

The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales

HEFCW consultation seminar: Reaching Wider Programme

Friday, 18 May 2018

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Cyngor Cyllido Addysg
Uwch Cymru
Higher Education Funding
Council for Wales

hefcw

Welcome and purpose of the consultation seminar

Celia Hunt

Director of Strategic Development

Higher Education Funding Council for Wales

Programme

- 10:45-11:00** **Refreshments in the Rhymney rooms**
- 11:00-11:05** **Welcome and purpose of the consultation seminar**
Celia Hunt, Director of Strategic Development
- 11:05-11:20** **Strengthening and sustaining Reaching Wider: funding, investment and alignment**
Celia Hunt, Director of Strategic Development
- 11:20-11:35** **Strengthening and sustaining Reaching Wider: HEFCW review, context and approach**
Jane Johns, Head of Widening Access and Inclusion
- 11:35-11:50** **Strengthening and sustaining Reaching Wider: collaborating, refocusing and prioritising**
Ryan Stokes, Widening Access and Equalities Manager
- 11:50-12:00** **Questions and answers**
- 12:00-13:00** **Group discussion**
- The discussion will enable delegates to advise HEFCW officers on the development of the Reaching Wider Programme including opportunities to further strengthen the Programme through improved ways of working and stronger collaboration. Discussion will also consider focus on the RW related activities funded through fee mitigation funding and 19/20 fee and access plan investment.
- 13:00** **Next steps and seminar close**
Celia Hunt, Director of Strategic Development
- 13:00-14:00** **Lunch and networking**

RW consultation seminar

Purpose:

- **Share policy and funding context**
- **Update on RW Programme Review**
- **Seek advice on strengthening and sustaining RW**
- **Explore consequences of RW funding and Programme developments**
- **Invite advice on assessing the impact of RW developments**

Strengthening and sustaining Reaching Wider

Funding, investment and alignment

Celia Hunt

Director of Strategic Development

Higher Education Funding Council for Wales

HEFCW Corporate Strategy 2017-20

- Our vision: **accessible**, internationally excellent higher education in Wales
- Our objectives – fund, regulate, influence, work in partnership with students, work effectively as an organisation.
- Well-being objectives include:
 - Ensure that higher education in Wales is relevant and accessible to all who could benefit from it, or contribute to it
 - Promote a system of HE that is financially, economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable.
- National measures consultations ongoing: alignment widening access and inclusion and Reaching Wider

Diamond – widening access funding

‘any future system has widening access as its core objective, is progressive and equitable’ and considers part-time provision.

‘there is a strong case for funding, **probably on a joint basis with HE providers or consortia of HE providers, to promote and incentivise aspiration-raising and the social aspects of widening access’**

(Independent review of higher education funding and student finance arrangements, 2016)

Strengthening through policy and funding - funding

Headline steers 13/02/18 – fee mitigation funding (£10m)

The Cabinet Secretary's October statement included confirmation of an additional £10m for HE providers in Wales to deal with immediate issues arising from not being able to increase full-time undergraduate/PGCE tuition fees above £9,000 in AY ... The total £10m will be allocated for AY 2018/19.

As this is funding that would have otherwise been included within institutions' Fee and Access Plans (FAPs)... the Council proposes that this fee income mitigation funding be allocated with a condition of funding attached relating to further investment in the Reaching Wider activity.

It is proposed that the condition placed on this mitigation funding be such that **17% of the funding should be invested in the Reaching Wider partnership activities by the institutions**, which would match HEFCW's overall Reaching Wider funding allocation of £1.7m. 17% equates to the proportion of the Fee income that HE providers are required to invest in the promotion of higher education and equality of opportunity activities as part of their FAP. **This matched funding expectation would be mainstreamed into the FAP guidance for the following year, AY 2019/20.**

Strengthening through policy and funding - funding

Year	HEFCW funding for Reaching Wider	Regulated Institutions investment in Reaching Wider via mitigation/fee and access plans
2018/19	£1.7m	£1.7m (mitigation funding £5m from 2018-19 and £5m 2019-20 FY)**
2019/20	£1.7m*	£1.7m (fee and access plan contributions)
2020/21	£1.7m*	£1.7m (fee and access plan contributions)(to be confirmed)
2021/22	Unconfirmed	Unconfirmed

