Transitions in Higher Education for students on the Autism Spectrum.
The importance of linking support across key stages.

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Brighter futures begin with GCU

Outline of the workshop
Introductions
3 Key transition stages :
 - Pre entry
 - Progression through university
 - Preparation for leaving
What do we need to think about at each
transition stage?
How do we try to tackle these areas at GCU
How can we improve on this?
Summary

Introductions

If you can tell us:
 - Who you are
 - Where you work
 - You knowledge/experience of autism
 - What you hope to get from the workshop

Key Transition Stage 1

Pre entry

Any point before starting university

Enquirers at any stage

Applicants

Pre registration students

Group task

Discuss and identify some of the possible challenges facing this group, at this stage of transition

Pre entry support at GCU

Visits to the university

Pre entry correspondence

Summer Transition Programme

Pre entry study skills workshops

School visits

Summer Transition Programme

3 day programme
Run in collaboration with NAS
Opportunity to meet other new students
Discuss the structure of university
Look at the changes between school/college and
University
Introduction to other support services
Orientation of the campus

School Visits

New in 2013
Started with Duncanrig High in East Kilbride
Over two days
Initial visit to school to explain the purpose of the visit
Afternoon on campus the following day
Aim to increase awareness of what university is
New school added n 2015 – Isobel Mair School,
Newton Mearns
Possible new school on the horizon

Key Transition Stage 2 During Studies

At this point we are thinking about any registered student progressing through their programme from year to year.

Group task

Discuss and identify some of the possible challenges facing this group, at this stage of transition

Support During Studies at GCU

Student Mentor support

Learning Development Centre

Assistive technology/software

External support

Academic adjustments

Counselling/therapy

Student Mentor Support

Recruited by the Disability Team directly

Meet with student on a weekly basis

Assist to plan and review their studies

To show strategies to develop the students skills

Key Transition Stage 3

Preparing to leave university   Difficult to define when this process should/does start

This is the process of students finishing up on their current course and deciding what to do next

Group task

Discuss and identify some of the possible challenges facing this group, at this stage of transition

Support at GCU for students preparing to leave university

Careers Service

Mentor

External links

Socialeyes programme

What is Socialeyes

Socialeyes is a learning resource developed with, and for, people on the autism spectrum.

The resource is used by facilitators to help adults and adolescents to explore the social world and become more confident in social situations.

How does it work?

Eight modules

1. Starting a conversation
2. Eye contact
3. Personal space
4. Taking turns in conversation
5. Keeping on topic
6. Talking about interests
7. Sensitive topics
8. Ending a conversation

How does it work continued..

5 stages within each module

1. What?

2. Why?

3. How?

4. When?

5. Try!

Feedback and Evaluation

Programme (8 modules)

- Pre programme self-assessment form

- Post programme self-assessment form

- Post programme evaluation of course

Module

- Pre module self-assessment

- Post module evaluation

How long does the programme last?

- Individual to students

- Set calendar for modules

- One to one sessions are flexible

- Continual development

Summary

3 key transitions

Support available at each
stage

Continuation and dovetailing
of support is vital

Any questions or comments?