

Proposed Changes to the Student Finance Support Package

January 2019



Dear Sir/Madam,

I write on behalf of the National Deaf Children's Society Cymru in response to the consultation on Changes to the Student Finance Support Package in the 2019/20 Academic Year.

We believe that deaf young people should have the same choices as hearing young people as to which higher education provider they can attend. We understand there will only a small number of providers that will not be automatically eligible for student support funding from the Welsh Government. However, it is conceivable that these could include smaller, more specialist providers that offer courses in subjects that cannot be taken at other providers. It is, therefore, important that safeguards are put in place to reduce the risk of disabled students being negatively affected by this change.

In the first instance, we would urge the Welsh Government to consider whether an exemption to the condition of funding could be made for students who require Disabled Students Allowance. If this is not a viable option, then at the very least we would expect the Welsh Government to put in place measures to incentivise providers that are not automatically enrolled to apply for specific designation to ensure they are accessible to disabled learners.