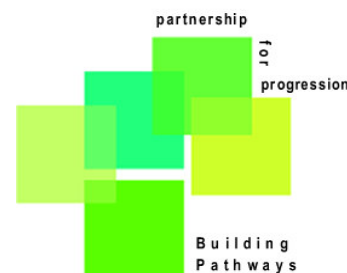


Building Pathways

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www.shu.ac.uk/pathways



Students on New Routes to Success

Building Pathways Partners have celebrated the Spring with formal endorsements of the new progression agreements agreed between local FE Colleges and Sheffield Hallam University Schools of Health and Social Care and Education. Some students have already enrolled onto the second or third years of degree programmes in Social Work and Early Years Education. Rhiannan Billingsley, Director of the School of Health and Social Care, described the progression opportunity as "brilliant" for learners and supported the widening participation strategy being followed by the School. Di Bentley, Director of the School of Education highlighted the importance of the partnership agreement not only for the professional development of students but also for the children who will benefit from the increasing numbers of teachers and the competence and knowledge of the future qualified staff. Both Directors identified how important the agreements are for developing the skills and knowledge of local people to provide future services and work for the benefit of local communities.

Clive Macdonald, Director of the Student Services Centre in Sheffield Hallam University, supported the events with members of his Widening Participation team. Clive pointed out how the agreements reflect the aims of the Widening Participation Strategy in SHU and how the Building Pathways work provides an exemplary model for future developments for widening participation into HE as proposed by the new Higher Education Funding Council consultation document, *'Partnership for Progression'*.

BUILDING PATHWAY

Embedding Building Pathways

The Building Pathways team have been developing relationships with staff in Sheffield Hallam University Student Services Centre finding ways to embed the work BP has done within the established systems of the university. Issues relating to widening the participation of student through pre-entry, admission, induction, on-course and into employment are all relevant to the work of Pathways and future discussions are planned around ways to support students with particular needs through the life-cycle of the student. The role of the Associate College Network in SHU is important in developing these issues. For example, a meeting of HE Co-ordinators from local colleges is planned for **Monday 13th May 10am -12 in the Boardroom, Howard Building Sheffield Hallam University** to explore the support needed for learners progressing from HE in FE programmes to degrees in SHU. Hopefully this will develop into a regular support programme for these learners with a focus on the role of Advice and Guidance, ICT systems knowledge, role of tutorial in HE, and the monitoring and tracking progress of learners.

Progression into Nursing and Health Professions

Pathways has been working with the School of Health and Social Care in SHU and the School of Nursing in the University of Sheffield around progression issues for learners on to Health programmes. A regular forum of Health and social Care Resource Managers from partner colleges meets regularly with university staff sharing ideas and knowledge about progression. Students from partner colleges are able to apply directly to the admission tutors for the Advanced Nursing Diploma in Sheffield University which gives them an advantage in obtaining an interview and admission to nursing programmes. The numbers enrolling on Nursing Diploma and Nursing Degree programmes are very high. The group are also involved in a project to increase the participation of people from black and ethnic minority groups on health programmes. This work is in partnership with the South Yorkshire NHS Workforce Confederation

Further details from Judy Smith

Other work of this group relates to the use of the NVQ Study Skills Bridging Programme developed by the partnership to support NVQ learners in childcare and care onto HE programmes. Local colleges are contact-

Community Development Project

Alison McHale, working in Sheffield Hallam University for Building Pathways, has been mapping the FE Level 3 learning provision available in the South Yorkshire region for voluntary and community workers. Alison is hoping to provide a directory of the programmes available, identification of the progression routes into Further and Higher Education for learners from this sector, and commentary on where gaps exist in provision. This work forms part of the aim of Building Pathways to support the provision of clear progression routes for these learners, possibly including the development of a new Foundation Degree in Community Development and Regeneration.

Further details from John Harvey on 0114 2254425 or Alison McHale on 0114 2253033

Access to HE Update

The Access to HE Regional Framework development has moved into Phase 2. A new Humanities Framework including Literature, History, Politics and Economics and Geography programmes is now underway with enthusiastic support of local colleges. The aim is to progress quickly to have new units validated and available by March 2002. A further development of the Phase One work has been the production of User Guidelines for partners wanting to use the new Access to HE Regional Framework.

Details from Andrée Eaves 0114 2252530

Evaluation of the Building Pathways Project

During 2002, the Project will be aiming to embed the new practices and relationships that have developed as a result of the work of the Building Pathways Partnership. In addition, we intend to evaluate the outcome of our work. To this end, we are funding an evaluation of the Project by Dr. Sue Webb of the Institute of Lifelong Learning at the University of Sheffield.

Building Pathways Guidance Seminar Routes into Nursing and Health Occupations Wednesday 21st November 2001

9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**St Mary's Church and Conference Centre
Bramall Lane, Sheffield**

Building Pathways are holding a morning seminar for Advice and Guidance staff, college lecturers, course tutors and others supporting people into health and related occupations. The event aims to update people on changes in the health sector, the NHS modernisation agenda and new learning and training opportunities that exist in the region. The event will have input from staff delivering programmes in local HE institutions, plus an overview of the needs of the NHS from the North Trent Workforce Confederation. This event is one of a regular series planned by the Building Pathways Partnership aimed particularly at guidance and other staff supporting people into further and higher education. Details from Judy Smith 0114 2254425

New Developments in Construction and Engineering

Building Pathways is supporting the development of a number of projects related to Construction and Engineering learning programmes.

A publicity booklet promoting progression routes for Modern Apprentices in Construction and Engineering into local FE and HE provision is underway. The content is aimed at both learners and employers and should be available soon for distribution. The HNC programmes in Construction and Engineering are undergoing development and a new project has begun to articulate the HNCs with the Construction Access to HE course in Sheffield College and Rotherham College or Arts and Technology. In addition, a further project will look at the co-ordination of bridging programme provision for NVQ learners in Engineering and Construction onto the new HNC programmes. The aim is to focus on widening participation by non-traditional groups into these programmes. One group of such learners are women and Building Pathways are supporting activities in Sheffield Hallam University during Women in National Construction Week in October, as part of the long-term aim of increasing their participation on Construction and Engineering programmes.

Further details from John Harvey or Judy Smith on 0114 2254425

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