

The Access Story and Challenge



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Vice Chancellor
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A modern higher education sector must be open and inclusive. It must pursue wider social inclusion as an institutional objective.

Blunkett (2000)

Purpose of Higher Education

- To enhance individual life chances by encouraging and enabling individuals to develop their own capabilities
- To increase knowledge and understanding to benefit the economy and society
- To serve the needs of an adaptable economy, regionally, nationally and internationally
- To play a major role in shaping a democratic, inclusive society

Targeted Students

- Adults
- Ethnic Minorities
- Disabled
- Social Class
- Women
- Care Leavers
- Foyer Students
- White working class boys



We keep adding to this list. Do we ever improve access enough to take groups off the list or does the issue change?

Third Party Interventions

- Local Authorities
- HEFCE / HEFCW / SFC / DELNI projects
- FEFC / LSC
- Gordon Brown
- Aim Higher
- Lifelong Learning Networks
- Franchising
- OFFA

Issue

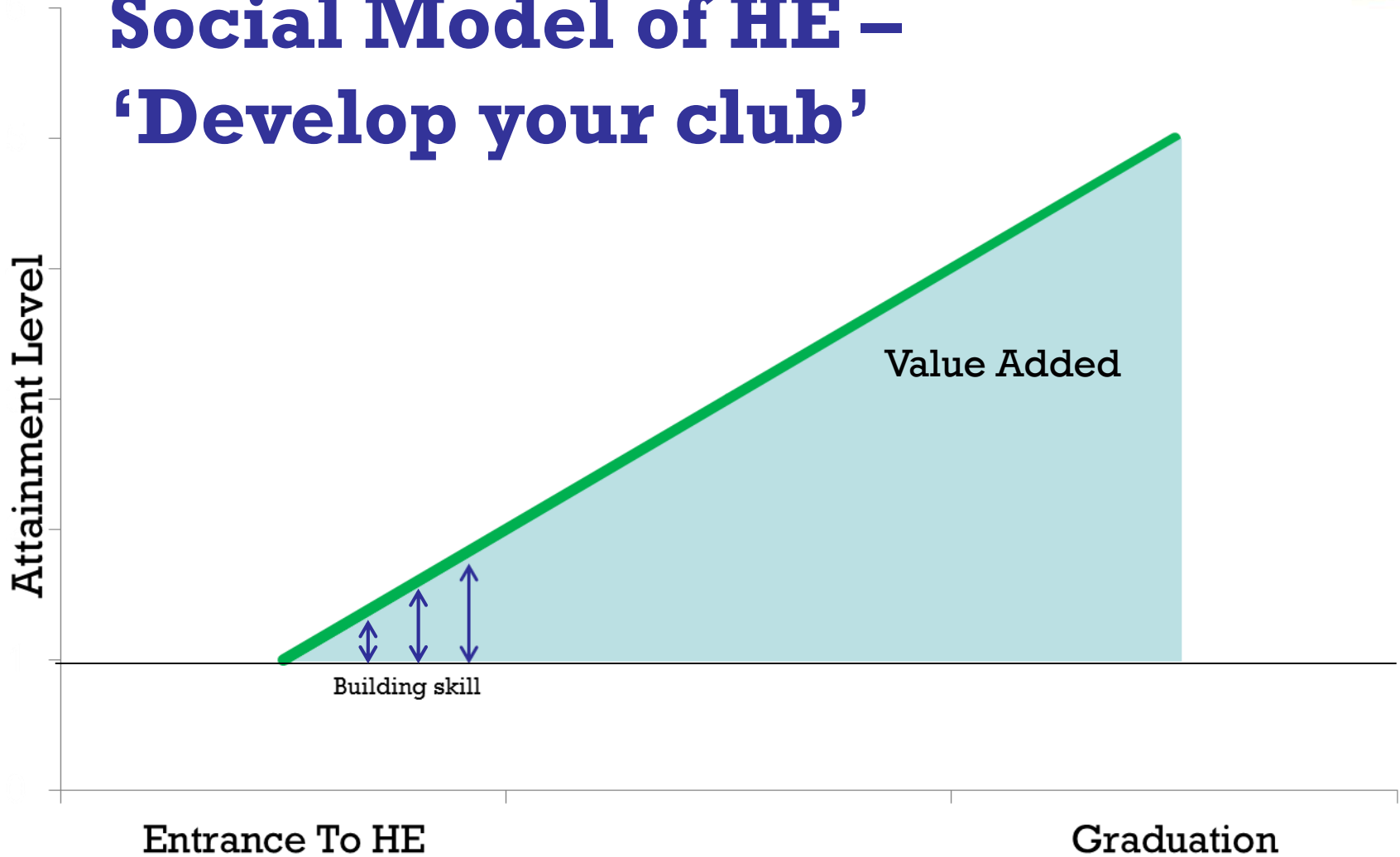
- Access has predominantly been seen as being about getting different groups into HE.
- Limited action on change within HE. Even less about moving on.

