

What counts as evidence?

DSA funding and access to Barnsley College HE Disability and Dyslexia Service is based on the student providing clear evidence of a disability/ specific learning difficulty / chronic health issue or mental health issue.

Funding bodies have strict criteria in terms of what counts as evidence.

- For all physical /mental health / sensory impairments –

SFE (and other funding bodies) will insist on a letter signed by an NHS GP or consultant stating the diagnosis, confirming it as long-term and explaining the impact upon the individual. DSA will not be made available until the funding agency is happy with the letter / diagnosis provided.

Appointment letters are not accepted; forms confirming other disability entitlements are not accepted. The student is expected to acquire a letter from the GP to support their own application for DSA funding –It may sound bureaucratic to us- but the DSA support provided in response to this is substantial and worth the effort of pestering the GP / NHS consultant!

(Advice and guidance on acquiring is available from, Jackie Reaney, Barnsley College HE Disability Adviser).

- For specific learning difficulties (including dyslexia / dyspraxia/dyscalculia / dysphasia/ dysgraphia etc

In order to provide support strategies for students with any SpLD the Funding Body require a full, formal diagnostic report produced by an Educational Psychologist or a suitably qualified dyslexia specialist. **This evidence is non-negotiable**; college

/school exam recommendations are not considered acceptable evidence of an SpLD; teacher reports are not accepted as evidence; a GP cannot diagnose dyslexia!

For those students who feel they might be dyslexic, but who have never previously been tested, The Disability Adviser will arrange a full formal diagnostic assessment through an Educational Psychologist. There is usually, a cost for this, but the support and DSA budget available once you are confirmed as dyslexic does make the initial cost worthwhile!

Work can begin pre-entry – the Disability Adviser will assist the student / applicant through this process.

Remember - Students cannot receive any one-to-one dyslexia support or flexibility around extensions to deadlines – without the above evidence!

- For students who are on the Autistic Spectrum– A school or college SEN report is also accepted as evidence by SFE
In all instances present whatever written evidence you have to the HE Disability Adviser and it will be the basis for a discussion of the support strategies available to you.