*Subject to Council approval

** allocations, including contribution to RW pro rata to student numbers

Fee mitigation and fee and access plan investment

Institution	Completed registrations 2016/17 (all cohorts)	Pro rata allocation (£)	17% of funding for conditional element (£)	Reaching Wider South East Wales 2018/19 £	Reaching Wider South East Wales 2017/18 £	Reaching Wider South West Wales 2018/19 £	Reaching Wider South West Wales 2017/18 £	Reaching Wider Mid and North Wales 2018/19 £	Reaching Wider Mid and North Wales 2017/18 £
University of South Wales	12,292	1,864,486	316,963	316,963					
Aberystwyth University	5,739	870,508	147,986					147,986	
Bangor University	6,184	938,007	159,461					159,461	
Cardiff University	15,267	2,315,743	393,676	393,676					
University of Wales Trinity Saint David	5,664	859,132	146,052			146,052			
Swansea University	10,949	1,660,776	282,332			282,332			
Cardiff Metropolitan University	6,796	1,030,837	175,242	175,242					
Wrexham Glyndŵr University	2,565	389,067	66,141					66,141	
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	423	64,162	10,908					10,908	
Grŵp NPTC Group	48	7,281	1,238			1,238			
Total	65,927	10,000,000	1,700,000	885,881	797,600	429,622	448,849	384,496	484,751

Fee and Access Plan Guidance 2019/20

‘Plans should demonstrate the nature and extent of the relationship between fee and access plan-funded activity and regional Reaching Wider Partnership provision and be explicit about funding streams that support fee and access plan provision and funding that supports HEFCW-funded Reaching Wider Partnership work. We want to understand clearly how plans and Partnerships add value to equality of opportunity and the promotion of HE regionally. Plans should indicate their investment in and contribution to their Regional Reaching Wider Partnership’. (para 107)

Strengthening through policy and funding - institutions

- Strengthening engagement of all HE/FE partners
- Aligning with institutions' WA/equality of opportunity priorities – FAPs, SEPs, regional agendas, civic missions
- Supporting 'under-representation' through institutions' RW contribution to:

bottom two quintiles of WIMD in region especially

- post-16 young people
- looked after children, care leavers and carers in all age groups, and
- adults without HE-level qualifications,

WG Guidance: All FAP applications must include provision to attract applications from groups under-represented in HE.

- Regional outreach

Aligning institution and RW approaches

We will:

- Seek confirmation of proportionate RW investment in 2019/20 FAPs (FAPs Ai and Aii) (feedback includes this)
- Separately, invite proposals from each regulated institution to be submitted with regional RW Partnership strategy submissions
- Provide guidance for a single, costed proposal for both fee mitigation (18/19) and FAP investment (19/20), articulated in FAP terms, aligned with regional RW strategy.
- Approve or otherwise RW proposals including satisfactory use of fee mitigation funding
- Monitor proposal outcomes in line with RW and FAP reporting
- Report to Council and Welsh Government

Strengthening and sustaining Reaching Wider

Review, context and approach

Jane Johns

Head of Widening Access and Inclusion

Higher Education Funding Council for Wales

RW Programme Review 2002/03 to present

- Evaluations: Arad (2007) HEA (2009) (2012) WISERD (2015), WISERD evaluation toolkit (2016)
 - ‘excellent’ and ‘good’ practice’ (HEA 2012)
 - WA & RW – WG ‘**cross-sector framework**’ (WISERD 2015)
 - **The bottom quintile of (WIMD) was now at the same level as those from the quintile above. (WISERD p16)**
- **18-19 remit letter** refers to WISERD outcomes and Programme of Action (March 18)
- **2017/18 RW Review** to inform funding and Programme priorities with WG phasing out Communities First
- Review Group membership and recommendations

Reaching Wider – recognising potential

- **Address WA ‘market failure’**
- **Contribute to Well-being of Future Generations – equal, prosperous, vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language; cohesive communities,**
- **Address Welsh Government priorities – programme of action, university/schools, PT, WM, civic engagement**
- **Demonstrate HE/FE/schools collaboration – PCET agenda**
- **Align with regional agendas - ambitions boards, HE/FE links**
- **Improve WA coherence within institutions/ between partners**
- **Deliver institution priorities - civic engagement, corporate social responsibility**

