

Widening Participation in College HE

The Value of Collaboration

June 2016



MidKent College



www.kentandmedway.org



Widening Participation in College HE

The Value of Collaboration

June 2016



www.kentandmedway.org

Working collaboratively with the Further Education sector presents a variety of unique challenges:

- Outreach is often not a measured college priority
Widening Participation (WP) - *“It’s what we do”*
- Intrinsic in the college ethos / no formal outreach structures
- Internal struggles and conflicting priorities



General misunderstanding of the WP agenda

- Distinction between marketing/recruitment and WP/outreach
- Difficult to create focussed outreach work above and beyond the general ethos of FECs

Financial constraints

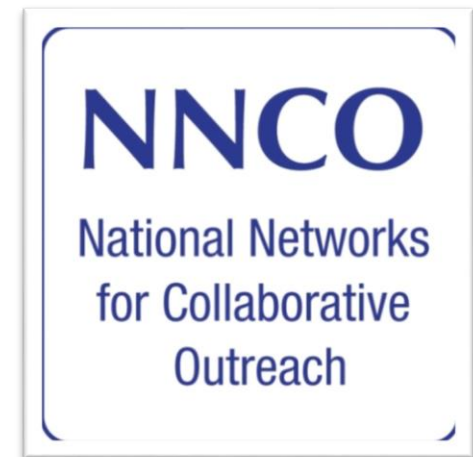
- Colleges are unable to contribute as much time / resource
- Conflicting priorities that require resource

Geography

- Regional dispersion of college partners



- Colleges are often not seen as equal partners
 - Recipient over partner
- Distribution of NNCO funding might not meet college needs
 - Unequal funding distribution
- General misunderstanding of FECs
 - Lack of external awareness of college structure and priorities
- Identifying relevant staff
 - High staff turnover
 - Appropriateness of level (strategic & operational)



- What is College HE? – Lack of awareness of non-traditional routes
- A valid alternative – Raising the profile of Higher Level Skills
- Restricted options – A lack of engagement with schools and IAG teams
- Financial restraints – Reductions in available funding for outreach work.



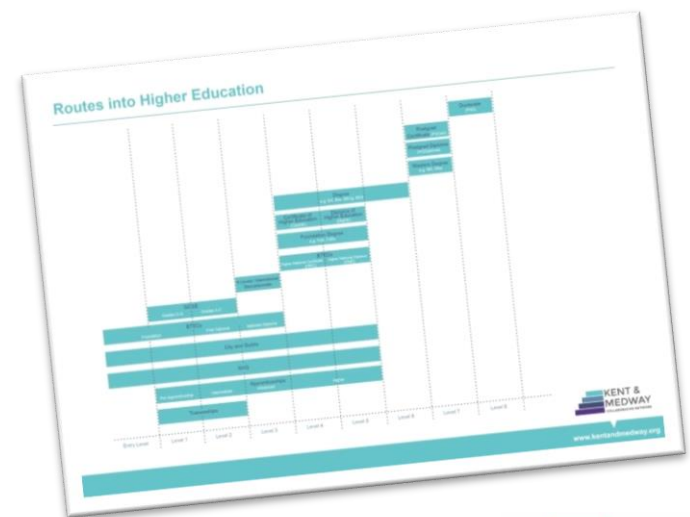
Internal

- Heads of College HE
- Marketing/Outreach teams
- Student Services

External

- HEI partners
- School networks
- External networks (e.g. KAFEC)

- Student-led video series from FE Colleges (5 informative pieces and 3 case studies)
- Creation of collaborative documents containing information on all College HE courses regionally
- Fact sheets on College HE



<http://kentandmedway.org/collegehe/>

- **Activity Portal** on KMCNet website
- **Dedicated College HE area** on KMCNet website
- **Workshop** at regional conference on ‘What is College HE?’
- **Webinar** on ‘FE Colleges as providers of Higher Education?’ <http://kentandmedway.org/college-he-webinar/>
- Supported colleges to **develop outreach activity** and engage local schools
- **Regional Conference** for HE staff in partner colleges



The advantages of partnership working

An FE College perspective

- Collaborative networks offer access to schools, IAG teams and decision makers.
- College HE recognised, valued and promoted independently and impartially.
- Working collaboratively with other colleges.
- Outreach portals offer a SPOC that represents colleges as equal partners.
- Access to national resources and networks.

[ACCESS ALL AREAS]



/kentandmedway



@kentandmedway



Search Kent and Medway Collaborative Network



/kentandmedwayorg

Kent and Medway Collaborative Network (KMCNet)

Hall Place Enterprise Centre, Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent CT2 9AG

T: 01227 782565

E: team@kentandmedway.org



www.kentandmedway.org