



NEON (South) Working Group

Access and outreach for disabled learners

Friday 24th June 2016 12.30 - 2.30pm

Emily Warwick	Oxford Brookes University
Susannah Lloyd- Shogbesan	Oxford Brookes University
Jon Legg	Student Loans Company
Maureen O'Brien	Bucks New Uni
Lizzie Ledger	Ruskin College
	AI Media
Fiona Watkins	Oxford Brookes University
Barnaby Perkins	Virtual School
Fiona Hutchison	Oxford Brookes University
Richard Francis	Oxford Brookes University
Joni Chase	Kent and Medway Collaborative Network

1. Welcome and Introductions

1.1 Susannah Lloyd-Shogbesan (SLS) welcomed everybody to the group and asked attendees to introduce themselves. Apologies were received from Trudy Ing (Oxford Brookes University), Lee Byrne (Bucks New Uni), Shirley Shipman (Oxford Brookes University), Lucinda Morton (Study Higher), Jane Salisbury (Oxford Brookes University), Julie English (University of Bedfordshire), Joanne Elliott (Oxford Brookes University), Gail Borham (Portsmouth University) and Debbie Gibberd (University of Brighton).

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising.

2.1 The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as accurate.

3. Updates on changes to DSA: Jon Legg from SFE

3.1 Jon Legg (JL) presented the Applications forecast for 2016-2017 with 850,000 applications expected, which represents an increase in applications and they are predicted to come in earlier than previously.

3.2 The group were reminded of the NEON Mail Group which has been set-up (consistency in message from DSA Operations. Peter Riley provided contacts of members, but email Jon directly if your name needs to be added.

3.3 The group were informed of an announcement that any EU nationals applying for maintenance support will be required to provide 5 years residency history, increased from 3 year residency. Full article here :<http://www.practitioners.slc.co.uk/about-us/practitioners-news/ssin-0616-extending-residency-requirements-for-eu-nationals.aspx>

3.4. The group were shown a breakdown of the categories of DSA. JL to enquire about the 'none listed' category. From 2017/18 many courses will no longer be funded through NHS

Bursary this will increase the number of students receiving DSAs through SFE. However these are students SFE would already be aware of due to student loans, so it should not impact SFE's workload significantly. The group highlighted an issue surrounding placement costs. JL suggested waiting until there is a final policy to see how this would be tackled.

4. AI Media – to talk about 'AI Live Scholar' (remote note-taking)

4.1 EH informed the group of their new AI Live Scholar product of specialist note taking that fits in with DSA band 3 provisions. It costs £40 per hour and instead of verbatim it provides the student with summarised points. It only uses simple text, so removes metaphorical and figurative language to aid clarity.

4.2 Additionally, there is the closed captioning service which is £1.50 per minute which can be done online. The closed captioning aids with creating an inclusive environment as can help students whose first language isn't English as well as students with disabilities. Currently used by University of Strathclyde, Bristol and Manchester Universities.

5. PESE Project – Fiona Watkins

5.1 FW introduced the PESE 2 Project looking at how the university can introduce inclusive teaching and learning methods to meet the needs of many students with dyslexia/SpLD and disabilities.

5.2 So far research has been conducted looking at effective inclusive practice along with focus groups with Brookes students. Feedback included the importance of VLE (Moodle), especially with notes beforehand, adaptable learning materials and tasks and small group interaction to break up long lectures

5.3 Next steps for the project include FH to attend the Universal Design for Learning Conference, the team to conduct more focus groups with students and staff, visits to sector leading universities and follow up on significant completed projects, creating buy-in for inclusion by delivering presentations to academic and support staff and creating and trialing an easily accessible staff resource portal.

6. WP activities/disability practice issues: - update from each HEI on recent developments

6.1 Bucks New Uni updated the group surrounding working towards more of an universal design model, however there is pressure around involving SMT in the change.

6.2 The group were reminded that the deadline for the NCOP bids was the next week.

7. Topics for next meeting

7.1 The group agreed that transition was to be topic for the next meeting.

8. Any other business

None

9. Date of next meeting

Friday 11th November 2016 from 12-2.00pm
Friday 17th February 2017 from 12-2.00pm
Friday 16th June 2017 from 12-2.00pm