

Office for  
Students



# Supporting access and participation in higher education

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Office for Students

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# OfS objectives

Every student, whatever their background, has a fulfilling experience of higher education that enriches their lives and careers.

## Participation

### Objective 1

All students, from all backgrounds, with the ability and desire to undertake higher education, are supported to access, succeed in, and progress from higher education.

## Experience

### Objective 2

All students, from all backgrounds, receive a high quality academic experience, and their interests are protected while they study or in the event of provider, campus or course closure.

## Outcomes

### Objective 3

All students, from all backgrounds, are able to progress into employment, further study, and fulfilling lives, and their qualifications hold their value over time.

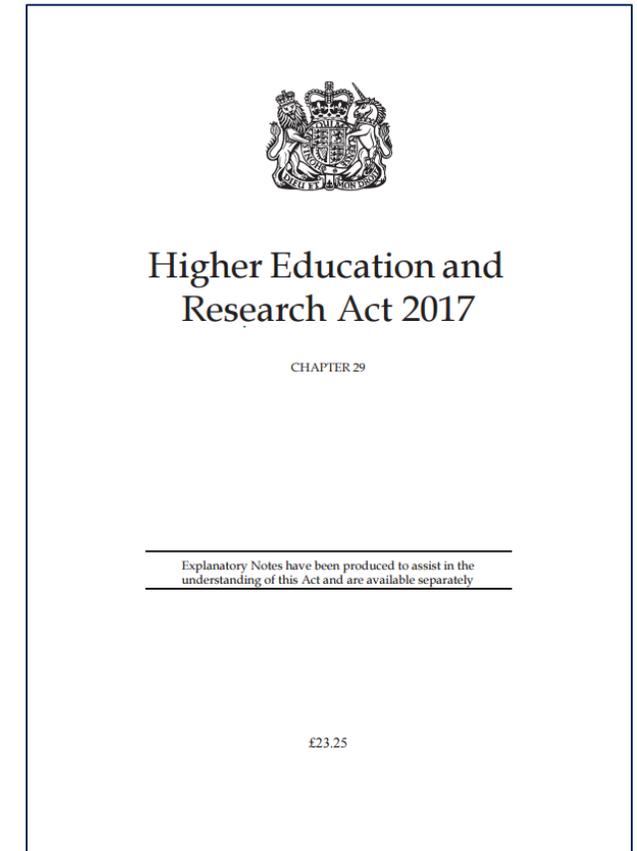
## Value for money

### Objective 4

All students, from all backgrounds, receive value for money.

# OfS duties in HERA 2017

- (a) protect the institutional autonomy of English HE providers
- (b) promote quality, and greater choice and opportunities for students, in the provision of HE
- (c) encourage competition between English HE providers in connection with the provision of HE where that competition is in the interests of students and employers, while also having regard to the benefits for students and employers resulting from collaboration between such providers
- (d) promote value for money in the provision of HE
- (e) promote equality of opportunity in connection with access to and participation in HE**
- (f) use the OfS's resources in an efficient, effective and economic way
- (g) regulatory activities should be—
  - (i) transparent, accountable, proportionate and consistent, and
  - (ii) targeted only at cases in which action is needed.



# Access and participation plans

- Honest, rigorous and public analysis of gaps across the student lifecycle
- New objectives towards reducing gaps and improving practice by 2024-25
- Credible plans to deliver the objectives
  - Theory of change
  - Evidence-based measures
  - Investment underpinning the measures
  - Evaluation and continuous improvement
- Impact reports and integrated financial reporting
- Risk-based monitoring and intervention



# Evidence, evaluation and effective practice

- Want to see evidence and evaluation used effectively by the OfS and higher education providers to drive improvements in access and participation
- Making available and supporting the take-up of more common and rigorous data and evidence
  - Centre for Transforming Access and Student Outcomes
- Identifying and sharing effective practice
  - A-Z reference tools



