2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

Provider impact report

This impact report summarises the progress made by Plumpton 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

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

Plumpton College is a specialist land-based college, which offers both Further and Higher Education courses. The college's 2019-20 Access and Participation Plan focused on improving access, success and progression for target groups who at the time of writing were under-represented in the HE student body. It should be noted that changes to HE provision through the reduction of courses offered and a focus of resources on priority curriculum areas means that HE numbers have reduced significantly. This has had an impact on the validity of year-on-year analysis of trends within the college's HE student body.

Access
The plan focused on improving internal progression from FE to HE, increasing numbers of students from low participation neighborhoods, increasing numbers of non-white students, and raising attainment in schools.

Success
The plan aimed to increase success rates for disabled students, mature students and students from non-traditional backgrounds.

Progression
Improved progression for all HE students was to be facilitated by extracurricular programmes, a more robust placement module, improved careers guidance and improved progression from Foundation degree to top-up, and from Bachelors to Masters.

2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by Plumpton 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 Plumpton 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)	Increase the proportion of students within the whole student body that come from non-traditional backgrounds.	2017-18	7%	9%	10%	Percentage	2019-20	16.7	Expected progress
T16a_02 (Access)	Increase the number of new students that receive DSA support	2017-18	8%	12%	14%	Percentage	2019-20	8	No progress
T16a_03 (Access)	Improve the proportion of Non-White students within the total student population	2017-18	4%	5%	6%	Percentage	2019-20	5.9	Expected progress
T16a_04 (Access)	Improve the proportion of Mature students within the total student population	2017-18	28%	30%	32%	Percentage	2019-20	57.7	Expected progress
T16a_05 (Success)	Improve the proportion of Part Time Students completing their studies	2016-17	91%	92%	93%	Percentage	2019-20	91	No progress
T16a_06 (Success)	Improve the proportion of Mature Students completing their studies	2016-17	49%	52%	54%	Percentage	2019-20	87	Expected progress
T16a_08 (Success)	Improve the proportion of Students from low participation neighbourhoods completing their studies	2016-17	88%	92%	93%	Percentage	2019-20	93	Expected progress
T16a_09 (Access)	Increase the number of state schools engaged in STEM related activities delivered by the College	2017-18	134 schools	140	146	Headcount	2019-20	127	No progress

| T16a_10 (Access) | Increase the number of care leavers entering undergraduate programmes | 2018-19 | n/a | tbc | tbc | Please select | 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 (Multiple)	A range of activities with state schools in the south east including farm visits, tasters and mentoring	2016-17	258 schools	258	258	Other	2019-20	124	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	£75,000.00	£49,852.00	-34%
Financial Support	£116,000.00	£21,577.00	-81%

4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected Plumpton 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_02	In-house support for students applying for DSA. Planning to train an existing member of the Learning Support team to fulfill this role
T16a_05	Continue supporting HE part-time students as we are; the apparent drop in completion is a product of low numbers of part-time students
T16a_09	The college's Schools Liaison Officer is working hard to promote STEM developments. Increased communications with school STEM leads, and a return to physical events (in addition to virtual) will have a positive impact on this commitment
T16a_10	New HE Manager and new MIS Manager are working together to ensure all relevant data is captured
T16b_01	Plans in place to increase schools liaison and activities throughout spring/summer 2021

5. Confirmation

Plumpton College confirms that:

Student engagement
Have you worked with your students to help them complete the access and participation plan monitoring student submission?
No
Have you engaged with your student body in the design, evaluation, and monitoring of the plan?
Yes
Verification and sign off
Plumpton 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	Jeremy Kerswell
Position	Principal

Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets

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

Target reference number: T16a_02
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Not fully. Staff turnover and the impact of Covid-19 affected progress in this area
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
The college is currently formalising the process for supporting students with DSA applications

Target reference number: T16a_05
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
No
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
No

Target reference number: T16a_09
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
No. This target was directly affected by Covid-19, with visits and on-site activities cancelled
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Some events and activities were moved online. In 2020-21, there has been an emphasis on STEM communications, events and and activities

Target reference number: T16a_10
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
To date, the college has not collected this data comprehensively
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
This data will be coillected going forward

Target reference number: T16b_01
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
No. This target was directly affected by Covid-19, with visits and on-site activities cancelled
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
No additional steps taken in 2019-20.

Annex B: Optional commentary on targets

Plumpton 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	There were just 5 part-time students due to complete in 2019-20; one left to take up employment which meant 20% drop in completion
T16a_06	
T16a_08	
T16a_09	
T16a_10	This will be reported on in the next monitoring report
T16b_01	