

## ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE

Economic disadvantage can cause numerous barriers to progression in learning.

Learners experiencing this barrier are often reactive rather than reflective in their learning because the most important thing in their life may not be to secure the education that might break the circle they're in but to actually have enough money to feed themselves, to look after parents, to try and survive day to day.

College may provide the one safe, stable environment in their life at any moment in time.

### **What can we do?**

- Ensure those experiencing economic disadvantage are treated equally, that they have the same opportunities as everyone else.
- Recognise that their circumstance does not mean they are low achievers; it may mean they haven't had the chance to achieve the levels they can.

- Ensure students have everything they need at the start of their course (bursaries, funding for uniform, free meals) to make their life at college as easy as possible.
- Ensure students know there is a 'confidential ear' and that they are able to get the support they need.
- Provide opportunities to access additional support, catch up, 1-2-1 sessions.

Always be ready to support or signpost - you may be the first person they decide to speak to for help.

Provide clear opportunities so that they are aware of their career path. Build aspirations and encourage them to look forward. Believe in them.

*These materials provide an overview to help raise awareness and understanding. If you have concerns please always seek additional support and advice from your safeguarding lead.*