# Office for Students Challenge Competition

Industrial strategy and skills – support  
for local students and graduates

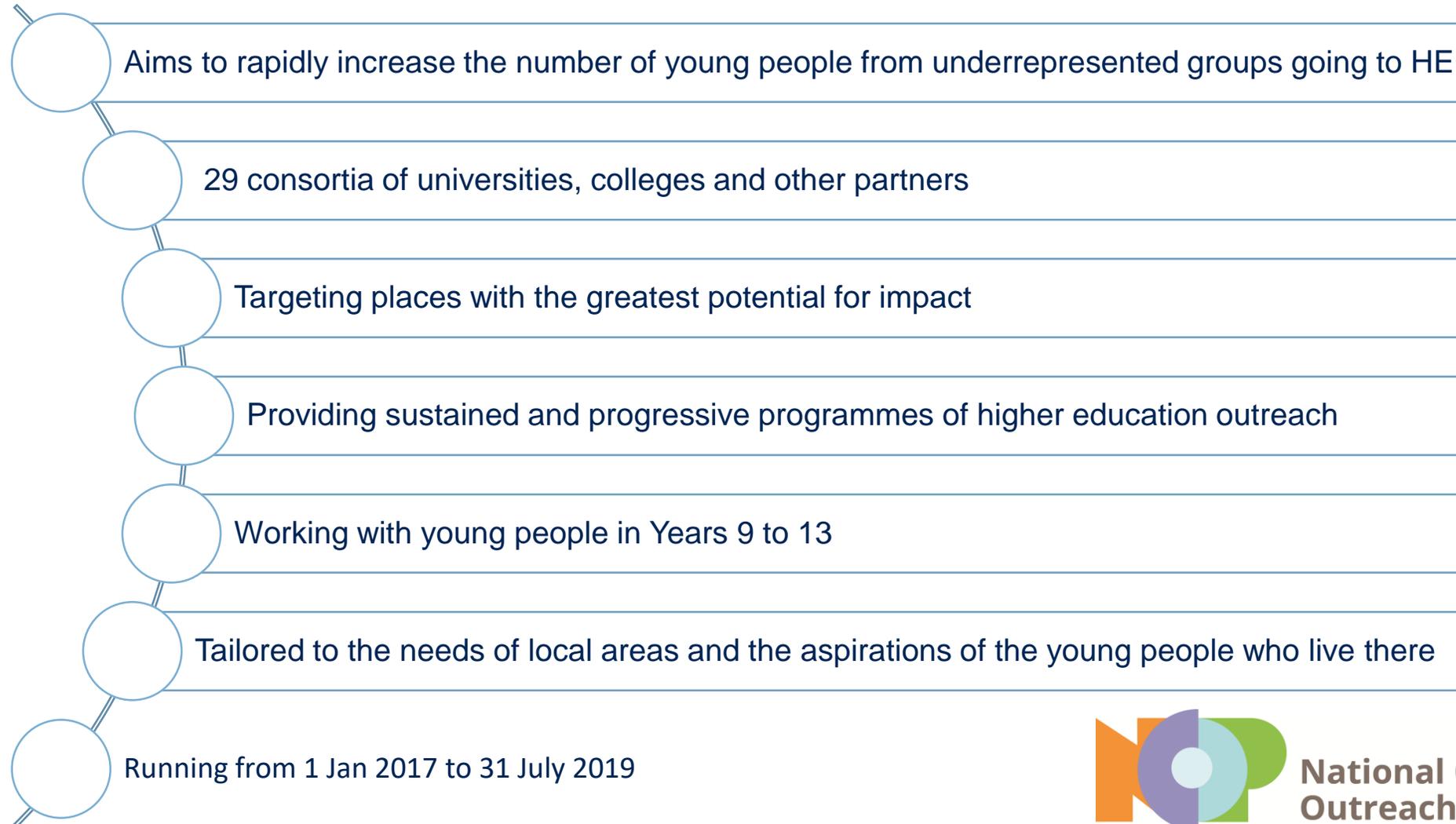
- £5.6 million to boost opportunities for graduates who seek work close to home across 15 projects
- Projects to identify:
  - What interventions work best in a variety of different regional and local contexts
  - What interventions work best for different types of students and graduates
  - Findings that can continue to shape sector-wide debate and inform interventions to capitalise on grad skills and knowledge for the benefit of individuals and economic prosperity



# Funding for access and participation

- Current OfS funding allocations for access and participation
  - Premium to support successful student outcomes: full-time (£165m)
  - Premium to support successful student outcomes: part-time (£72m)
  - Disabled students premium (£40m)
  - National Collaborative Outreach Programme (£60m)
- Review of OfS funding (not including NCOP) planned for this year
- Research underway to understand models of support for disabled students in higher education

# National Collaborative Outreach Programme phase one



# NCOP phase two

## OfS funding to support

Sustained and progressive programmes of targeted outreach for young people from Year 9 upwards

Information and signposting for teachers and advisors about local outreach activity

Support for schools and colleges in areas of low participation to access higher education outreach

Strategic engagement and activity through local outreach hubs

Robust qualitative and quantitative evaluation, locally and nationally

## Complementing and adding value to

Individual provider activity, as set out in access and participation plans

Collaborative activity by providers, as set out in access and participation plans

Local authority and local enterprise partnership activity to address educational disadvantage, high level skills needs and joined up careers advice

Local careers leads and Enterprise Advisor Networks

Opportunity Areas and Opportunity North East

## Leading to

Reduced gap in higher education participation between the most and least represented groups

Young people supported to make well-informed decisions about their future education

Effective and impactful local collaboration by higher education providers and their partners

Stronger evidence base and strengthened evaluation practice in the sector

Office for  
Students

The logo for the Office for Students, featuring a dark blue square with a yellow square in the top right corner containing the letters 'OfS' in white.

OfS

# Thank you for listening

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