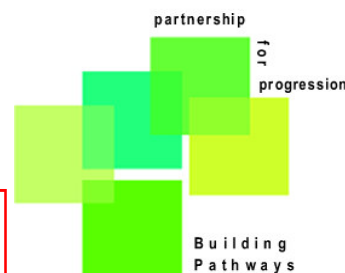


Building Pathways

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Students on New Route to Success

Building Pathways Partners have celebrated the Spring with formal endorsements of the new progression agreements 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. 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 pointed out how the agreements reflect the aims of the Widening Participation Strategy in SHU and fits well with the new model higher Education Funding Council proposals '*Partnership for Progression*'.

Partnerships for Progression

Proposals for the next round of funding Widening Participation activities have been published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. The Building Pathways Partnership has responded to the proposals with a clear message on the importance of the regional partnership, the key role of FE colleges and the need to be flexible in the age groups targeted.

Details from John Harvey on 0114 225 4425

Embedding Building Pathways

The Building Pathways team have been working with staff in Sheffield Hallam University Student Services Centre to embed the work BP has done within the established systems of the university. Supporting learners through pre-entry, admission, induction, on-course and into employment are all relevant to the work of Pathways. 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 arrangements. For example, a meeting of HE Co-ordinators from local colleges was held on Monday 13th May in Sheffield Hallam University to explore the support needed for learners progressing from HE in FE programmes to degrees in SHU. This will develop into a regular support programme for these learners with a focus on the role of Advice and Guidance, knowledge of ICT systems, the role of tutorial in HE, and the monitoring and tracking 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 and universities share 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. 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 contacting the regional Learning and Skills Council to explore the funding available for this programme to support the transition for caring staff into HE.

Details from Judy Smith on 0114 225 4425

Raising Aspirations in Rotherham

The Faculty of Construction in Rotherham College recently held a successful information evening on progression routes into HE for all their mature learners taking Construction NVQ/HNC programmes. Forty learners attended the evening and colleagues gave presentations from the College and Sheffield Hallam University. A number of learners indicated a new interest in progressing. The College proposes building on this experience. **Details from Dave Wadkin at Rotherham College of Arts & Technology on 01709 362111**

Developing the Regional Access to HE Framework

Phase One of the project (Access to Health & Nursing/Social Care) is now well established, with the majority of the region's providers of Access programmes in Health & Nursing/Social Care either using Framework units or considering using them. OCN Standardisation procedures are now in place, involving delivering tutors and OCN Moderators. This year's standardisation (Biological Sciences, Social Sciences, Study Skills) takes place on **22 May at Northern College** and organisations planning to use these units are welcome to send one representative to the meeting. Work on Phase Two (Access to Humanities and Social Sciences), involving twenty tutors from eight colleges, is now complete. A wide range of generic units in Geography, Politics, History, Philosophy, Literature and Women's Studies went to an OCN Units Approvals Panel on 27 March. Media Studies and Law units go to Panel in May. Samples of units are available on request from Julie Hamilton the Building Pathways Administrator: j.hamilton@shu.ac.uk or telephone 0114 2252530. Future framework developments include Access to Business Studies with initial discussions planned to take place soon.

Doncaster College, in discussion with SHU School of Education, has developed an Access to Teacher Training Programme, using Framework units from both phases in addition to other options. Once approved, discussions will be held with interested parties on the programme's potential for regional programme status. To discuss any of these developments or to express interest in discussions on Access to Business Studies and/or Access to Teacher Training regional programme, please contact :

Andrée Eaves: a.eaves@shu.ac.uk or telephone 0114 225 2530/2510

For further information about the standardisation contact Elaine Jarvis, OCN Quality Assistant: e.jarvis@shu.ac.uk or telephone 0114 225 2499

OCN Access Project

Dorothy Donnison, is working with OCN and Access providers in the region to improve the collection and dissemination of data on Access to HE. With around 1000 learners achieving the Access to HE Certificate and progressing to HE last year, Access programmes continue to make a very significant contribution to widening participation for adult learners in the region. As the OCN link to Building Pathways, Dorothy is also involved with new initiatives on non-Access level three provision and is working with Admissions Tutors at Sheffield Hallam University towards a minimum entitlement for Access applicants as part of the Building Pathways Progression Entitlement.

Details from Dorothy Donnison on 0114 225 2510

Classroom Assistants Project

Building Pathways is funding a project in partnership with Sheffield LEA. The aim is to map the qualifications, education and training undertaken by classroom assistants in Sheffield, consider the credit achieved and achievable via these routes, and support these learners into higher education. The project links in with another project funded by the DfES and Premium Funding in the School of Education in SHU involving the local LEAs and college partners. This project is reviewing opportunities for progression for classroom assistants into teacher training programmes and may lead to a Foundation Degree development. In addition, a further project is researching the experiences and aspirations of some of the classroom assistants.

Details from John Harvey on 0114 225 4425

Research Activities

Building Pathways is jointly funding research around the role of Admission Tutors in Sheffield Hallam University and their role in supporting the widening participation agenda. The Learning, Teaching and Research Institute in SHU is carrying out the research led by Diane Burns. Pathways is interested in ensuring that the WP message is clearly understood by all admission tutors to all HE programmes and this research may highlight the strengths and weaknesses of the current practice.

Details of the research from Diane Burns, Sheffield Hallam University on 0114 225 4012

The School of Education are carrying out an evaluation of those students admitted to the Education degrees following the new admissions agreements. Building Pathways has supported the work and the outcome will be shared with BP partners.

Details from Rosie Bingham, Sheffield Hallam University on 0114 225 4749

Routes to HE for the Voluntary and Community Sector

Alison McHale of the **Go4Uni** project has produced a directory on routes in FE and HE for the voluntary and community sectors. We have also worked with the School of Social Science and Law at Sheffield Hallam University to support their review of the Community Regeneration Programme including the potential for Foundation degree development.

Details from Alison McHale, Sheffield Hallam University on 0114 225 3033

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