



Introduction to the Fast Forward Project

Building Pathways and the South Yorkshire OCN are committed to opening up access to Higher Education. This is especially relevant for learners who have the potential for progression, but who may not have previously considered this as an option.

Over the last year partners have developed a short programme which is designed to 'bridge the gap' for learners with significant work-based learning or some vocational Level 3 academic qualifications, to progress into negotiated HE programmes. Progression will be faster for those learners who may traditionally have had to follow a

longer programme of study. We are anticipating that, although modes of delivery may differ between providers, the programme will be delivered over a shorter period of time, e.g. a summer school or part time evening provision.

The programme is designed to assist learners who wish to progress to HE to study a Foundation degree, a HNC/D or a full Honours degree either within a university or a HE programme of study within an FE setting. Progression opportunities have been negotiated to HE programmes in partner FE colleges, the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University.

Programme Structure

The programme offers flexibility within a clearly defined structure for progression. It has recently been validated by the OCN and uses existing BP/OCN Access to HE units as the vehicle for learning. It provides up to 8 credits of learning with the core of this in study and research skills to support learning in HE plus curriculum units which provide the underpinning theory. The choice of units available is designed to provide flexibility to support learners through a range of curriculum areas. Study skills units will be taken from

- ☒ Written presentation
- ☒ Reading and note taking
- ☒ Research skills
- ☒ Dissertation
- ☒ Exam Techniques and practice
- ☒ Oral presentation
- ☒ Gathering and using information

A wide choice of curriculum Units may be selected primarily from BP/OCN regional framework of units.

Who is the Programme for ?

- Learners with significant work experience, who may not have formal qualifications but who may have responsibilities within the workplace requiring skills in managing own work-load, work load of others, supervisory report writing, vocational training etc.
- Learners with significant work experience demonstrated through NVQ competencies particularly at level 3 which may require them to have a level of autonomy and/or supervisory role within a workplace, experience of applying knowledge to work activities in complex or non- routine situations.
- Learners who may hold a variety of qualifications such as partially or fully completed GNVQ/ACE, AS/A level, but which do not permit entry to HE. Also non-current qualifications, achieved within the last five years, may be acceptable.

The programme outline:

An 8-credit programme would be the norm consisting of the following units:

- 1 credit guidance unit – compulsory
- 3 credits of study skills units
- 4 credits of curriculum units - *overleaf are some example programmes.....*

Fast Forward



Learner A

- wants to progress into HE Nurse Training (degree or adv dip?)
- possesses 5 non-current GCSEs (or NVQ3 in Care)
- employed as nursing assistant

Suggested programme of study using FF programme:

- 1 credit – Guidance unit
- 3 credits – Study Skills
 - Exam Techniques and Practice or Oral Presentation
 - Written Presentation
 - Reading and Note-making
- 4 credits – Curriculum units
 - Principles of Care (2 credits)
 - Life Sciences (1 credit)
 - Social Sciences (1 credit) (eg sociology, health)

Fast Forward



Learner B

- wants to progress to Foundation Degree in Early Years
- possesses NVQ at level 3

Suggested programme of study using FF programme

- 1 credit – Guidance unit
- 3 credits – Study skills
 - Written presentation
 - Research and Gathering Information
 - Oral Presentation
- 4 credits – Curriculum units
 - Sociology
 - Psychology
 - Education (2 credits)

Fast Forward



Learner C

- wants to progress to a business degree
- worked in variety of jobs for 20 years with business management experience
- currently employed to manage a community centre
- has some level 3 qualifications

Suggested programme of study using FF programme

- 1 credit – Guidance unit
- 3 credits – Study skills
 - Written presentation
 - Research and Gathering Information
 - Oral Presentation
- 4 credits of Curriculum units
 - e.g. Management—principles and theory (2 credits)
 - Business Finance
 - The Structure of Business Organisations

Suggested Modes of Delivery

The maximum timescale the **Fast Forward** programme can be delivered over is twelve weeks. The aim is to give sufficient time to develop the study/research skills of a learner over a shorter period compared to a learner on a full Access Certificate. The programme thus lends itself for delivery in a number of different modes:

- o A dedicated **full or part-time** programme delivered within a 12 week period (or a semester)
- o An '**infill**' programme over twelve weeks to fit within the existing Access to HE programme e.g. learners would undertake an individualised programme of study
- o A **full-time** programme over a limited number of weeks e.g. a six-week summer school or transition programme
- o An '**e-supported**' or distance learning programme within the maximum 12 weeks