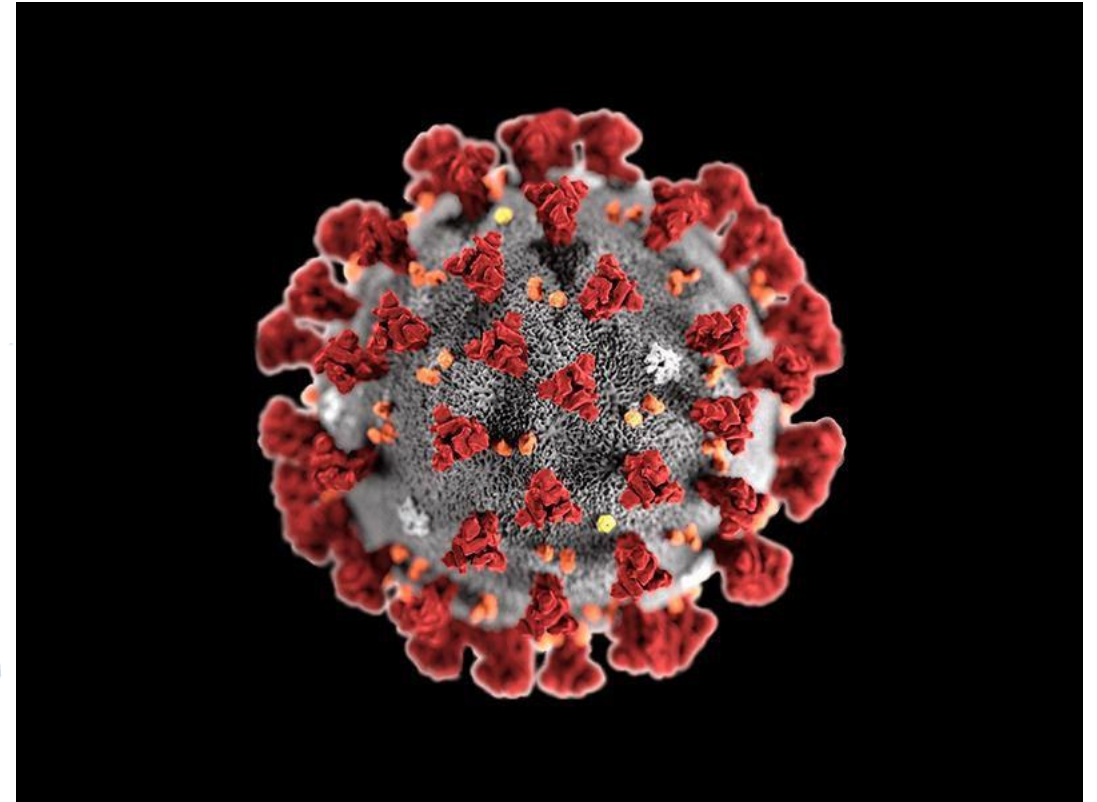




National Education Opportunities Network



**The Impact of Covid-19 on
widening access**

#outreachonline

Background

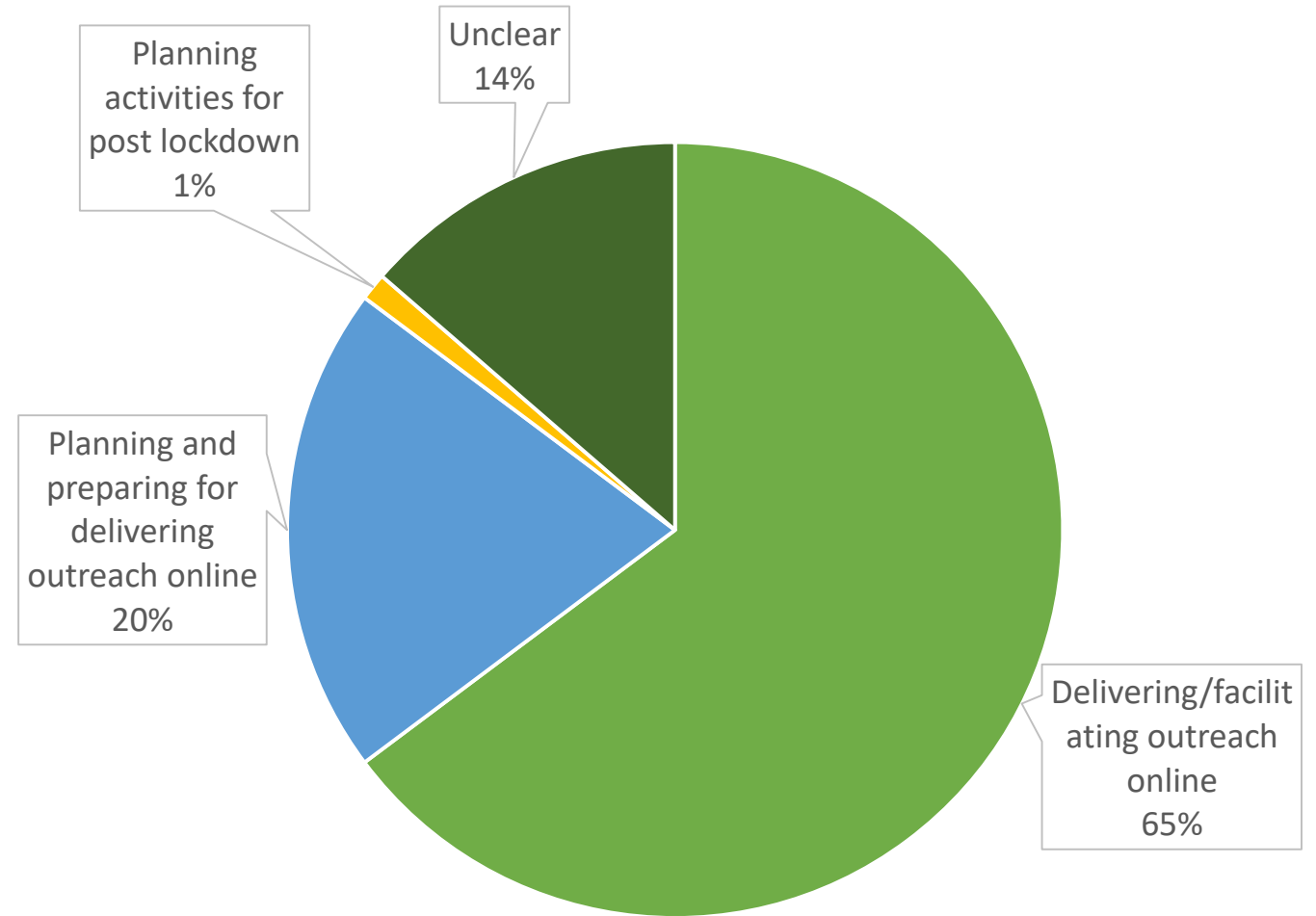
#outreachonline

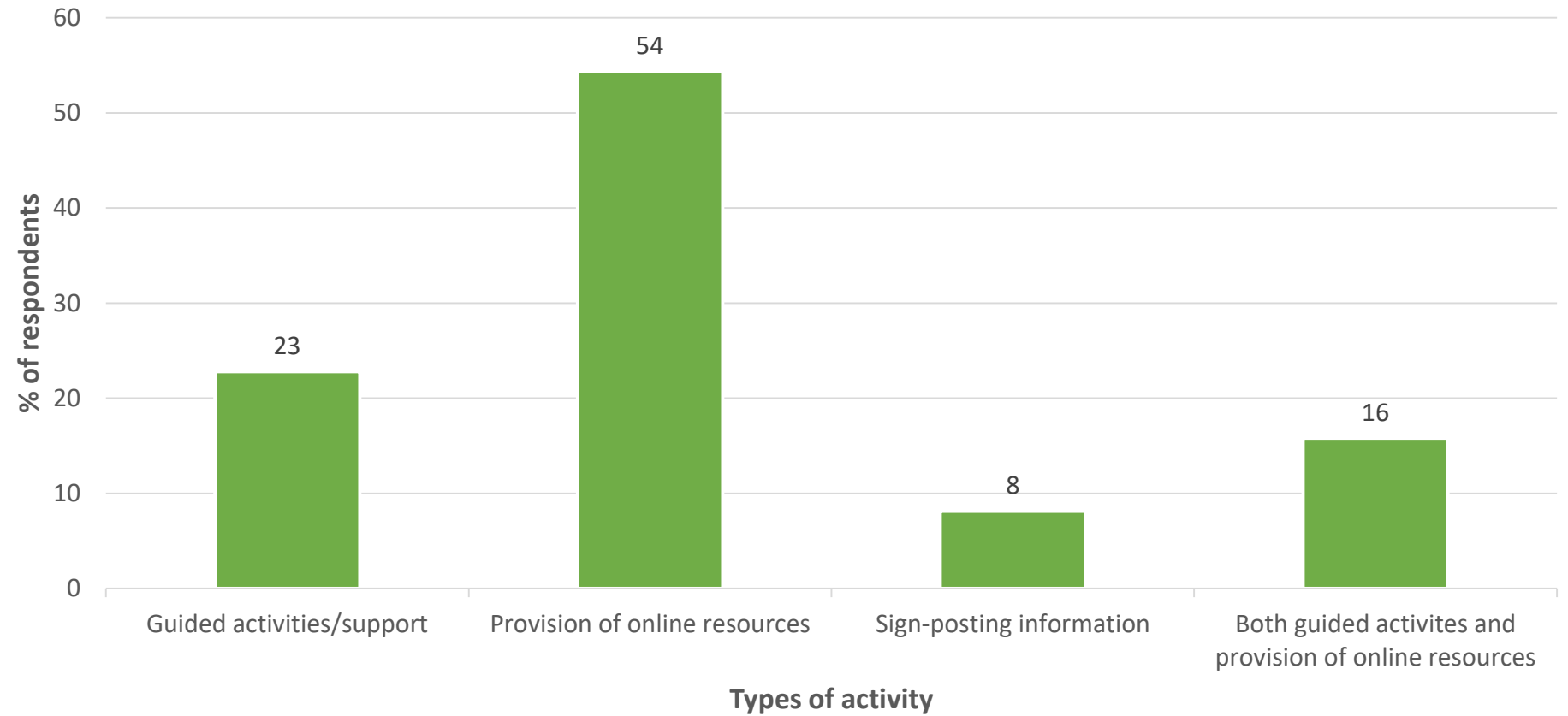
- Survey was conducted to explore the impact of covid-19 on widening participation in the second half of April
- Overall, 98 organisations responded 19 of these were from UniConnect partnerships. The remainder were from HEIs and other organisations from across the UK.



What are
organisations
doing in
terms of pre-
HE outreach?

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What type of online activity is being carried out?

Online activity – examples

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Provision of online resources

We are creating online sessions with our music and performing arts tutors that we hope to distribute to schools to assist them in delivering online tuition. We are speaking with our WP schools to see if their pupils find online information inaccessible, and we will work with them to develop accessible materials if possible.

Leeds College of Music

Guided activities/support