Strengthening and sustaining the Reaching Wider Programme

RW Programme

- **Is strengthened by match-funding and increased institution engagement**
- Is Wales-wide, long-term, HE/FE collaborative, all-age, WA programme
- Promotes access to level 4 HE - all modes (WM), locations, with range of providers;
- **Prioritises more focused activity for**
 - all-ages in bottom two quintiles of the WIMD
 - looked after children, care leavers and carers
- **Has different, aligned targeting priorities for Partnerships and institutions**
- Has performance measures which contribute to increasing the rate of HE **participation and retention** of young people and adults from the **bottom two quintiles of WIMD** and align with HEFCW's national measures for higher education
- Should be subject to regular, national, external evaluation.

Strengthening and sustaining to deliver potential – Partnerships and HEFCW

RW Partnerships should:

- **Work regionally and collaboratively, including with organisations linked to priority groups, particularly further education colleges**
- **Prioritise all-ages in bottom two quintiles of the WIMD**

HEFCW should:

- **provide a strong policy steer to secure greater coherence between Partnerships and across Wales**
- **provide strong steers to the RW Partnerships and to institutions to ensure funding, including match-funding, is targeted and aligned to RW Programme priorities**

Strengthening and sustaining Reaching Wider:

Collaborating, refocusing and prioritising

Ryan Stokes

Widening Access and Equalities Manager

Higher Education Funding Council for Wales

Strengthening Reaching Wider Partnerships

Priorities:

- New focus on **WIMD bottom two quintiles – 40% of WIMD population**
 - young people in the final years of **primary school to Key stage 4** (age 16),
 - **adults over 21 years of age without level 4 qualifications,**
 - looked after children, care leavers and **carers** in all ages groups.
- **Greater focus on supporting transition;**
- **Greater focus than previously on adults, family learning, community learning for most Partnerships**
- **Closer working with institutions' provision to secure alignment and progression pathways to level 4 HE.**
- **Action needed to avoid duplicating HE outreach, FAP provision and core marketing and recruitment activity**

Strengthening Reaching Wider Partnerships

Activities:

- **More focused national offer of activities:**
 - **raising attainment activities**
 - **mentoring to provide academic, social and emotional support to prepare for level 4 HE**
 - **increasing awareness of subjects, modes of study, locations and financial support available**
- **Action needed to work closely with institutions to secure transition to outreach provision post 16 and progression to level 4 HE**

Ways of working

- Work regionally and collaboratively, **including with organisations linked to priority groups**, particularly further education colleges
- We are not expecting RW Partnerships to deliver everything themselves. We expect more collaborative working with key organisations – **identifying gaps, brokering regional delivery, avoiding duplication.**
- RW must not fund nor deliver qualifications.
- Current governance models be retained and strengthened in 2018/19 with the potential for transition over time to new governance models, if appropriate

RW Partnership funding

- **Funding changes, aligned with institutions' fee mitigation/FAP contribution**
 - **First Campus - £885k**
 - **South West Wales - £429k**
 - **North and Mid Wales - £384k**
- **We expect HEFCW's £1.7m to fund the same level of staffing and activity as previously to ensure sustainability.**
- **Potential for funding from institutions to deliver on their behalf.**
- **Potential for leveraging external funding, subject to HEFCW approval.**

Group discussion

Programme Consultation Questions

- What more would you do to strengthen and sustain the RW Programme?
- Are there any unintended consequences of aligning more strongly institution and HEFCW funded RW programme support? If so, how would you tackle this?
- What more would you do to ensure funding, including match-funding, is further targeted and aligned to RW Programme priorities?
- Is there more, and if so what more, HEFCW should do to secure greater coherence between Partnerships and across Wales?
- How would you measure RW Partnerships' and institutions' progress and success?

Impact Consultation Questions

- Will RW in the next strategy period have any positive or negative impacts or unintended consequences in terms of equality and diversity, the Welsh language, sustainability or the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act? If so, what would you do to address them?

Welsh language implications

- What positive or adverse effects will the process have on:
 - opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?
- Could the process be changed to increase positive effects, or decrease adverse effects on:
 - opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and
 - treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?

Next steps and close

Celia Hunt

Director of Strategic Development

Higher Education Funding Council for Wales