

## 2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

### Provider impact report

This impact report summarises the progress made by St Helens 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

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

The College's HE Access and Participation Plan 2019-20 was informed by its mission, which was to "transform lives through excellence in education and training." This relies on seamless progression opportunities being available to students who enter or return to education at any level to improve their life skills and employability prospects. The College works closely with employers and Universities to ensure currency and quality of its HE provision. This specifically includes close collaboration with the University of Chester, UCLan and Liverpool John Moores as validating Universities.

The (College's) Senior Leadership Team is fully committed to developing and delivering a responsive higher education portfolio to meet the needs of students and employers. The College has a long history of delivering high quality provision, evidenced in high student satisfaction, employer feedback, validating partners and QAA Review outcomes.

The College is committed to the concept and practice of widening participation. In this context, the priority of the College is to improve access and progression opportunities and to raise aspirations in such a way that anyone with the potential to benefit from participation in higher education, has the opportunity to do so. Our HE intake comes from disadvantaged postcode areas. The College's local recruitment area includes elements of social and economic deprivation with participation in HE, numbers of graduates and HE cultural heritage lower than national averages. To address this, the College charges comparatively low tuition fees for all HE programmes, provides comprehensive academic and pastoral support, seamless progression from FE, flexible delivery and additional tuition in academic skills.

The College delivers its HE provision within a supportive student-centred environment which can be more appropriate to those students who might not respond well to a larger university environment. These can be students from a more vocational education background who lack the academic confidence for traditional higher education, from backgrounds with no history of HE, adults returning to education and those in employment needing to balance study with work and other commitments.

## 2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by St Helens 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 St Helens 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)	Internal progression students	2014-15	15%	28%	30%	Percentage	2019-20	17.8	Limited progress
T16a_02 (Student success)	Achievement level of mature students	2013-14	58%	63%	65%	Percentage	2019-20	65	Expected progress
T16a_03 (Access)	Maintaining the number of students from WP areas	2014-15	49%	52%	53%	Percentage	2019-20	46	Expected progress
T16a_04 (Access)	Increase number of HE Open Days/ tasters/ events	2014-15	70 attendees	150	175	Headcount	2019-20	43	No progress
T16a_05 (Access)	Raising attainment levels	2016-17	10 attendees	25	30	Headcount	2019-20	27	Limited 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)	The College's school liaison programme will be further developed through our involvement with the NCOP	2014-15	63 schools	68	70	Other	2019-20	70	Expected progress
T16b_02 (Student success)	The College will aim to improve the success rates of 16-18 year old students by providing resit opportunities for GCSE maths & English	2017-18	260 students achieved grade 4-9 (28% English)	30% English	32% English	Percentage	2019-20	32	Expected progress
T16b_03 (Success)	The College will aim to improve the success rates of 16-18 year old students by providing resit opportunities for GCSE maths & English	2017-18	172 students achieved grade 4-9 (19% maths)	20% maths	22% maths	Percentage	2019-20	24	Expected progress
T16b_04 (Progression)	The College will continue to offer GCSE provision through the 14-16 Academy to pupils who need an alternative to mainstream school education	2016-17	Progress 8 measure of -1.91	-1.73	-1.65	Other	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	£30,000.00	£33,754.80	13%
Financial Support	£150,000.00	£68,170.81	-55%

### 4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected St Helens 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_01	Once onsite events can take place, the College has committed to HE presence at 16-18 open days, taster days and enrolment events, to raise the profile of UCSH as early as possible. The College, via the HE Quality Manager also intends to carry out student voice activities in the Summer term to discuss barriers to internal HE progression with L3 students and current cohorts of HE students.
T16a_04	The College will reinstate and reinvigorate face-to-face events. The College has maintained its connections with local schools and organisations such as Shaping Futures to facilitate an increase in activity moving forward.
T16a_05	During Business Planning, the College is looking a redressing the balance of HE delivery across St Helens and Knowlsey sites with the view to delivering a broader offer at KCC. This will included an expansion of our Level 3 provision to support progression to HE and will also raise the profile of HE in the borough and remove the barrier of having to travel to St Helens for HE courses.
T16b_04	The College will not provide a 14-16 provision moving forward

## 5. Confirmation

St Helens 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	
St Helens 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	Simon Pierce
Position	CEO/Principal

## Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets

St Helens College's commentary where progress against targets was less than expected.

<b>Target reference number: T16a_01</b>
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Internal activities related to this commitment were carried out in 19-20 up to national lockdown in March 2020. Further online activities were carried out, but saw reduced numbers.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
The College engages with all students about internal progression during tutorials and bespoke events. Additional online progression events continue to be carried out in place of face-to-face events due to COVID.

<b>Target reference number: T16a_04</b>
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Commitments have not been met to expand our events due to COVID.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Virtual open days were put in place to replace face-to-face events but with limited take up.

<b>Target reference number: T16a_05</b>
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Commitments have not been met in all areas but progress has been made, particularly in specific curriculum areas such as Health and Social Care and Computing. Visits to UCSH have not been possible during lockdown.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Virtual open days were put in place to replace face-to-face events but with limited take up.

<b>Target reference number: T16b_04</b>
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
The College no longer has a 14-16 provision. This was withdrawn 19/20
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?

No

## Annex B: Optional commentary on targets

St Helens 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	
T16b_01	
T16b_02	
T16b_03	
T16b_04	