

Cylchlythyr | Circular

Reaching Wider Strategy Fund: Allocations 2012/13

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Reference: W12/23HE
To: Heads of higher education institutions in Wales and
Reaching Wider Partnership Chairs and partners
Response by: No response required
Contact: Name: Jane Johns
Telephone: 029 2068 2219
Email: jane.johns@hefcw.ac.uk

This circular sets out the allocations for 2012/13 to support the implementation of Reaching Wider Partnership Strategies and provides additional information on related policy developments.

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Introduction

1. This circular sets out the allocations for 2012/13 to support the implementation of Reaching Wider (RW) Partnership Strategies and provides additional information on related policy developments.

Background

2. Reaching Wider Partnerships were funded between 2002/03 and 2010/11 against funding proposals. Circular W11/01HE set out our reasons for moving to funding against three-year strategies and our expectation that:

'Reaching Wider Partnerships will be a key mechanism of the higher education regional strategies in delivering widening access across the regions'. (p1).

3. In addition to this new relationship with the regional HE Strategy groups, from 2011/12 the Reaching Wider Partnerships' role includes:
 - Responding to regional needs and priorities as evidenced by local labour market intelligence and higher education regional strategies;
 - Responding flexibly to Welsh Government agendas relating to social justice and supporting a buoyant economy;
 - Partnership working with Further Education colleges, Communities First partnerships and other organisations which is multi-sectoral, long-term, genuine and effective;
 - Working with people of all ages from Communities First areas;
 - Working to support the education and skills of looked after children, care leavers and their carers; and
 - Promoting the Reaching Wider Programme regionally and nationally.
4. We requested Reaching Wider Strategies from the three Reaching Wider Partnerships for the period 2011/12 to 2013/14 in the summer of 2011 and announced RW Strategy allocations for the first year of the strategy period¹.

2012/13 allocations

5. The total sum available for the Reaching Wider Programme for 2012/13 is **£2,023,793**.
6. Due to budget constraints, in 2012/13 all HEFCW programme budgets have been reduced by 5.8%. In 2011/12 the RW Programme budget was £2,148,400.
7. The RW Partnership allocations in this strategy period comprise three elements:

¹ See circulars [W11/01HE](#) and [W11/24HE](#)

- i. 15% of the total RW allocation for the number of Communities First areas in each partnership region;
 - ii. 15% of the total RW allocation for the number of Communities First students as a proportion of the total Welsh domiciled students in the regional partner HEIs;² and
 - iii. 70% of the funding allocation based on the Partnership's 2010/11 allocation. The 2010/11 allocation will be used as the base-year for future calculations.
8. In 2011/12 we set aside **£5k** from the RW Programme budget for University of Wales Trinity Saint David to use in the Communities First area of '*Upland villages in the Tregaron area (parts of Melindwr, Lledrod, Tregaron and Llangeitho electoral divisions)*'. This funding, allocated via the South West Wales Partnership, recognised the University's existing RW commitments in these areas. From 2012/13 we expect the North and Mid Wales Reaching Wider Partnership to manage RW provision in this area, working with other providers, as appropriate.
9. The Open University in Wales is a member of all three HE regional RW Partnerships and engages in each region. We expect to see the further involvement of the Open University in Wales in RW activities in each region and for it to be enabled to contribute fully.
10. The allocations for 2012/13 are set out in **Annex A**.
11. Please note that, in the light of uncertainties regarding the level of HEFCW's fee grant commitments, the allocations provided in Annex A are **provisional and subject to change in-year**. We will inform Partnerships of any changes as soon as possible.

Annual Monitoring Statements

12. RW Partnerships will be asked to report on progress in 2011/12 and to provide targets and expenditure plans for 2012/13 in their Annual Monitoring Statements (AMSs).
13. Circular W12/21HE, published in early June requested Reaching Wider annual monitoring statements, as part of our annual request for institutional strategic plans and financial and student forecast data³. The Partnerships' individualised RW AMS have been sent separately to RW Partnership Managers in early July for return by **the end of October 2012**.

