



**NEON Mature Learners Working Group
Thursday 24th January 2019**

In attendance:

Charlotte Barratt – University of Leicester

Hannah Law-Hing-Choy – Kingston University

Chris Mason – University of Sussex

Louise Aspinal – Lancaster University

Naz Deen – University of East London

Ben Rutter – Student Loans Company

Virtual Open Day

In a previous meeting, we discussed hosting a virtual open day aimed at providing an accessible way of getting basic information on making the decision to apply to university, how to apply and what the experience might be like, with a theme of finance throughout. The Student Loans Company (Ben Rutter) has kindly offered to host to keep the event unbiased but also so that we can have a finance theme. The University of Leicester & Coventry University have been discussing this, with an agreement from the University of Sheffield that they would also like to be included. The representation of the universities at the meeting cover different parts of the country and different ways of supporting mature students. Everyone at the meeting was interested in taking part.

For further information, please see the notes from the meeting with Coventry University (attached).

Points to note:

- The signposting needs to be good on the final virtual session and be broad enough to cover all eventualities and questions.
- A physical pack of information for those that want it could be provided – tailored to the area the enquirer is from.

Action: Charlotte to liaise with partners to organise logistics of what, where, when and how.

Progression programmes

We discussed progression programmes for mature students.

At the University of East London they have an programme that is an alternative to Access to HE. It is a 10 week course and entry qualifications needed are level 2 functional skills English & Maths and a 2 hour English literacy test. These are for humanities/social sciences subjects and designed for people who have been away from study 5+ years, Approximately 300 people go through per year, in groups of 40. It is £200 for the course, with a bursary for those with a household earning of under £18,000.

Kingston University have a summer programme for offer holders. Ambassadors call them to answer questions & encourage them to come along. There are options of dates for three, three-day long events, and three one-day events to cover all types of student. Mature students have a specific day/event but can also attend other events. The idea is to building friendships, confidence and orientation. Scheme is called Head Start & Head Start Express.

Student Finance Update

Advice to give to students apply before the deadline in order to get your application processed in good time. You don't need a UCAS number or to know where you are going at the time of application.

There is funding for part time STEM courses with a HECoS CAH01-12.

Student Money week in 2019 is 11th-15th February.

Next meeting

The University of East London are happy to host the next meeting. We also discussed holding a CPD style event with next meeting.

Action: Naz to suggest dates for the next meeting. Charlotte to put together programme and speakers for CPD sessions.

Suggested CPD sessions so far:

- How do you get into teaching? Session
- Student finance & funding for health professions & part-time stem
- Using students as mature student ambassadors
- Offerings for engaging with local college courses
- Student networks – SU & societies
- Brexit