

NEON Supporting Practice Events Spring 2013

The New Strategy for Widening Participation: What does this mean for schools, colleges and HEIs?

On behalf of the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) and the Office for Fair Access (OFFA), NEON will be focusing its Supporting Practice Spring Series on the new **national strategy for widening participation**.

In their May 2012 letter to HEFCE and OFFA, Vince Cable, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, and David Willetts, Minister for Universities and Science, recognised that the two bodies already collaborate extensively, and acknowledge their significant contribution to coordinating work on widening participation and access. However they felt it important that these two key bodies develop a joint national strategy that would inform the future direction of such work.

Both HEFCE and OFFA feel it is key to consult with all major stakeholders to help inform the new strategy. These events are the best opportunity for those delivering widening access activities across sectors to give their input into how the strategy can support their work. They will include input from HE, schools, colleges and partnerships/networks in the widening access field.

We are delighted to be able to offer places at a special rate, subsidised by both HEFCE and OFFA.

Who should attend:

- Deans/PVCs with responsibility for HEI Access Agreements
- HE Heads of Widening Access/Participation in HEIs
- Project Co-ordinators/Officers in HE WP teams
- WP contacts/leads in academic departments
- Researchers working on social mobility and HE progression projects
- Heads of HE from FE Colleges
- Student union officers with responsibility/interest in widening access
- Heads of/HE Co-ordinators in Sixth Forms
- Teachers/IAG professionals with HE progression responsibility in schools
- Directors/Co-ordinators from third sector organisations working in the widening access to HE and social mobility field.

Professionalising Access

Improving widening access practice through our events and training programme

Supporting Institutions

Making the access work institutions deliver more effective through our working groups

Influencing Policy

Advocating for access through our publications and seminars programme

Proving Impact

Using our 'what works' research observatory to build the access evidence base

The Event Programme

9.45am Registration

10.00am Welcome

10.10am Building the access movement: update on the work of NEON

Dr Graeme Atherton - Director, NEON

10.30am The national widening access strategy: outline and key priorities

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)

11.00am Workshop session

How can the national strategy best support widening access?

Sector Groups: higher education institutions, further education colleges, schools, networks, partnerships and the third sector

1.00pm Lunch

1.45pm Group feedback

2.30pm Discussion and debate

3.30pm Summary and next steps for the national strategy

3.45pm Close

There will be four events:

15 April 2013: Leeds Metropolitan University

17 April 2013: University of Manchester

22 April 2013: Institute of Education, London

24 April 2013: University of Leicester

Attendance at the event costs:

£70 (non member)

£56 (NEON individual member)

£52 (NEON organisational member)

Book on to these events at:

www.educationopportunities.co.uk/supporting-practice-event-series

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