2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

Provider impact report

This impact report summarises the progress made by Nelson and Colne College against targets, objectives and written commitments set out in its 2019-20 access and participation plan. This document is a summary of information submitted by the provider to the OfS. This document is a self-report by the provider only and does not indicate any OfS assessment of compliance.

1. Ambition and strategy

Nelson and Colne College's ambition and strategy as detailed in the 2019-20 access and participation plan:

The ambitions and strategies from the College's 2019/20 Access and Participation Plan can be summarised as follows.

Ambitions
- To ensure that students from under-represented groups and those from disadvantaged backgrounds have fair access to higher education.
- To build aspiration and achievement through a continuing focus on access, participation, student success and progression.
- To increase the volume of its higher education
- To halve the disparities between its level 3 and higher education profiles over a period of five years from the introduction of this Plan.

Strategies

Access
- To provide means by which adult returners to education can access vocationally relevant higher education.
- To remain vocationally relevant by maximal engagement with local and regional employers.
- To increase engagement with level 3 learners
- To increase engagement with Schools

Success
- To support continuation by addressing non-academic reasons for withdrawals by providing a flexible means to address student financial stress.
- To provide wrap-around support services to complement students' academic studies.

Progression
- To promote progression through higher education in tutorials, etc. and through close collaboration with its partner employers and universities in order to raise students' aspirations to progress as far as possible in education and/or employment both for their own sakes and for the benefit of the local economy.

2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by Nelson and Colne College of progress against the targets approved in its 2019-20 access and participation plan.

Please note the tables contain only a summary of target milestones approved in 2019-20 access and participation plans. Full information can be found in **Table 8a – statistical targets and milestones** and **Table 8b – Other milestones and targets** of Nelson and Colne College's 2019-20 access and participation plan.

Any optional commentary provided against the targets is given in Annex B.

Statistical targets and milestones

Reference Number (lifecycle stage)	Description	Baseline year	Baseline data	2018-19 milestone	2019-20 milestone	Units of target	Comparison year	Actual performance in comparison year	Target self-assessment
T16a_01 (Access)	To increase the proportion of young entrants to 55% of the HE intake while increasing mature entrant numbers. The targets and baseline numbers given are for young entrants. This data will be gathered from internal records.	2017-18	40.6%	43.5%	48.0%	Percentage	2019-20	27.2	No progress
T16a_02 (Access)	To increase the proportion of ethnic minority entrants to HE to 28%. This data will be gathered from internal records.	2017-18	21.9%	23.1%	25.1%	Percentage	2019-20	14.7	No progress
T16a_03 (Access)	To increase the proportion of female entrants to HE to 47%. This data will be gathered from internal records.	2017-18	38.1%	39.9%	42.7%	Percentage	2019-20	58.6	Expected progress
T16a_04 (Success)	At least one third of students successfully completing a qualification at level 4 or level 5 should progress to study at the next highest level. This data will be gathered from internal records.	2017-18	<10%	10%	15%	Percentage	2018-19	46.6	Expected progress

T16a_05 (Access)	In conjunction with university partners, employers and other agencies, as appropriate, maintain sustained outreach to potential mature students living in disadvantaged areas. This will be by means of targetted outcreach activities, open events, workshops, taster events, etc.	2017-18	73	83	95	Headcount	2019-20	103	Expected progress

Other milestones and targets

No data was returned for this section in Nelson and Colne College's 2019-20 access and participation plan.

3. Investment commitments

3.1. Access and participation investment for the last audited year

Please note that some differences in predicted vs actual spend may be due to reporting differences between academic and financial years.

Financial year	2019-20		
	Predicted spend (£)	Actual spend (£)	Difference (ppt)
Access investment	£51,750.00	£170,602.00	230%
Financial Support	£25,875.00	£18,560.00	-28%

4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected Nelson and Colne College has made the following commitments to increase the rate of progress against their targets.

Reference Number	Steps that will be taken in the future to make expected progress against target
T16a_01	None
T16a_02	Continuing to update our curriculum offer, to produce even more inclusive marketing materials and actively to target selected under-represented communities for outreach activities.

5. Confirmation

Nelson and Colne College confirms that:

Student engagement
Have you worked with your students to help them complete the access and participation plan monitoring student submission?
Yes
Have you engaged with your student body in the design, evaluation, and monitoring of the plan?
Yes

Verification and sign off	
Nelson and Colne College has confirmed that the information included in this impact report is accurate, that it has been compiled in line with OfS guidance, and that it is being submitted on behalf of the governing body of the provider.	
Yes	
Accountable officer sign off	
Name	Amanda Melton
Position	Principal

Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets

Nelson and Colne College's commentary where progress against targets was less than expected.

Target reference number: T16a_01
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Yes
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
No

Target reference number: T16a_02
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Yes
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Yes, we have looked at the reasons that might lie behind this poor performance and have identified that there are previously pooly understood factors at work here. These include the mix of qualifications, subjects and study modes on offer, the imagery used in our marketing, the areas and communities targetted for recruitment. We have taken action to update our curriculum offer, to produce even more inclusive marketing materials and actively to target selected under-represented communities for outreach activities. It is too early to know whether these changes will bear fruit and we expect it to take time for this to be seen in an improving balance in our entry profile.

Annex B: Optional commentary on targets

Nelson and Colne College's commentary on any of the targets listed in .

Reference Number	Optional commentary
T16a_01	The orginal target was set in the context of a particular issue with a subset of programmes at our pre-merger Nelson site. Since our merger with Accrington and Rossendale College our demographics have changed significantly. The big drop in apparent performance does not represent a drop in real performance in recruiting young students. Much work has been done in this area and there are now well-embedded systems to promote young progression. However the merged College's course portfolio now also includes more programmes specifically targeted at adult returners, in order to address higher level skill shortages in the local economy. The success of these programmes acts to prevent the proportion of young entrants increasing significantly even as their absolute numbers rise. For this reason, this target does not exist in the APP for 2020/21 onwards.
T16a_02	Of all the areas covered by the 2019/20 APP this is the one where we feel that we have the greatest need for action. It is not clear that the actions taken to date will be sufficient and we plan to work closely with our student body and with external stakeholders to see if there are further measures we should take.
T16a_03	This unexpecedly fast achievement of the overall goal of reversing a gender imbalance is largely the result of merging with a college with a majority female student body.
T16a_04	The exceeding of this target is the result of two factors: increased availability of top-up programmes and merger-related changes in the College's student body. However, even if these changes were to be stripped out of the data set, the 2019/20 goal would havve been exceeded comfortably.
T16a_05	