

Widening access programme of action

The widening access programme of action will underpin HEFCW's Widening Access Strategic Approach and articulate national, regional and local actions to widening access. To inform the development and implementation of the programme of action, we will:

- i. take into account the outcomes of the Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data & Methods (WISERD) grant-funded work on widening access impacts,;
- ii. publish an evaluation of Reaching Wider Strategies;
- iii. gather evidence on the proportion of "student fee" funds devoted to widening access and participation activity from scholarships and bursaries to school partnership and engagement activity, as well as student placement and employment preparation;
- iv. audit sector-wide partnerships between universities and schools; and
- v. promote relationships with schools and colleges.

Initial action areas are likely to include:

- i. working with WG to develop a widening access framework for Wales, taking account of competing policy priorities;
- ii. exploring with the HE sector ways in which students might be incentivised to provide learning and other support in local schools as part of, or in addition to, their normal course requirements;
- iii. working with WG on the embedding of the Unique Learner Number, noting the work being undertaken by the Higher Education Data Information and Improvement programme (HEDIIP);
- iv. working with the Reaching Wider partnerships to establish a firmer public profile/brand for widening access activity undertaken by the partnerships;
- v. exploring with the Reaching Wider Partnerships ways in which local employers might make a greater contribution to widening access to higher education;
- vi. exploring with the HE sector how to best promote the needs of care leavers, building on UK Buttle framework arrangements; and
- vii. reviewing measures of widening access performance and impact for the HE sector.