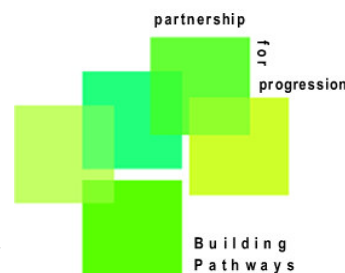


Building Pathways

Newsletter No. 2 Jun 2001

www.shu.ac.uk/pathways



Regional Progression Entitlement – Principles Agreed

At its March meeting on June 12th the Building Pathways Planning Group was pleased to receive a resounding endorsement from all partners for the proposed Regional Progression Entitlement. The policy has now been formally adopted by most partners and is progressing through the decision-making structures of the remaining institutions. Provisionally called **Pathways to HE** the partnership will now be working to implement the proposals by:

- *Publicising routes into HE for under represented groups*
- *Encouraging HE providers to make more favourable admissions offers to learners from partner colleges*
- *Developing web-based entry profiles which emphasize access for people with non-traditional qualifications and experience*
- *Working with Guidance agencies to promote the entitlement*
- *Encouraging the recognition of credit-based learning and other “different” qualifications*
- *Encouraging the development of part-time and flexible higher education opportunities*

We are financially supporting a number of developments to implement Pathways to HE and would welcome further proposals from partners.

Contact John Harvey for further information.

Progression to HE for Classroom Assistants

Building Pathways, in partnership with Sheffield Hallam University School of Education, has obtained funding from the SHU Premium Funding Widening Participation initiative to support classroom assistant's access to HE programmes. The aims of the project are to map the qualifications and opportunities for training that already exist for classroom assistants working in South Yorkshire, identify gaps in the learning ladder and develop proposals for creating a regional CATS framework. The outcome will be the creation of clearly identified and published progression routes for classroom assistants from FE into HE.

An Event for Guidance Workers in the Region

Seventy people working in the region in careers/connexions companies, colleges, higher education, schools and the voluntary sector signed up for an event sponsored by Building Pathways held on Friday 15th June 2001 in Sheffield, with a keynote address by Professor Gareth Parry of the University of Sheffield. The theme was “Guidance, Collaboration and the Widening of Participation” with the focus on under-represented groups and non-traditional learners. It was an opportunity to find out about the various widening participation initiatives in the region and to share information on best practice. Future meetings are planned around the theme of providing guidance for under-represented groups to encourage progression to HE.

Contact Building Pathways for further information.

Web Sites

Regular web users may have noticed that our web site is in need of an update. We hope to do this very shortly.

We are also intending to begin to publicise new Pathways as they are developed. To this end, we are also in discussion with the South Yorkshire Widening Participation Partnership who are developing a regional web site to be called **go4uni** aimed at local people, particularly those unfamiliar with higher education. New opportunities, including the emerging progression entitlement will be publicised through this means.

See the Action on Access web site for details of other projects across the country; www.actiononaccess.org

STOP PRESS

Green Light for Building Pathways Objective 1 Bid

We have been given the go ahead for a £310,000 2 year bid to support additional guidance bursaries and other provision in South Yorkshire to encourage participation in higher education from under-represented groups.

Access to HE Regional Frameworks

Development of the Regional Access to HE framework is progressing in two phases:

Firstly, the new Access to Health and Nursing regional framework is almost in place. The final Units Approvals Panel of the year for this Framework will be held on 13 June, to consider a range of locally devised units in the following areas: Professional Development, Principles of Care, Placement and Statistics which will then be available for wider use along with those already approved.

Secondly, a successful seminar held on 30 April at Northern College attended by staff from thirteen colleges together with representatives from HE, agreed the need for a regional framework for Access to Social Sciences and Humanities programmes. Development work will start shortly to:

- * *Consider whether the new Study Skills units which were developed for the Health Access Framework are more generally applicable across Social Science and Humanities Access programmes.*
- * *Consider whether the new Social Science units developed for Health and Nursing Access are applicable/acceptable across all Social Science/Humanities programmes.*
- * *Examine the Humanities Access curriculum and agree the main subject areas which will then form the basis of the development groups. An initial mapping identified History, Literature, Politics, and Economics as the most popular areas.*

We are very conscious that a number of colleges are approaching resubmission deadlines. The view taken at the seminar was that colleges and other providers across the wider Open College Network region should be able to join the development of a regional framework which, when complete, would form the basis of their submission for recognition. We are therefore consulting with our Open College Network colleagues to agree a timescale for this. The intention is to provide Building Pathways support to help providers develop their new programmes within a regional framework. We are planning a programme of working group meetings. Colleagues from the Building Pathways Partnership Colleges have made a valuable contribution to the development and are to be congratulated on their hard work.

Further information on the development and issues from Andrée Eaves, Project Worker.

Ufi and Building Pathways

One of Building Pathways first projects was the development of a regional framework for ICT. This eventually led to a contract from Ufi to develop ICT units, which would form the basis of Ufi's ICT offer and inform materials development and qualifications design. Colleagues from Sheffield and Chesterfield Colleges, the WEA and Sheffield LEA completed this work. Things have now come full circle and a group led by Chris Welburn and involving the WEA, Chesterfield, Sheffield, Thomas Rotherham and Rother Valley Colleges is now completing the original project – a regional framework of Open College Network ICT units.

Further details can be obtained from Chris Welburn on 0114 2252530.

In addition.....

Irene Allan and Chris Roberts have recently completed another Ufi contract for Building Pathways. This time to develop numeracy units.

Constructing Pathways into Environment and Development

Building Pathways are partners in a joint HEFCE Widening Participation Premium Funding initiative developing regional progression routes into the School of Environment and Development in Sheffield Hallam University. The work will build on existing initiatives in the School such as the part-time degree in construction management which allows faster and flexible progression for learners from college programmes in the region, links with Sheffield Hallam University Community Regeneration programme and other community activities.

Details from John Harvey, Project Manager.

Support for NVQ Learners

A new NVQ 3 to HE Study Skills Bridging Course will be an Open College Network validated programme.

Two writers - Jenny Lee and Evelyn Abram - who both have experience of working in childcare, and developing and assessing childcare workers, have produced a format for the programme which has been given approval by college representatives. The aim is to have the study skills programme ready for use with learners by January 2002. The programme will have generic units which should be useful for all NVQ 3 learners. It will allow colleges to deliver the programme concurrently with an NVQ, as a short course or eventually as an online programme. Colleges supporting the programme development include, RCAT, Sheffield College, North Nottinghamshire and Wakefield College.

Further information from Judy Smith, Project Worker.

Who Are We?

The Building Pathways Project is a partnership of Further and Higher Educational providers in South Yorkshire, North Derbyshire and North Nottinghamshire working to open up access and provide clear progression routes to Higher Education for local people. We have the support of all local colleges and higher education providers in the region, OCN and the WEA.

Building Pathways
37 Broomgrove Road
Collegiate Crescent Campus
Sheffield Hallam University
Sheffield S10 2BP E-mail j.harvey@shu.ac.uk
Telephone 0114 225 2530 Web site www.shu.ac.uk/pathways