BTEC Students – NEON Working Group
Tuesday 16th July

Kindly hosted by IntoUniversity

Attendees:

Chris Bayes - CHAIR - Lancaster University
Abigail Elliott, Brunel University London
Alexander Blower, University of Wolverhampton
Alison Ackroyd, MidKent College
Arooj Anwar, University of Wolverhampton
Becky Foster, UEA
David MacKay, Pearson
Debra Myhill, University of Exeter
Fiona Elsted, University of Essex
Gloria Cheng, Brunel University London
Heather King, UEA
Helen Lawson, University of Exeter
Jennifer Allen, Gatsby Charitable Foundation
Jon Botfield, University of Wolverhampton
Linda-Marie Nakibuuka, Goldsmiths, University of London & University of East Anglia
Lucy Brosnan, Intouniversity
Maria-Anna Petrou, NEON
Megg Flexmen, IntoUniversity
Phillippa Cooke, City and Islington College
Rachel Cutress, IntoUniversity
Rebecca Sykes, University of Leeds

Agenda activities:

1. Previous meetings minutes (27th March 2019) were approved
2. Presentation from **Dr Debra Myhill**, University of Exeter
3. Presentation from **Alexander Blower**, University of Wolverhampton
4. Sub groups discussions

   Sub group one: led by Rachel Cutress
   Developing a set of shared resources which can be used on a national basis to support the progression of BTEC learners into HE.

   Sub group two: led by Chris Bayes
   Using the NERUPI framework to map this activity and produce a set of 'guiding principles' for colleagues working with BTEC students.

5. Sub groups feedback

Sub group one: Are creating a workshop for BTEC Students - **Transitioning to University (for BTEC learners)** NAME TBC

Basic structure:

- 1-2 hour workshop
- Year 13 (Year 2 at FE College)
- For students who are transitioning to university (have applied / are applying)
- To be delivered between September - July of year 13 / year 2

Learning objectives of Workshop and Resource pack:

- Ensure BTEC students are aware of the challenges that come with the transition to university and recognise where and why they should seek support
- Empower BTEC students to recognise the skills they have but also skills gaps they may need support with
- Managing expectations of your first term at university and deconstructing some of the concepts that you may encounter
- Where possible BTEC undergraduates to speak to students during the workshop - mentoring element
- Use NERUPI to evaluate the pilot

Action Rebecca Sykes (Leeds) to share outreach referencing activity with Rachel & Laura (IntoUniversity)

Action Megg Flexmen to support develop workshop (with myself and Laura). If Megg and Laura could be added on to the mailing list for the minutes that would be great. Her email is megg.flexman@intouniversity.org

Action: Rachel and Laura (IntoUniversity) to put together a draft workshop before the next meeting

Sub group two: Discussed the different work institution is doing with BTEC students and the

NERUPI framework.

Aim of the group: To audit of admissions policies and practices. Opportunity for the group to be a mechanism for change – looking at the transparency of admission practices in the 'guiding principles' as well.

Discussion:

> **Goldsmiths:** Looks at welcome week which can be overwhelming.
> **City & Islington College**: Have a strong partnership with Birkbeck, a 4 to 5 year partnership for L4 into L5. Have made the shift from old BTEC to new BTEC in Science based subjects. Find it difficult to get students to think outside the London area. Discussed how college is bombardment from 'third party' organisations around HE progression.
> **UEA**: Framework in phase two built around four key areas – *Knowledge, Attitudes, Aspiration and Soft Skills* – direct interface with BTEC students on a day to day basis.
> **Gatsby Foundation:** A trust. The education team is looking at how things transition between HE & technical education.

Action: Each member to give description of their experience/ working happening in their institutions.

Action: Maria-Anna (NEON) to do another 'call for action' to all NEON members via the NEON newsletter

Action: Maria-Anna (NEON) to do another 'call for action' to WG members

Action: Chris (Lancaster University) to collate all the information before the next meeting**.** By next meeting use these to form a draft version of 'guiding principles'.