Inclusive University

“By inclusive learning...we mean the greatest degree of match or fit between the individual learner’s requirements and the provision that is made for them”

The Tomlinson Report (1996)

Social Model of HE – ‘Develop your club’

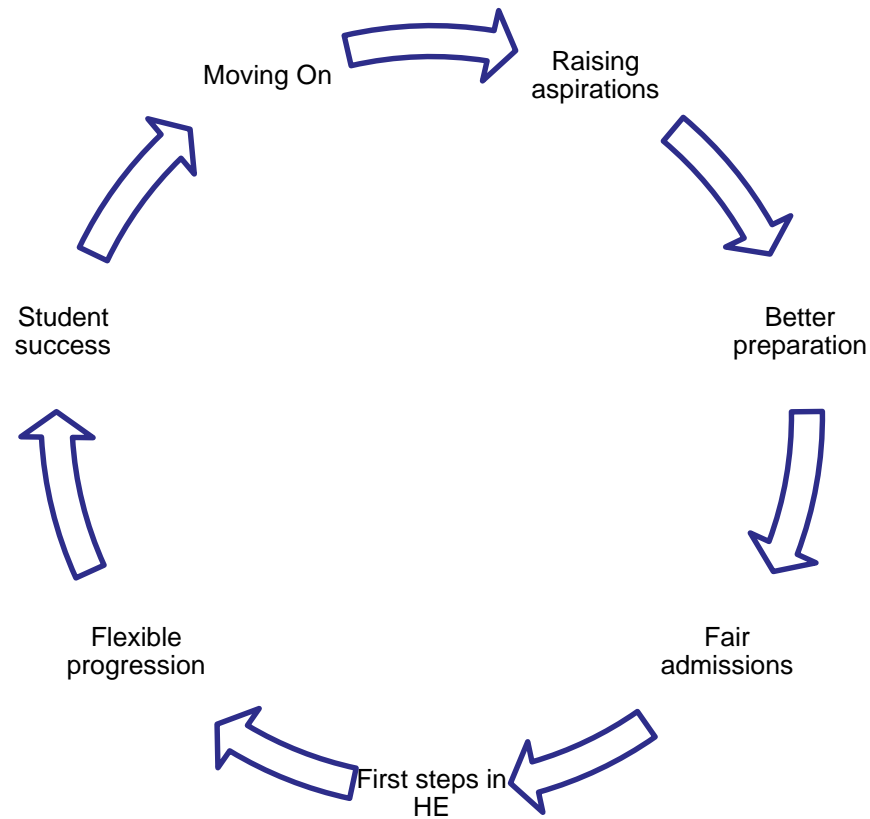


The Watershed

Strategies for Widening Participation in Higher Education (HEFCE, 2001)

- Planned, holistic strategic approaches to access
- Student Life Cycle
- HEIs asked to look at:
 - Access
 - Partnerships
 - Marketing
 - Transition
 - Learning and Teaching Strategies
 - Student Financial Support
 - Employability Strategy

Student Life Cycle (HEFCE, 2001)



The University of Wolverhampton

- **Foundations in the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution**
- **Started life over 180 years ago providing free education classes to adults**
- **Central base in the UK industrial heartland**



Our University – 2012/13

Target	UK Average	University of Wolverhampton
Students admitted from a State School	89%	99%
Students admitted from NS-SEC 4,5,6,7,8	32%	53%
Students admitted from Low Participation in HE areas	11%	19%
BME Students (all students)	17%	31%
Students in receipt of DSA	6%	5%

University of Wolverhampton - The ‘University of Opportunity’

- Progression rate highest ever
- Degree completion rate best ever
- Good honours above benchmark
- Employability best ever
- NSS best ever

University of Wolverhampton - The ‘University of Opportunity’

- Promote social mobility
- Enable significant improvement in individual life chances
- Shape economic and social regeneration in region

Example Projects

- School partnerships – 14 Academies, 3 UTCs
- Distributed HE Centres
- Transition
- Student Support
- Learning and Teaching interventions and enhancement
- Employability focus



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Thank you