

Sheila Riddell

Biography

Sheila Riddell is Professor of Inclusion and Diversity and Director of the Centre for Research in Education Inclusion and Diversity at the Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh. She previously worked as Director of the Strathclyde Centre for Disability Research, University of Glasgow. Her research interests are in the broad field of equality and social inclusion, with particular reference to lifelong learning, inclusion and diversity, equality and human rights, additional support needs and widening access to higher education. Sheila is published widely in these fields. She is currently working on projects investigating lifelong learning policy, higher education and special and inclusive education across Europe.

Abstract

This presentation begins with an analysis of recent Scottish Government data on the post-school outcomes of young people with disabilities, comparing outcomes of disabled and non-disabled young people and those of specific groups. The paper then focuses on an innovative form of post-school provision for young people with ASD and learning disabilities, which focuses on lifelong learning rather than social care. Two in-depth case studies are discussed, indicating the challenges which continue to be faced by young people with ASD and learning disabilities and their families. The way in which young people's autonomous rights are supported through the transition programme are explored. I also consider some difficult issues, specifically around young people's capacity to make independent decisions, particularly when parents are acting as legal guardians. Finally, the presentation considers the wider social context of reduced public sector expenditure, which has major implications for the realisation of rights.