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Paths, Tracks, Gaps and Cliffs: The Post-school Transitions of Students with Special Educational Needs - findings from an NCSE commissioned study

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Abstract

This presentation provides key evidence from a large-scale study examining the post school pathways of students with special educational needs (SEN), commissioned by the NCSE. The study maps with greater breadth the pathways of a representative sample of students with SEN, through surveys and interviews with a range of stakeholders in school and post-school settings and through secondary data sources like Growing Up in Ireland. The sample over-represented DEIS schools and those providing high levels of additional support to students in order to reach those with the most complex needs. It engages in depth with students on pathways currently under researched and poorly understood. Interviews were used to capture the diverse experiences characterising these pathways, involving a range of key stakeholders while centring the young adults own accounts of their trajectories. The use of a mixed methods approach and a range of secondary data sources allowed us to engage with the wider picture of post-school transitions for young adults with disabilities and the nuance of individual pathways.

Bio

Dr Eamonn Carroll is a Post-doctoral Researcher at MTU whose current work focuses on delivery and evaluation of the EmpowerEd programme, a PATH 4 funded programme to deliver Higher Education opportunities to students with intellectual disabilities. As a post-doctoral researcher at the ESRI his work focused on educational equality and inclusion, with an emphasis on the experiences and outcomes of young people with special educational needs and young people from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds and how these experiences and outcomes could be improved through policy and practice reforms.

Bio

Keyu Ye is a Marketing Insights Analyst at Flutter Entertainment and a former Research Assistant at the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), Ireland. Her research at the ESRI focused on the school experiences of students with special educational needs in Ireland. She holds an MSc in Behavioural Economics from University College Dublin and a BSc in International Business and Economics from the University of Nottingham.