

Equalities Analysis – BCSA Survey 2020

Mental Health Stats

- **12%** of respondents disclosed having a mental health issue.
- **23%** LGBT students report having a mental health issue.
- **58%** of disabled students had also disclosed a mental health issue.
- **60%** of respondents who disclosed a mental health issue are aged 16-24.
- **39%** of respondents who disclosed a mental health issue are +24.

1. Accessibility of learning

83% of parents/guardians are able to work well from home.

“As my children are now back to school I find it easier to manage my workload.”

“Having 2 children, I have to juggle everything when they are home from school. Their homework, my work also running a house. More difficult when I am learning from home also.”

“I do think college should offer help to cover costs of being at home. It’s now going to be more expensive over the winter to heat my home.”

“Not 'easy' but manageable. When working from home it is really handy being able to fit study times around family life.”

“I wouldn't be able to do this course if it wasn't online for kids and work etc.”

79% of those with caring responsibilities are able to work well from home

“I go to youthy or the learning space because it’s hard to stay at home.”

“It takes getting used to but over time you get better at learning to study on your own and in a way helps you further develop these independent study skills.”

“I personally prefer having handouts and physical books, so I have ordered some for myself. Learning from home is more convenient for me though.”

79% of care-experienced respondents are able to work well from home.

“When we get a break I can lie on my bed and I feel more confident at home because you feel you are not getting judged on what your good at and what you’re not.”

“I hate working from home. I need to be in a room with the lecturer as that way I understand and connect more, and if I have any questions in class then I can ask them on their own, not while the whole class is sitting listening which is the case with teams which then makes me not ask my question as I feel stupid.”

“I like studying from home however it would be nice to actually be in the class with everyone so we can properly talk and get to know each other as we still act like strangers cause we haven't had that face to face contact.”

2. Accessibility of student services

48% of care-experienced respondents have not engaged with student services

“They are very helpful and supportive no matter if it’s a small problem or a big problem, they are there for you.”

“Miscommunication was the problem here in my experience.”

“I got an email from the Mental Health Officer which made it clear you can go speak to her, but I haven't been in touch with the student advice team.”

“Very friendly and helpful.”

55% respondents disclosing mental health issues have not engaged with student services.

“I think contacting the student services team is a good thing because they can you advice if you need anything.”

“During lockdown I was talking to someone about my mental health but we went on a break for a week and i never heard from her again. That made my mental health worse.”

“They make you feel welcome and happy to talk to.”

3. Accessibility of Student Funding

67% of respondents who had issues with contacting the student funding team were between 16-24 years old.

“I struggled to get in touch with the finance team via telephone even using the Borders college number itself listed online. Multiple calls left no answer. Was quite stressful as I had an important matter I needed to discuss with the finance department and needed to talk to someone about it. Email would not suffice or be suitable for the conversation either so needed to be via telephone.”

“They have always been helpful but slow.”

“Student funding were very helpful and quick to respond when there was funding issues.”

31% of respondents who had issues contacting the student funding team had disclosed a disability.

“After many emails asking for XXX statements to which I wouldn't receive due to my XXX, I was told the college couldn't award my bursary without this proof yet it was decided 1 form of proof was sufficient in the end, So much unnecessary haste looking for information regarding how much i received before becoming a student. This information is private and changes from day 1 of becoming a student so not necessarily and intrusive.”

“Very distressing, asking for doctors letters and proof of family breakdown and not accepting letters or emails, making things incredibly difficult for people that genuinely need help.”

“For the most part yes they're very good and easy to deal with, but I did send them an enquiry a wee while ago and I've not heard anything. I'm assuming it may be my connection not sending it and I'm understanding of the fact the college has been closed and there's a lot going on in the world right now so it doesn't affect the fact I find them good and helpful and just really easy to be around.”

“Easy to get in contact with and quick response.”

11% of respondents who had issues contacting the student funding team are care experienced.

“I have been waiting for over a week for a response to an urgent enquiry.”

“They are great they are very patient and I like when people have patience.”

“After a time trying to obtain relevant documentation to support funding I did manage to achieve that goal. However, there needs to be a better understanding of the right documents required for the current financial year and not the last one.”

4. Accessibility of the ISLT Team

50% of respondents who had issues contacting the ISLT team had disclosed a disability.

“If I had any issues with getting onto anything related to emails then I can contact the IT team to ask for help.”

“They’re very good when it comes to giving advice about how to get my laptop up and running as I struggled with this at the start of the block and really needed help and now it's works perfectly.”

“Sometimes do not reply and often times they fail to make a note of something so I get the same email over and over. i.e. asking for the return for the laptop even though I've stated many times the lecturer said I could keep it for the next course.”

43% of respondents who have disclosed a learning disability have not been in touch with the learning support team.

“Keen to help and investigate ways to make learning easier for you.”

“They can give you advice if you need anything.”

“They are great at helping me out.”

“I have had good contact with them and they have been there when I need them.”