



Terms of Reference

Access and Outreach for Disabled Learners Working Group

Circulation	Access and Outreach for Disabled Learners Working Group
Summary	Terms of reference for the Access and Outreach for Disabled Learners Working Group (South)

1. Background

The Access and Outreach for Disabled Learners Working Group is part of a series of Working Groups organised by the National Educational Opportunities Network (NEON). These working groups aim to bring individuals and organisations together to establish and take forward an agenda in different areas of access practice. This may involve exchanging good practice, agreeing collaborative ventures or making links with other relevant partners.

The Access and Outreach for Disabled Learners Working Group is organised jointly by Manchester Metropolitan University and The University of Manchester as part of their Manchester Higher collaboration for the North and University of West London for the South. The Group will seek to identify examples of best practice of engagement with disabled people of all ages and how best to support them to aspire to, progress to, and succeed in higher education.

2. Terms of Reference

The Group will work to improve the support and guidance for disabled learners in progressing to and succeeding within higher education by:

- Sharing best practice between members and the institutions and organisations they represent;
- Providing evidence of the impact of particular transition and retention strategies;
- Transition between FE and HE so that students are not left without support when they arrive at university;
- Raising awareness of the needs of disabled learners and the support which is available amongst:
 - Learners themselves, in particular hard to reach groups such as part-time learners and adults returning to education
 - Parents and carers
 - Teachers and advisers
 - University staff
- Creating shared resources;
- Organising collaborative events.

3. Frequency of meetings

The group will meet three times a year with meetings hosted by members of the group.

4. Membership

Members will be drawn from a range of organisations including:

- Members of HE Widening Participation Teams;
- Learning Support staff from higher and further education institutions;
- SENCOs and other teachers with a role in supporting disabled students;
- Charities and third sector organisations offering information, support and advice to disabled people;
- Student Union representatives;
- Work based learning providers.