Introductions

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Purpose of session:

 To find out more about how you can develop innovative interventions for particular and discrete student groups, such as, commuter and mature student groups.

• From large Russell Group institutions, to smaller community universities such as St Mary's, we will discuss how to develop your response for your particular institution and its student population in a post-Covid world.



Specific interventions: commuter students

Consult with your student body:

- Recruit commuter students to consult with and to provide steer on specific challenges or useful interventions
- In partnership with your students, work to co-create specific definition of 'commuter student' that is unique and relevant to your university.
- Ask your commuter student panel for feedback and/or guidance on online resources and support

Create support & resources:

• Consider tailored support, events and programmes that will benefit commuter students/ or the discrete group.

Data, data, data!

• Use data sets available to you, from your APP or SITS to investigate who your commuter students are.



Specific interventions: mature students



Barriers

Access to information

Access to university

Student retention & student success

Initiatives

Target adult education providers in WP communications, HE events and outreach. Recruit mature WP ambassadors to deliver this targeted outreach.

Produce specific literature, such as an alternative prospectus and detailed webpages to provide clear and succinct information to mature learners.

Recruit and train a representative group of mature learners currently to help understand and shape our retention policy and interventions for mature learners over the course of a year.

Outputs

More eligible mature learners applying to study at university.

Fewer mature students dropping out of university.

Outcomes

Better mature student access and retention.

Impact

An increase in mature students successfully applying to university and dropout rates decreased.

SMU's approach



- National and Local Research
 - Liz Thomas (esp Thomas, L. & Jones, R., 2017. Student Engagement in the context of Commuter Students)
 - Mature students project
 - SMSU research
- Ensure the definition and the intervention match
 - What barriers? What solutions?
- Specific and General Initiatives

Commuter Lounge	Be Smart and WP Internships
BUCS Active4 Local	Student Engagement Fund

They said, we did!

- https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/360/explore.aspx
- Commuter Lounge
 - In partnership with SU design driven by social media
 - · Comfortable and relaxing with a 'homely feel'
 - Eating without cost
 - Storage space
 - Access to IT and printing
 - Safe place
- Student Engagement Fund
 ENGAGE STUDENTS AND TRUST THEM!



Where to start?

- Gather data on the demographics of your student population
- Reference your institution's targets in APP
- Connect with your Student Union
- Student networks/a student society
- FE and outreach strategies
- Ambassador recruitment





Any questions?