

SEN13D016

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Recruitment and Outreach Department

Summary report on Access Agreement and Widening Participation Strategic Assessment annual monitoring return to OFFA/HEFCE for 2012/13

In January 2014 the University submitted its joint Access Agreement and Widening Participation Strategic Assessment (WPSA) monitoring return for the academic year 2012-13 to OFFA and HEFCE. The return covered both the University and its franchise partners: City College Norwich and Easton and Otley College.

Monitoring return key figures

- ✦ Additional fee income £19,433,220
- ✦ 8306 current system students paying a higher fee
- ✦ 3114 (37.5%) students in receipt of an OFFA countable financial support
- ✦ OFFA-countable bursaries and scholarships expenditure: £3,712,363 (19.1%)
- ✦ Outreach expenditure £961,804
- ✦ Student success expenditure £72,965
- ✦ Total OFFA countable expenditure £4,747,132 (24.4%)
- ✦ Overall widening participation expenditure (incl. OFFA countable) £7,838,162

Commentary

In terms of Access Agreement milestones and targets, the University reported that we have made positive progress to achieve our overarching aim of meeting HESA WP benchmarks. In addition we have met or exceeded other milestones and targets relating to outreach activity, both in terms of volume of activity and targeting of students from low participation neighbourhoods. Our aim of maintaining the proportion of entrants in receipt of full state support has not been met. The proportion has dipped sharply for 2012/13 driven by a drop in students paying £9000 fees from low income backgrounds so this needs to be explored further.

Equality and diversity is increasingly becoming more prominent in terms of Access Agreement requirements. Positive progress to align and embed work on widening participation with equality and diversity at the University was reported. The Assistant Head of Outreach works closely with the Head of Equality and Diversity with further strategic work planned to strengthen linkages.

Moving forward, data to ensure an evidenced based approach is key, facilitated by the University's data warehouse project. 2012/13 focussed on data requirements for key strands of activity including widening participation and equality and diversity. To support our monitoring and evaluation focus, the Outreach Evaluation Coordinator contributes to both Outreach and broader Widening Participation data requirements.

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12/2/14