

Neon Access and outreach for disabled learners – Southern group
Meeting date: 29/10/2019
Location: University of West London

Attendees

Krishna Maroo – University of West London
Michael Cobden – University of West London

Adam Tweed - AbilityNet

Charmaine Valente - Student Loans Company
Stacey-May Fox - Student Loans Company

Rupert Mountjoy - Network for East Anglian Collaborative Outreach

Student Loans Company update

- Charmaine explained the Funding Information Partner Account role and confirmed that we could provide an overview of SFE funding DSA teams
- Regional Account Manager for London & East of England is Ben Rutter: Ben_Rutter@slc.co.uk
- All details on Account Managers and their regions can be found <https://www.practitioners.slc.co.uk/about-us/funding-information-partners-account-managers/>
- Charmaine offered to carry out an audit on all members websites. Krishna felt this would be very useful and this would also meet the requirements for the OfS Access Plans.
- Krishna to provide all members website links to Kevin who will involve his team to run the audit.
- Kevin to feed back upon completion of the audit
- Charmaine offered to help with promoting this forum within the South East/West region. Krishna to get back to Charmaine with members to enable
- Charmaine to target non-members. Charmaine suggested Krishna speak to Trudy Ing with whom Charmaine had originally supported to start up this forum some years ago.

SLC to follow up:

- Double check students can electronically upload their medical evidence during the application process. If so, at which stage are they able to do so
- produce slides on what the student actually sees during the DSA application process?
- Feedback from practitioners to pass on to our DSA/Insight research team
- Feedback given was that it was likely the email addresses SLC use to correspond with students on are the practitioners suspect the students are likely to have used a 6th Form / school email which will likely have expired by this time and thus students may not be aware of our request. Also believe students forget / just don't bother to access the portal

- Also mentioned was that despite there being a visible sentence that these costs for the assessment do not need to be repaid, some students may not read the info properly (shock horror) and thus when they see estimated costs (circa £600), they panic and just decide they can't afford it and thus don't bother continuing with the process. Suggested maybe making the 'no need to repay' sentence clearer from the offset and that allowance will not affect other funding (i.e. bursaries etc) - to pass on to the DSA Team (Amy Hedges)
- Charmaine mentioned that it might be possible for Kevin, who produces data (regionally and individually HEI's) for the team to produce some stats on the uptake of study abroad / work placements for students with disabilities for individual to deliver at a future NEON DSA meeting
- Krishna mentioned that she was conducting some Disability careers day fair and would like SLC to attend. Charmaine explained we are not student facing.
- Krishna was hoping SLC could create / send them some brief resources they could use for Outreach work/ hand out to potential students and parents? Kevin to check what is possible - **KMcM to follow up.**
- Krishna also due to run a specific day for students with care experienced students with disabilities

Notes from Adam Tweed, Service Development Manager at AbilityNet

- In terms of the presentation translator I was having difficulty with, I've done a bit of digging and it turns out the straightforward subtitling is available out-the-



box; it's this button: in presenter view. The translator is available as a separate download (below) and will run as a separate programme, so it should in theory run over any content being presented (not just PowerPoint).

- The subtitle box will have a link; [www.translate.it/\[a string of letters\]](http://www.translate.it/[a string of letters]) which you can enter as a code in the app, or clicking on the link on the presenters screen will bring up a QR code which can be scanned by a smartphone running the Microsoft translator app (below). There's an option to 'join conversation' (the translator app does other things like scanning and converting text or direct speech-to-text/text-to-speech translation – great holiday companion!)
- The app not only translates the presentation into a persons preferred language on their phone, but it also has the option (controlled by the presenter) to translate in the opposite direction (ie a person can speak or type into their phone and it will appear on the main presentation screen) – although I've not managed to test this with my broken GCSE French and I'm pretty sure the neighbours might be beginning to worry about me!

Downloads and more info below:

About: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/translator/apps/presentation-translator/>
 Translator add-on download: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=55024>

Translator app: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/translator/apps/#downloadapp>
(iphone, Android and Windows desktop)

I also mentioned to Michael that Google Live Transcribe as a possible source of support for D/deaf or hard of hearing students:
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.google.audio.hearing.visualization.accessibility.scribe&hl=en_GB – It is android only, but it does now keep the transcription available for three days allowing you to copy and paste (there's no direct download option)

Updates from colleagues across the sector:

UWL Wellbeing team Michael Cobden

- Working on social prescriptions through BUCs funding, promoting physical health, mental health and well-being
- Developing a mental health buddy system, recruiting well-being champions
- Collaborating with Rethink mental illness
- Working with NHS Hounslow Well-being Network.

Network for East Anglian Collaborative Outreach Rupert Mountjoy

The Network for East Anglian Collaborative Outreach (neaco) is a consortium of five universities and eight further education colleges. It includes several strands, each addressing our target students' identified needs and aims to increase progression to higher education. Rupert is new in post and will have more updates at the next meeting.

UWL Outreach Krishna Maroo

- Delivering workshops and support for students and their parents, in collaboration with a number of local education authorities
- Due to collaborate with local football club and a local deaf coach on a deaf and hard of hearing young people's careers day.

Next meeting date: 11 Feb 2020 at UWL

Future meeting dates

12 May 2020 - venue tbc

7 July 2020 - venue tbc

Please do contact Krishna if you would like to host the meeting at your institution.

