

2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

Provider impact report

This impact report summarises the progress made by South Devon College against targets, objectives and written commitments set out in its 2019-20 access and participation plan. This document is a summary of information submitted by the provider to the OfS. This document is a self-report by the provider only and does not indicate any OfS assessment of compliance.

1. Ambition and strategy

South Devon College's ambition and strategy as detailed in the 2019-20 access and participation plan:

Almost 90% of the South Devon College's higher education students come from at least one underrepresented group. Therefore, widening participation and access to higher education is our central mission and implicit in everything we do.

The overall ambition was to maintain the levels of access to higher education at the college for students from underrepresented groups, and improve the success outcomes and progression for underrepresented students, particularly those who are disabled. This ambition is reinforced and given greater clarity in our 2020/21-2024/25 access and participation plan.

As part of the College's recruitment and growth strategy there has been an increase in the provision of alternative Higher Education qualifications in the form of Higher and Degree apprenticeships, mainly in the field of health and nursing professionals. Direct-entry and apprentice students receive the same levels of support throughout the whole student journey.

Our evaluation strategy is overseen by the Equality, Diversity, Access and Participation Committee of the College's Governing Body. Our evaluations are based on students' narrative feedback, comparative analysis of the success of students who engaged in support compared to those who did not, pre/post analysis of interventions and activities, reports of student engagement with support services, and personal tutors' feedback.

To monitor the implementation of our access and participation activities, the college has regular engagement with the student population via the Student Course Representatives, Student Consultative Forum, Lead Student Rep, and student feedback surveys. This engagement is designed to ensure activities continue to meet the needs of students, is responsive to changes in learning community, and to shape future policy and activities.

2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by South Devon College of progress against the targets approved in its 2019-20 access and participation plan.

Please note the tables contain only a summary of target milestones approved in 2019-20 access and participation plans. Full information can be found in **Table 8a – statistical targets and milestones** and **Table 8b – Other milestones and targets** of South Devon College’s 2019-20 [access and participation plan](#).

Any optional commentary provided against the targets is given in [Annex B](#).

Statistical targets and milestones

Reference Number (lifecycle stage)	Description	Baseline year	Baseline data	2018-19 milestone	2019-20 milestone	Units of target	Comparison year	Actual performance in comparison year	Target self-assessment
T16a_01 (Access)	Maintain and improve the participation of students from low participation wards	2013-14	48%	54%	55%	Percentage	2019-20	55.3	Expected progress
T16a_02 (Access)	Maintain and improve the participation of mature students	2013-14	55%	57%	58%	Percentage	2019-20	76.2	Expected progress
T16a_03 (Access)	Maintain and improve the proportion of disadvantaged white males	2014-15	36.3%	40%	40%	Percentage	2019-20	51.5	Expected progress
T16a_04 (Progression)	Increase the proportion of students who progress from FD to BA/BSc	2013-14	71%	77%	80%	Percentage	2019-20	44	No progress
T16a_05 (Progression)	Maintain and increase the proportion of students entering employment or further study	2012-13	92.2%	93.5%	93.5%	Percentage	2019-20	93.2	Limited progress
T16a_06 (Student success)	Increase the retention rates of students who have identified as having a disability	2015-16	13%	10.5%	10%	Percentage	2019-20	8.2	Expected progress
T16a_07 (Student success)	Maintain and monitor the additional support measures to ensure improved completion	2013-14	91%	94%	94%	Percentage	2019-20	95	Expected progress
T16a_08 (Access)	PASS Project to raise the attainment of Level Three students with South Devon College	2017-18	0	20	40	Headcount	2019-20	0	No progress

Other milestones and targets

Reference Number (lifecycle stage)	Description	Baseline year	Baseline data	2018-19 milestone	2019-20 milestone	Units of target	Comparison year	Actual performance in comparison year	Target self-assessment
T16b_01 (Access)	Number of students participating in pre-entry workshops	2016-17	TBC	75	75	Headcount	2019-20	5	No progress
T16b_02 (Student success)	Peer Delivery and mentoring	2016-17	TBC	20	25	Headcount	2019-20	0	No progress

3. Investment commitments

3.1. Access and participation investment for the last audited year

Please note that some differences in predicted vs actual spend may be due to reporting differences between academic and financial years.

Financial year	2019-20		
	Predicted spend (£)	Actual spend (£)	Difference (ppt)
Access investment	£60,000.00	£57,887.00	-4%
Financial Support	£175,000.00	£156,818.00	-10%

4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected South Devon College has made the following commitments to increase the rate of progress against their targets.

Reference Number	Steps that will be taken in the future to make expected progress against target
T16a_04	UCSD is due to apply for degree awarding powers which will enable the expansion of L6 qualifications to meet local employers and students' needs. We are also interested to see the outcome of the White paper and the future role of L4/5 qualifications
T16a_05	Continued development of higher and degree apprenticeships with our Foundation Degree awarding powers, and potentially in future L6 Degree awarding powers should improve the % going into highly skilled employment.
T16a_08	We have decided to pause the project.
T16b_01	In 20/21 we have invested further in online study skills resources and intend to offer both in-person and online pre-entry workshops with the capacity to record engagement.
T16b_02	We have decided to pause the project.

5. Confirmation

South Devon College confirms that:

Student engagement	
Have you worked with your students to help them complete the access and participation plan monitoring student submission?	
Yes	
Have you engaged with your student body in the design, evaluation, and monitoring of the plan?	
Yes	
Verification and sign off	
South Devon College has confirmed that the information included in this impact report is accurate, that it has been compiled in line with OfS guidance, and that it is being submitted on behalf of the governing body of the provider.	
Yes	
Accountable officer sign off	
Name	Laurence Frewin
Position	Principal and CEO

Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets

South Devon College's commentary where progress against targets was less than expected.

Target reference number: T16a_04
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
44% of 2019/20 Level 5 FD students progressed onto L6 study. This is largely accounted for by the increase in healthcare programmes by higher apprenticeship programmes where L6 is not required for employment/progression.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Our partner university has validated additional Level 6 programmes which started 2017/18 increasing the opportunities for local L6 study.

Target reference number: T16a_05
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
In 2019/20 according to our own internal destination of leavers of HE survey, 93.2% progressed into employment or further study, and 74.8% went into high skills.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Further investment in employability resources and support, has established a strong focus on progression into employment in our tutorial curriculum, and new programme development.

Target reference number: T16a_08
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
The project did not proceed
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Although we trained staff to facilitate the PASS project, there was little enthusiasm from the student body to act as PASS mentors. Covid also made it impossible to proceed with the project in 2019/20.

Target reference number: T16b_01
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
5 student participated in face-to-face workshops for the start of 19/20

Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
In response to Covid, in 19/20 for a 20/21 start, our pre-entry workshops went online with limited in-person workshops immediately before enrolment. The expansion of online resources was well received and reported positively however with the rapid move to online an evaluation strategy including engagement was not in place.

Target reference number: T16b_02
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
The project did not proceed
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
This project was designed to sit alongside the PASS project and encountered the same difficulties in 2018/19 and 2019/20.

Annex B: Optional commentary on targets

South Devon College's commentary on any of the targets listed in [Section 2](#).

Reference Number	Optional commentary
T16a_01	
T16a_02	
T16a_03	
T16a_04	
T16a_05	
T16a_06	
T16a_07	
T16a_08	
T16b_01	
T16b_02	