

Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb hwn i'r [Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg](#) ar gyfer yr ymchwiliad: [A oes gan blant a phobl ifanc anabl fynediad cyfartal at addysg a gofal plant?](#)

This response was submitted to the [Children, Young People and Education Committee](#) for the inquiry: [Do disabled children and young people have equal access to education and childcare?](#)

AEC 19

Ymateb gan: Unigolyn

Response from: Individual

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1. Why is the process of applying for a place at a residential college for a young adult with disabilities so stressful and last minute, with the parents being told to hold back any attempt to plan ahead - including the vital pre-planning to limit anxiety and the unknown for the young person?

2. Why are these young people with disabilities having their own personal course choices discouraged, and limited to only their local college who nine times out of ten will say 'they can meet their needs' when in reality they clearly can't if that college does not run the young persons course choice?

Surely, if a young person with a disability is perfectly capable of making their own choices, expressing their wishes and goals in life as much as a neuro typical peer of the same age, then they in turn should hold the same human rights, and thus the same rights to an education in their chosen subject as their peers.

Having to fight authority decisions can lead to parents becoming distressed, disheartened, exhausted, feeling that their child's rights have been overruled, and that their long-term life paths and employment potential could be drastically limited and confined because of the authority taking away this basic human right to reach for their dreams.

3. Having a child studying at [REDACTED] school being able to have a variety of subject choices throughout their time in education and explore those choices has been a joy. However, when the child cannot take their chosen vocational subject into further education due to being 'discouraged' from applying to a specialised subject college which is not their local college - which does NOT provide their chosen course, to me is unacceptable.

Pupils in mainstream schools do not face these difficulties as they can choose to go anywhere in the country and can continue on into their chosen field, but here in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] pupils are being told they cannot hope for the same educational freedom - this is discrimination.

4. Direct payments - these are a wonderful way for young adults to get out and about and give the carer respite. Trying to find a PA is the difficult part. Due to the lack of these employees, I currently use my Mother. She supports my son very well, but as she gets older, she won't be able to do the things my son enjoys.

We need a system that works, if that be using direct payments for overnight stays or having access to younger PAs and paying them a proper wage - the hourly rate for the P.A job vacancies is too low and as a consequence the uptake is extremely poor to non-existent, and as a result of this the young people that need support are waiting unsupported on extremely long waiting lists - for example, our youngest son who has classic Autism waited 6 years on the waiting list, we only finally managed to find someone through our own searching, through word of mouth.

5. [REDACTED] seems to be a forgotten county, respite facilities are extremely poor. PA's are non-existent, we have no residential college, and our local college offers very little realistic employment outcomes, they only offer one course 'Pathways' which is purely and simply learning basic life skills, and is NOT subject specific. For those ALN students with higher potentials and dreams it is very 'dumbed down' which again is potentially life-goal limiting. If you look at any other county within Wales, the possibilities are tenfold, but not here in the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] area, Why is that?