

## DSA Update – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017

**LAUNCH DATE** – was Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. We are live!

### **UPDATES FROM GRAHAM TRANTER, DSA CONSULTANT:**

- **NHS:** Work ongoing with NHS BSA as transition of new NHS applicants comes under SFE funding rules. Suggested figures from NHS BSA suggest approximately 2,000 new NHS DSA applicants.
- **NEW POLICY AMENDMENT:** Please note a policy update regarding support from HM Forces based overseas. Prediction is low impact, but please do familiarise yourselves with key policy points:
  - o Current policy is that FT DL needs to be undertaken in the UK
  - o Student support is to be extended to Armed Forces personnel and their families who are serving overseas
  - o Support will be in line with the standard package for full-time and part-time distance learning students

This change will affect new and continuing AY 17/18 HE students

**THE DSA2 LETTER:** Update to be given at next month's DSSG Meeting in London on Customer Insight feedback regarding DSA2 letter – **KM will try and get update and circulate via Peter/Trudy in advance of next meeting**

### **HIGHER EDUCATION FORUM – FUTURE OF DSA IN HE** – (January 26<sup>th</sup>, London).

- Sessions and Slides included 'Benefits of Inclusive Learning', update from the 'Office of Independent Adjudicator', BATA, NUS, Ever-sheds (Legal Firm that oversees Legal Obligation on HEPs for Reasonable Adjustments), DfE – rationale behind DSA Changes, QA Panel ; NEON DSA Working Group – **KM will chase up as still no slides received to date**

### **WIDENING PARTICIPATION (ESTRANGED STUDENTS)**

Slides included which were delivered at Stand-Alone Conference. This includes Service Enhancements to Estranged Students that, under certain circumstances can (a) continuing students can self-declare evidence and (b) telephone / case-worker approach to assessing estranged student applicants. Full details in slides.

### **EVENTS**

Student Support Seminar – DSA Workshop with Operational Staff sessions available

### **KEY CONTACTS:**

For any queries relating to NEON updates: [Kevin\\_mcmullan@slc.co.uk](mailto:Kevin_mcmullan@slc.co.uk)

For DSA Team in Darlington (Practitioner use only): [Dsa\\_response@slc.co.uk](mailto:Dsa_response@slc.co.uk)

Graham Tranter, DSA Stakeholder Consultant:

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