We have developed alternative ways to offer advice and guidance to the young people and teachers/adviser we work with - virtual open days, live Q&A sessions with groups of students and developed existing outreach materials so they can be delivered remotely or information can be sent via email to students.

University Centre Leeds, Leeds University

Online activity – challenges & solutions

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Resources & study space

I find that students from widening access backgrounds are by no means a homogenous group. When engaging with online pre-entry courses some will certainly be disadvantaged, however others may find that online delivery fits in better with their busy schedules.

University of East London



Solutions

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We are getting to grips with webinar software (GoTo Webinar) so that we can deliver events online. We are producing quizzes that learners will have to complete after these webinars to demonstrate evidence of engagement, and these elements are an obligatory requirement for staying on the MAP programme.

University of Manchester

Teachers have received a newsletter highlighting out online resources. We desperately seek ways to take our outreach virtual but need to do so in a considered and safeguarded way. We are struggling to find a platform that allows good two-way trackable communication that is safeguarded.

Hello Future

Summary

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- All respondents are attempting to move activity on-line
- Even when schools return unlikely to be business as usual – schools playing 'catch-up'
- Online element of work will have to increase
- 98% respondents agreed that *'the higher education sector needs to find a way of sharing effective methods of offering online outreach'*

What could NEON do now?

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1. Creation of a new online platform for learners, teacher/lecturers and widening access professionals
2. Ongoing support in the form of professional development
3. Evaluation – series of briefings and reports looking at impact and good practice



Outcomes

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Reach more learners from widening access backgrounds



Ensure online provision is led by widening access sector and support face to face work



Facilitate an evidence-based approach



Sector wide support to current year 13 learners