

TOOLKIT: CO-CREATING THE CURRICULUM WITH LEARNERS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

Welcome to this exciting new toolkit which will help you start co-creating the curriculum with post-16 learners with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in your setting.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY CO-CREATING THE CURRICULUM?

Co-creating the curriculum is a great way to involve learners in deciding what to learn and how they might be taught.

It is a powerful way of ensuring personalisation of study programmes, as learners get involved in decisions about what and how they want to learn. Involvement in curriculum planning also provides an excellent context for helping learners to take more control over their lives and learn the skills needed to make decisions and express preferences in every aspect of their daily lives.

Co-creation of the curriculum can happen anywhere and with learners of all abilities. Regardless of setting and learner cohort, the principles are largely the same. It is very successfully embedded, for example, in programme development in some universities. With the right support from staff, learners with SEND can engage very effectively in co-creating their curriculum.

WHAT WILL YOU FIND IN THIS TOOLKIT?

This toolkit offers guidance on effective co-creation of the curriculum with learners with SEND. It showcases the positive outcomes achieved as the result of a pilot undertaken by a group of colleges in the Eastern region of the UK.

There is a degree of risk inherent in co-creation; those who now have co-creation established in their settings talk about initially 'taking a leap of faith'. So, it's not surprising if you feel a little nervous about trying this approach, in particular about handing over control to learners. You may also be unsure of how to involve learners with SEND in a meaningful way.

This toolkit provides with you a range of tools and examples to support you on your co-creation journey.

WHO IS THIS TOOLKIT FOR?

This toolkit has been designed for use by curriculum managers and tutors working with learners with SEND in FE settings. It gives FE staff specific guidance on co-creating the curriculum with groups of learners with SEND so that they can apply the principles of co-creation effectively in their setting.

It is easier to introduce co-creation with learners with SEND if certain things are already established in your setting, including:

- an organisational culture that encourages creativity and flexibility in the design and delivery of your curriculum and experimenting with new ways of working
- staff who enjoy taking new approaches, are up for a challenge and believe that learners with SEND, with the right support, are capable of making important decisions for themselves
- systems for evaluating the effectiveness of new approaches
- a strong commitment and creative approaches to learner voice
- person-centred planning processes
- the use of RARPA.

If these are not already in place in your setting, you may want to work on some of these first, or to develop some of them as part of your co-creation project.

CONTENTS

1. Empowering learners with SEND through co-creation

A 5-minute video which introduces the concept of co-creation of the curriculum and explains how learners (particularly those with SEND), staff and the wider organisation can benefit from the approach. The video can be used to set the scene for senior managers, SEND team leaders and teaching and support staff. You could even show it to parents/carers if you decide to introduce co-creation and think they would be interested in knowing a little more about it.



2. Co-creating the curriculum with learners with SEND: a brief introduction for senior managers

Curriculum managers or leaders of SEND teams can use this short PowerPoint presentation to explain co-creation to senior managers and gain their support for testing out co-creation in their own setting. The final slide (of eight) provides a link to the 5-minute video above, which can be shown as part of the presentation, if time allows.



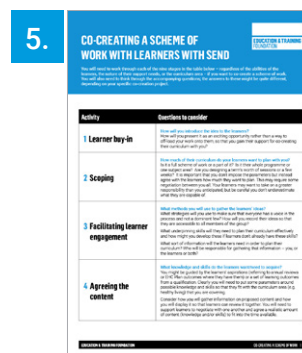
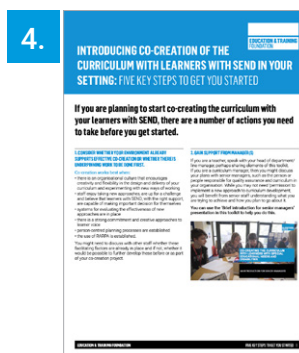
3. Co-creating the curriculum with learners with SEND: a short introduction for staff

This PowerPoint presentation is designed to introduce staff teams to the idea of co-creating the curriculum with students with SEND. It provides them with key information about co-creation and includes the short video above. It also poses a number of questions to help staff reflect on what they see and hear, and hence can be used as a team development activity. Staff can work through it together in around 30 minutes without any prior preparation.



4. Introducing co-creation of the curriculum with learners with SEND in your setting: five key steps to get you started

This document will help curriculum managers to consider whether their organisation is ready to introduce co-creation, and to undertake the groundwork needed to get started on co-creation with learners with SEND.



5. Co-creating a scheme of work with learners with SEND

This guide for teaching staff sets out nine key stages that will help them plan a scheme of work with their learners with SEND.

6. Co-creation in action: examples of effective practice

These case studies can be used to help develop staff understanding of co-creating the curriculum. They illustrate a number of different approaches to co-creation and the impact it has had on learners with SEND, staff and the wider college.



Delivered in partnership with:

