and appropriate information is important for all learners. The College provides such services through Spectrum, its one-stop shop for comprehensive learner advice and support. The College also works externally with a range of public service agencies and voluntary organisations to ensure that all its learners have access to appropriate and informed advice.

Colleges Are Not Day Centres & Help To Get A Job

The College is fully supportive of the view that colleges are not and should not be day centres and that programmes of study should be about helping learners get a job. The College has systematically reviewed and revised its curriculum portfolio to meet the demands of the local economy, enable access, inclusion and progression and to support learners in achieving economic inclusion. Where the college believes that a programme of study
would not benefit a learner and/or enable them to progress to further study or work, it will advise the learner to consider opportunities outside the College. The College also works closely with employers and Job Centre Plus to support learners into employment and to identify employment opportunities. Work placements are also a feature on many programmes.

**Thinking About Courses For Very Disabled People**

In addition to the responses already given above, the College would reiterate the point that where the college believes that a programme of study would not benefit a potential or existing learner and/or enable them to progress to further study or work, it will advise the learner to consider opportunities outside the College. In doing so it works cooperatively with parents, carers, schools and other public agencies to achieve an outcome

Mrs S Pinder  
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West Lothian College  
November 2007