² For the purposes of this allocation, University of Wales Trinity Saint David is counted as a funded member of the South West Wales Partnership only. The student numbers of the Open University have been calculated on the basis of the students' area of domicile and allocated to each Partnership accordingly.

³ Circular [W12/21HE](#).

Policy Developments

14. In this Strategy period, the Reaching Wider Programme priorities remain as set out in our original RW Strategy guidance and summarised in paragraph three above. However, since the submission of the Reaching Wider Partnership Strategies there have been a number of new and emerging policies and priorities which Partnerships will want to take into account when implementing Strategies and confirming outcomes for 2012/13 through the AMS process:
- **HEFCW's remit letter** for 2012-13 which sets out the Welsh Government's priorities for HEFCW's work⁴.
 - **Communities First cluster developments.** Our remit letter for 2012-13 welcomed our continued focus on Communities First areas and its expectation that we will work '*with the new Communities First clusters and regional programme boards as they develop*'. Reaching Wider Partnerships are well-placed to engage in CF cluster developments.
 - **HEFCW's Child Poverty Strategy**⁵. We published our Child Poverty Strategy in March 2012 and we confirmed that we will manage our contribution to the eradication of child poverty through our widening access policy area, including the Reaching Wider Programme. We recognise that, among other activities, Reaching Wider provision supports children's transition from primary to secondary school and parents' participation in family learning activities.
 - **Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).** The Welsh Government's Programme of Government identifies a measure for the percentage of EMA recipients progressing to higher education. Partnerships will want to consider ways of identifying and tracking EMA recipients from CF areas through RW provision and onto HE⁶.
 - **Learning Record Service.** Pupils aged 14 years, Welsh Baccalaureate students and work-based learners are being registered by learning providers with unique learner numbers (ULN). We encourage the Partnerships develop systems to collect ULNs, to inform their monitoring and reporting systems.
 - **Development of HEFCW's Corporate Strategy 2013-14 to 2015-16.** In 2012-13 we will consult on our new Corporate Strategy. This Corporate Strategy will continue to deliver Welsh Government expectations set out in *For our Future*. Partnerships might want to contribute to this consultation, including on strategic priorities relating to widening access.

Payment of allocations

15. RW Strategy Fund allocations will be paid in two equal instalments in September 2012 and March 2013. We will confirm release of the March 2013 payment

⁴ HEFCW's [remit letter](http://www.hefcw.ac.uk/publications/corporate_documents/corporate_documents.aspx) can be found at http://www.hefcw.ac.uk/publications/corporate_documents/corporate_documents.aspx.

⁵ HEFCW's Child Poverty Strategy, circular [W12/11HE](#).

⁶ Welsh Government's Programme of Government and progress report can be found at: <http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/?lang=en>

subject to the receipt of a satisfactory Annual Monitoring Statement in October 2012.

Further information

16. For further information, contact Jane Johns (telephone 029 2068 2219; email jane.johns@hefcw.ac.uk).

Annex A

Reaching Wider funding allocations 2012/13

Table 1: Modelling proportional to CF areas, 2010/11 allocations and CF students as a proportion of eligible students in the Partnership HEIs

Partnership	2010/11 funding	15% proportional to CF areas	70% proportional to 2010/11 allocations	15% proportional to CF students as a proportion to eligible students in the Partnership	Total funding 12/13
Available Funding	2,026,000	288,357	1,345,667	288,357	1,922,382
First Campus	800,000	169,326	531,359	114,793	815,479
South West	456,000	62,030	302,875	104,736	469,641
North/West & Mid	770,000	57,001	511,433	68,828	637,262
Total	2,026,000	288,357	1,345,667	288,357	1,922,382

Table 2: Amount and date of RW Partnership allocations 2012/13

Partnership	September 2012	March 2013	Total
South East Wales First Campus	407,740	407,739	815,479
South West Wales	234,821	234,820	469,641
North and Mid Wales	318,631	318,631	637,262
Total allocations	961,192	961,190	1,922,382