

Identifying and Overcoming Barriers to Retention

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Why do students drop out?

- Wrong choice of course
- Not coping academically or socially
- Lack of support
- Employment/Apprenticeship
- Poor educational experience
- Financial issues
- Lack of confidence in the future
- Bored!

How can we prevent it?

- Right course first time
- Wrap around provision – curriculum, support finance
- Identify at risk students
- Implement individual support (PLCs)
- Peer mentoring
- Student focussed teaching
- Retained in college not just course

Re-engaging drop outs

- “Choices Plus”
- Mid year start points
- Avoid stereo types
- Keep in touch with college drop outs
- Culture of “yet to complete” not failure



Improving internal retention and progression between years

- Recognise the reasons for lack of progression
- Identify alternative options and opportunity for course transfer
- Promote and market
- Engage with teaching staff



Summary

- Get them on the right course
- Teach them well
- Support them when needed
- Don't give up (or let them)
- Be positive about next steps and future prospects