



Edinburgh College

**Students'
Association**

Barriers to Further Education: Poverty and inequality



What issues do we deal with?

Traditional Issues

Bursary and childcare payments

Academic & disciplinary appeals support

C-card (free condoms)

Increasingly Common Issues

Homelessness

Mental Health Issues

Benefits Problems

Food Poverty



Mental Health

- 60% increase in student mental health disclosures over two years
- Lack of mental health support
- Long waiting lists for mental health services
- Overstretched GP Services
- Rise in number of cases involving students with
 - complex mental health needs
 - trauma and stressor related disorders



Physical Health

- Chronic long-term conditions
- Poor dental health
- Disabilities
- Poor nutrition
- Obesity



Food Poverty

- 170,625 Trussell Trust foodbank uses in Scotland 2017-2018
- Over 55,000 issued to children
- 69.5% of foodbank referral cite reason as low income, benefit delays or benefit changes (Mid-Year Stats)



Local Services

- Loss or reduction in vital community projects
- New residential developments in deprived areas put an strain on local services
- Lack of Social Housing
- Unsuitable Temporary Accommodation



Money Problems

- Student Support Funding
- Travel Funding
- Childcare Funding
- Benefits
- Zero Hour Contracts

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Fragmented Support

- Not enough collaborative working between organisations
- Siloed knowledge and resources
- Lack of working partnerships between front-line staff and external organisations



Period Poverty

- 1 in 5 women in Scotland has experienced period poverty
- Women forced to prioritise food and essentials over sanitary products
- 11% experienced a 'significant health impact' from not being able to change their products as necessary



A Student's Experience

In the following clip you will meet Harry, a Milton Road Fitness student and lives in college halls.

We asked him about his experiences and the challenges he has faced starting and staying in college.



Final Thoughts

To help further education students overcome the barriers caused by poverty and inequality, we must first address the problems facing our communities and between us create strong cohesive partnerships that allow us to help the individuals that can often slip through the cracks unnoticed.

