

Dear Members,

I am contacting you to pass on an item of interest from Student Minds:

Latest report from HEFCE on student mental health

Towards the end of July the Institute of Employment Studies published a report for the Higher Education Funding Council of England (HEFCE) on the provision for students with mental health problems and intensive support needs. Student Minds and other sector bodies have been involved in this project, representing students on the advisory committee for the report. The report was commissioned by HEFCE in the light of the proposed government changes to funding the DSA. Student Minds welcome this report and feel that it provides an interesting overview to the sector and some of the challenges that clearly lie ahead.

We are keen that this report gets as wider readership as possible, as it offers an insight into the challenges that universities are facing regarding providing support for student mental health. To this end, we have produced a summary of the report, condensing the 180 pages of the original report down to a 16 page overview.

The report does also raise some substantive challenges for how we think about student mental health and how support services are funded and in response to these ideas our founder, Dr Nicola Byrom has written a blog post, which you might find of interest.

We would also be interested in hearing your views on the findings of this report, as we want to better understand the direction that various stakeholders in the sector believe support for students should be heading. We've launched a consultation and invite any students, staff, health professionals or other concerned parties to share their views.

www.studentminds.org.uk/dsa-consultation

If you have questions about either of these items please contact Rosie Tressler on rosie@studentminds.org.uk

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Student Minds works to encourage and enable peer interventions for mental health. We are kindly supported by Comic Relief, the Welton Foundation, UnLtd, The Matthew Elvidge Trust, The Charlie Waller Memorial Trust, The James Wentworth-Stanley Memorial Fund and Student Hubs.

