

## Cylchlythyr | Circular

# Reaching Wider Strategy Allocations 2013/14

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**To:** Heads of higher education institutions in Wales and  
Reaching Wider Partnership Chairs  
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This circular sets out the 2013/14 allocations to support Reaching Wider Partnerships’ Strategy implementation and provides additional information on related policy developments.

If you require this document in an alternative accessible format, please telephone us on (029) 2068 2225 or email [info@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:info@hefcw.ac.uk).



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## Introduction

1. This circular sets out the 2013/14 allocations to support Reaching Wider Partnerships' Strategy implementation and provides additional information on related policy developments.

## Background

2. Since 2011/12 Reaching Wider Partnerships have been funded against three-year strategies. Circular W11/01HE set out our reasons for moving to funding against 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) <sup>1</sup>*

3. In addition to this specific, underpinning relationship with the regional HE Strategy groups, 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 cluster areas and other organisations which is multi-sectoral, long-term, genuine and effective;
  - working with people of all ages in and from Communities First cluster 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. The current Reaching Wider Strategy period is from 2011/12 to 2013/14, with reporting on progress through our usual annual monitoring processes (see below).

## Policy developments since the submission of the 2011/12 Strategies

5. 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 2013/14 through the AMS process:

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<sup>1</sup> Circular [W11/01HE](#)

6. **Our 2013-14 remit letter** from the Welsh Government makes reference to individuals and communities currently under-represented in universities and to the promotion of regional collaborative provision, including the work of the Reaching Wider Partnerships to promote routes

***‘to and through learning to secure improved retention and progression to higher-level employment and the professions<sup>2</sup>.’***

7. We look to the Partnerships to provide learning opportunities and skills that encourage people of all ages to consider further and higher education to achieve their full potential in the world of work and as citizens.
8. **HEFCW’s Corporate Strategy for the period 2013-14 to 2015-16** has been finalised following sector-wide consultation and Welsh Government approval.
9. Our Corporate Strategy sets out our widening access priorities and measures for the next three years to March 2016. However, we recognise that the Partnership strategies have been agreed until July 2014. Therefore, the Partnerships’ two priorities, **Communities First cluster areas** and **looked after children**, remain the areas of focus, as in previous years of this strategy.
10. **Careers Wales:** With the changes to Careers Wales (Careers Choices, Dewis Gyrfa), Partnerships will want to ensure that learners are supported with appropriate information, advice and guidance about all aspects of further study and the costs of study, as research indicates that the wrong choice of course is a key factor in non-continuation in HE.
11. **The Welsh Government’s Tackling Poverty Strategy and HEFCW’s Child Poverty Strategy<sup>3</sup>** We published our Child Poverty Strategy in March 2012 and we confirmed that we will manage our contribution to tackling poverty and 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 and we encourage Partnerships to develop and promote this aspect of their work.
12. **Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).**The Welsh Government’s Programme of Government<sup>4</sup> 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 HE.

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<sup>2</sup> [HEFCW remit letter 2013-14](#) paragraph 15

<sup>3</sup> HEFCW’s Child Poverty Strategy, circular [W12/11HE](#).

<sup>4</sup> Welsh Government’s Programme of Government and progress report can be found at: <http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgov/?lang=en>

13. **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 to work with us to develop systems which capture the ULN.
14. **Open University in Wales:** As in previous years, we expect to see the involvement of the Open University in Wales as a full member of all three HE regional RW Partnerships and for it to be enabled to contribute effectively.
15. HEFCW, the RW Partnerships and a Careers Wales sub-group are scoping a tracking and monitoring pilot project to enable RW partnerships to track RW participants' learning activities using parts of the Careers Wales database. This will provide a single national tracking and monitoring database for RW and contribute to improving the evidence-base for the RW Programme. It will also enable careers advisers to discuss with their clients their RW learning experiences and their impact on learning decisions.

### **2013/14 allocations**

16. The sum available for the Reaching Wider Programme for 2013/14 is **£1,888,294**, following an efficiency gain of 2.1% being applied to its 2012/13 budget and removal of the reduced amount of £93k of funding to support HEFCW Central Coordination.
17. In previous years, we have set aside funding for specific purposes, for example, for all-Wales activities, or the Trinity Saint David provision in the Tregaron CF area. In this funding period, we are setting aside **£26,282** from the budget for project funding, including developing and implementing the tracking and monitoring project with Careers Wales.
18. The Partnership allocations for 2013/14 are set out in **Annex A**.
19. The strategy funding methodology remains as in previous years and comprises three elements:
  - i. 15% of the total RW allocation for the number of Communities First (CF) 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;<sup>5</sup> and
  - iii. 70% of the funding allocation based on a Partnership's 2010/11 allocation. The 2010/11 allocation will be used as the base-year for funding calculations in this strategy period.

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<sup>5</sup> 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.

20. For funding purposes, in 2013/14 we will use the same Communities First area data to calculate funding as in the previous two years of this strategy. However, we recognise that the Partnerships will begin to work in the new cluster areas and implement their exit strategies from former CF areas in 2013/14.
21. Please note that, in the light of uncertainties regarding the final 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.

### **Payment of allocations**

22. We expect to pay the first tranche of funding for 2013/14 in September 2013 and, subject to the receipt of satisfactory monitoring returns, the second tranche in March 2014.

### **Monitoring**

23. Reaching Wider Partnerships are asked to report annually on progress against strategies through the annual monitoring statement process. Further information detailing the arrangements for 2012/13 monitoring will be provided separately.

### **Further information**

24. For further information, contact Jane Johns (telephone 029 2068 2219; email [jane.johns@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:jane.johns@hefcw.ac.uk)) or Rachel O'Gorman (telephone 029 2068 2227; email [rachel.ogorman@hefcw.ac.uk](mailto:rachel.ogorman@hefcw.ac.uk)).

## Reaching Wider funding allocations 2013/14

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 of eligible students in the Partnership HEIs <sup>6</sup> £	Total funding 13/14 £
South East Wales (First Campus)	800,000	164,009	514,673	112,609	791,291
South West Wales	456,000	60,082	293,363	109,276	462,721
North & Mid Wales	770,000	55,211	495,372	57,417	608,000
HEFCW Project Funding					26,282
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,026,000</b>	<b>279,302</b>	<b>1,303,408</b>	<b>279,302</b>	<b>1,888,294</b>

Table 2: Amount and date of RW Partnership allocations 2013/14

Partnership	September 13 £	March 14 £	Total Funding 2013/14 £
South East Wales (First Campus)	395,646	395,645	791,291
South West Wales	231,361	231,360	462,721
North & Mid Wales	304,000	304,000	608,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>931,007</b>	<b>931,005</b>	<b>1,862,012</b>

<sup>6</sup> Communities First student numbers are extracted from the HESA 2011/12 student record and confirmed by HEIs as part of the verification process for the access and retention premium 2013/14.