

When is a disability not a disability?

Peter Riley, Head of Widening Participation, Manchester Metropolitan University

Disabled students entering HE

- ▶ The proportion of all students who disclose themselves as disabled is rising. In a five-year period leading up to 2015-16 the proportion of full-time, first-degree entrants with a known disability increased by 56 per cent
- ▶ The OfS data set shows the increase in the proportions of disabled students in the last 5 years (and particularly the more than doubling for mental health)

Full time UG enrolments	SECTOR DATA - PERCENT AGE				
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
NoKnownDisability	88.3	87.5	86.8	86.1	85.2
Disabled	11.7	12.5	13.2	13.9	14.8
CognitiveAndLearning	6.2	6.2	6	5.8	5.6
MentalHealth	1.5	1.9	2.5	3.1	3.8
SensoryMedicalAndPhysical	1.9	1.9	2	2.1	2.2
MultipleImpairments	1.7	1.9	2	2.2	2.4
SocialAndCommunication	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8

How do disabled students perform in HE?

- ▶ Disabled students who do not receive Disabled Students' Allowance are more likely to discontinue their studies than non-disabled students.
- ▶ Performance varies between disability types as seen in the OfS data set:

	SECTOR DATA - PERCENT AGE					
Full time UG enrolments	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	
Continuation						
NoKnownDisability	92.1	91.7	91.6	91.2	91.1	
Disabled	90.9	90.8	90.7	90.2	90.3	
CognitiveAndLearning	92.4	92.3	92.2	92	92.4	
MentalHealth	85.7	86.7	87.1	87.3	87.7	
SensoryMedicalAndPhysical	90.8	90.4	90.7	90	89.9	
MultipleImpairments	89.8	90.1	89.7	88.7	89.4	
SocialAndCommunication	90.5	89.9	89.4	90.4	88.9	

- ▶ Students with a mental health condition are least likely to be in HE 12 months after starting.

What does this mean for students with Mental Health conditions

- ▶ There is a rapid increase in numbers disclosing
- ▶ We know that students are less likely to disclose than for other disabilities
- ▶ They're less likely to be in HE 12 months later

- ▶ *How do we ensure the support we offer responds to the challenges we face?*
- ▶ *How do we reach out to colleges to smooth the transition of those who already receive support?*
- ▶ *If a student leaves HE due to a mental health issue - how do we ensure they continue to receive the support they need?*
- ▶ *What do we do well?*
- ▶ *What could we be doing?*