

Access to Higher Education Conference 2011

Thursday 15 September 2011

Improving partnerships with FE colleges and
schools; improving the student experience

1994 group>

Professor Janice Kay

University of Exeter,

Chair 1994 Group Student Experience Policy Group

Summary

- > **Improving Social Mobility (White Paper:5)**
- > Progress: Participation Gap has reduced (NAO 2008), but..
- > 2012: Will demand reduce?
- > Increased targeted support: Bursaries & Fee Waivers
- > Unintended Consequences of White Paper
 - Core/Margin: lower fees in some Unis, but less support
 - Interacting 'cogs' of AAB+ recruitment and Core/Margin reductions means more AAB+ recruitment in the most selective, Fair Access will be increasingly difficult
 - Response to HEFCE: Protect Widening Participation

Table 3: Ratios of actual to expected numbers of relatively disadvantaged young entrants in AAB+ , non-AAB+ and unknown populations

Entry Qualification	Type of disadvantage		
	Low participation areas (POLAR Q1)	NS-SEC 4-7	State schools
AAB+	0.51	0.68	0.88
Non-AAB+	1.08	1.18	1.13
Unknown	1.24	0.75	0.70

Table 3 note: See Appendix 3 for sources, definitions and calculations.

Summary

- BIS Impact Assessment recognises that some students (WP, BME and Disabled) may be adversely affected
- The Case For Outreach (Local v National scale?)
- The Importance of Contextual Admissions
- The 1994 Group:
 - Collective Policies
 - Individual Case Studies
- Recommendations For Future Success

The Widening Participation Agenda

- **Political Imperative (Milburn, UUK)**
 - Combat “intractable” levels of Social Inequality
- **Opening Up Selective Institutions**
- **National Scholarship Programme (NSP)**
- **Importance of Information, Advice & Guidance**
 - KIS, fees, funding and support, graduate premium
- **Contextualise achievement (school background & family history)**
 - “The norm not the exception”
- **Importance of Outreach (eg. Realising Opportunities)**

Access Obligations

- > OFFA Access Agreements from 2012/13
- > Increased support through fees and bursaries
 - 69% of increased spend by 2015-16
 - £246m p.a.
 - But Corver (2010)
- > National Scholarship Programme (£136m)
- > Increased spending on Outreach
- > Challenging Benchmarks & Strong Sanctions
- > Admissions, Retention & Outcomes

The Case For Outreach

- Reaches students who would otherwise face barriers, schemes with proven success
- Targeted interventions
- Local or Regionally based
- Nationally based (Realising Opportunities)
- Can raise attainment & aspiration from an early age
- Again, unintended consequences:
 - Short-term OFFA targets refocus efforts on Y10&Y11
 - Less wider commitment to social mobility agenda (but potential for regional collaborations to develop)

The 1994 Group: Collective Policies

- > Proven record of investment in Outreach (more on average than any other Mission Group)
- > Priorities: Information, Advice & Guidance; Target less advantaged socioeconomic groups; Promote Academic Achievement; Individual schemes at a local level
- > Activities ranging from mentoring schemes & summer schools to workshops & student volunteering

The 1994 Group- Individual Case Studies

> Lancaster University

- ‘Taster days’
- Targeted outreach in BME communities
- Further Maths Education Centre for A-Level students
- Nuffield Bursary Scheme
- PASSPORT to HE Certificate

The 1994 Group: Individual Case Studies

> University of Exeter

- Linked with Contextualised Admissions
- Commitment to Care Leavers
- Sutton Trust Academic Routes, Realising Opportunities
- Compacts with Exeter, Devon & Cornwall FECs and Schools
- Ted Wragg Trust School
- Student Mentors and Ambassadors
- New and innovative communication channels including social media websites, podcasts and online tutorial
- Regional Collaboration on IAG and aspiration raising
- The KPMG model

The 1994 Group- Individual Case Studies

> University of Surrey

- Committed to targeting two thirds of its outreach on students from poorer backgrounds, first generation students, local authority care leavers and travellers
- Uses POLAR2 data to assist in targeting schools and colleges from low participation areas
- Commits £100,000 pa to create curriculum support material for schools

The 1994 Group- Individual Case Studies

> Queen Mary, University of London

- Guidance talks in schools & colleges
- 'OnQ' newsletter for teachers & careers advisers
- Co-sponsoring attempts to establish new Academy in Havering
- 'Centre of the Cell' bioscience education centre
- Nuffield Bursary Scheme

The 1994 Group- Individual Case Studies

> University of Leicester

- Volunteer scheme for students to shadow pupils from disadvantaged local schools
- Mentoring & motivation schemes for 13-16 year olds

> University of Essex

- Organises political talks in schools & colleges
- Sociology Sixth Form Conference
- Biological Sciences Schools Link project

Recommendations for Future Success

- > Emphasise targeted local, recognising scale issues
- > Utilise own strengths, recognising local and national needs of Schools and Colleges
- > No 'One Size Fits All'; flexibility is key
- > Emphasis on IAG
- > Not just intervention, but evaluation
- > Target higher retention rates for all groups of students
- > Create link with contextualised admissions

Access to Higher Education Conference 2011

Thursday 15 September 2011

Improving partnerships with FE colleges and
schools; improving the student experience

1994 group>

Professor Janice Kay

University of Exeter,

Chair 1994 Group Student Experience Policy Group