



**Evidence for
Excellence in
Education**

How can FE support young people to make successful transitions at 14?

May 2013



Sources

- McCrone, T., Wade, P. and Golden, S. (2007). *The Impact of 14-16 Year Olds on Further Education Colleges*. Slough: NFER.
<http://www.nfer.ac.uk/publications/ICL01/>
- Marson-Smith, H., Golden, S. and McCrone, T. (2009). *Widening 14-19 Choices: Support for Young People Making Informed Decisions*. Slough: NFER. <http://www.nfer.ac.uk/publications/SMD01/>
- The Evaluation of Increased Flexibility for 14 to 16 Year Olds
- The National Evaluation of Diplomas
- The *From Education to Employment* strand of the NFER Research Programme



How can young people be supported to make decisions?

- The importance of careers professionals
- Staff from schools, colleges and training providers
- Parents and carers



How do colleges recruit and retain young people on courses at 14?

- **Effective recruitment approaches include:**
 - collaborative approach between schools and colleges
 - consideration of students' motivation, attendance and interest in the subject area
 - rigorous entry procedures including application forms and interviews



How do colleges recruit and retain young people on courses at 14?

Young people need to be fully informed about:

- the content of the programme
- how the course is assessed
- the structure of the programme
- practical issues such as travel



How do colleges recruit and retain young people on courses at 14?

Young people also like:

- advice about available options from those 'in the know'
- the opportunity to visit sites such as colleges where the courses they are considering will be delivered
- advice from teachers in their school who know them well, provided that their knowledge is up-to-date



How can young people be supported once they have made their decisions?

1. Provision of continued support
2. Additional support at key points
3. Additional support for those at risk of disengaging
4. Adapt teaching styles
5. Engage parents and carers



Activity - discussion

What are your experiences of providing courses to 14 – 16 year olds?

What are the three most important factors to successful provision for 14 to 16 year olds?



Conclusions

So how can FE support young people to make successful transitions at 14?

- have an appropriate and transparent selection process
- liaise closely with schools
- ensure that 14–16 year olds are taught by lecturers who are committed to and enjoy teaching them
- support young people – especially those at risk and at key times
- adopt a college-wide and holistic approach to the inclusion of this new age group
- provide training for lecturers in teaching and managing the younger age group.



Implications

- Young people need support to navigate their way through these new curriculum opportunities
- This support needs to come from informed adults
- Info needs to include the content and learning style of the course that they are considering
- Also need to consider practical and logistical implications for young people and colleges
- Young people need to be aware of any implications of their decisions



*It's a really big step ... these choices
might influence my entire life
(Blenkinsop et al., 2006, p.63)*

Further information

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