

## Access Agreement 2013/14

### 1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The University of the West of England, Bristol Access Agreement 2012/13 set out in some detail the strong track record of this University in promoting educational opportunity and delivering interventions to support progression into and through higher education. This Access Agreement describes plans to build on and enhance work planned and approved for 2012/13. As recognised in the guidance issued by OFFA, we have not yet put into practice those policies and deliverables planned for 2012/13. However our detailed development work to date indicates that the interventions that will be delivered in 2012/13 will be effective, and therefore should be continued and potentially enhanced in future years.

#### 1.1 Consistent approach

This Agreement places primary emphasis on a programme of access, retention, and employment measures, supported by specific bursaries for key target groups. The access, retention and employment measures included build on current established work, as well as providing opportunities for innovation. We will continue the programme of integrated access measures and financial support which will be delivered in 2012/13, and was identified as the University of the West of England Student Progression Framework in our last Agreement. This will deliver a “compact” between the student and the university, building two way loyalty and commitment.

Support for under-represented groups is embedded in the full student life cycle, from raising the aspirations of potential students to supporting the onward transition of graduates. From raising aspirations through outreach activities, transition to UWE, retention, achievement, employability and further study, UWE provides a “One University” approach. This Access Agreement builds on that approach and the delivery of our Access Agreement 2012/13 for the future.

Targeted bursaries will be offered as part of integrated programmes of outreach, intervention and support, so that students can enter the University, maximise their engagement with what is on offer and secure the highest outcomes in achievement and onward progression and employment. We have moved away from using bursaries as marketing tools to attract disadvantaged students to the University. We will use them as part of integrated programmes to support retention and achievement, along with the other access measures detailed in this Agreement.

#### 1.2 Priority target groups

Our priority target groups for 2013/14 remain the same as for 2012/13, building on previous Access Agreements and our long standing practice and track record of work with these groups:

- a) Potential students from Low Participation Neighbourhoods, recruited nationally and also targeted through our partner schools and colleges, including through a new UWE Compact Scheme under the University of the West of England Student Progression Framework;

- b) Care leavers;
- c) Access to HE Diploma (QAA validated) students;
- d) Disabled students;
- e) Students from black and minority ethnic groups;
- f) Students from disadvantaged groups accessing the professions;
- g) Students in the UWE Federation Colleges.

In 2013/14 we will wish to prioritise additional groups, in response to changes in student number controls, the as yet unclear Impact of the introduction of higher fees, and the impact on potential students and future student markets. This may include:

- Apprentices, linked to our participation in the Higher Apprentices partnership project “West of England Higher Apprentices: Responding to Local Skills Demands” with City of Bristol College and the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership;
- Other work based learners and vocational students;
- Further bespoke work for part-time students;
- Further bespoke work with ITT students.

## **2. FEES AND INCOME**

It is our intention to charge tuition fees of £9000 a year in 2013/14 to all new full-time home/EU undergraduate students, except for those students studying for Foundation Degrees or on Foundation Year courses in our partner colleges who will be charged £7,500 a year. Fees for full-time undergraduate and post graduate Initial Teacher Training students will be £9,000 a year, pro rata for part-time students. The estimated number of students at these fee levels will be 10950; however figures for part-time students in particular are estimated and are likely to be subject to revision.

### **Expenditure on additional access and retention measures**

We expect to spend over £9 million on additional access and outreach measures (see Annex B for details). This will represent 23% of the additional income above the basic fee and demonstrates the University’s absolute and real commitment to widening participation.

### **Bursaries, scholarships and financial support**

The university will provide 1058 scholarships under the National Scholarship Programme, more than doubling the number available in 2012/13. These scholarships will be integrated with programmes of outreach and retention detailed in this Agreement. Priority target students will be the same as for 2012/13 and include students from low income households below £25,000 who are from low participation neighbourhoods, care leavers, disabled students, refugees, Access to HE diploma students, students participating in the UWE HHP Plus WP compact scheme and from our partner Federation colleges. Beneficiaries will receive £1,000 in cash and in kind voucher support for accommodation costs of £2,000.

A new UWE bursary for part-time students will be introduced. Recipients will be from the same target groups as the NSP. They will receive pro rata cash benefits and in kind voucher support for accommodation costs.

All recipients of NSP awards and the UWE bursary for part-time students will receive a Progression Bursary in subsequent years of £1,000, pro rata for part-time. (We have renamed the Retention Bursary as a Progression Bursary and will use this new name for delivery in 2012/13 and future years)

### Access fund (Learner Support Fund)

There will be further investment in the University of the West of England Access Fund for 2013/14. This will provide flexible support for students from the target groups to support their retention and achievement.

## **3. ACCESS MEASURES**

### **3.1 Outreach**

There will be further investment in our programme of Outreach measures. The programme will be similar to that planned for 2012/13 and will focus on raising aspirations and attainment, including to support access to the professions for target students. It will include generic raising of aspirations to HE, as well as supporting appropriate progression to the University of the West of England. This will build on our experience and track record for institutionally led activity and partnership work including through Aimhigher and the Lifelong learning Network.

The University invested in additional Outreach in 2011/12, following the demise of external funding, including from Aimhigher, allocating an extra £400,000 to normal baseline funding of £750,000. This level of activity was maintained and expanded in our Access Agreement 2012/13. Delivery will be through a revised and refocused raising aspirations and progression programme as part of the University of the West of England Student Progression Framework. It will be based on refined targeting in line with this Agreement and our 2012/13 Agreement, and with additional emphasis on outcomes. This will include tried and tested interventions including for curriculum support (master classes, revision and study skills, literacy and numeracy etc.), Information, advice and guidance, mentoring, tutoring, summer schools, Knowledge Exchange Networks, CPD for staff, special events and talks. The menu of activities will be offered to schools and colleges as an integrated Progression Programme.

We are developing in particular our engagement with and support for staff in our partner schools and colleges and will deliver programmes of events such as free conferences, workshops and seminars, virtual and face to face networking and the provision of on- line materials and resources. For example through the new Business and Law Teachers network. This approach to outreach will support medium to longer term impact for cohorts of potential students. We will also deliver a programme of CPD for our university staff on approaches to and delivery of interventions to encourage access and widening participation at the university. This is part of a longer term strategy to encourage succession planning for delivery of outreach by the university.

### Compact schemes

We have developed a new University of the West of England Compact Framework. This was launched in 2011/12 in partnership with the BBC through the Talent Ticket programme which targeted potential students in the creative and media sector. For 2013/14 entry the Framework will support the recruitment of WP students through our new UWE Compact Scheme for Widening Participation "Heading Higher Passport Plus". This is a bespoke scheme for WP students which will raise aspirations to HE, and support appropriate progression to UWE for students from our target groups under this Agreement. It will offer an enhanced applications process and take account of contextual information related to widening participation, including whether participants come from

Low Participation Neighbourhoods and/or attend schools with large numbers or percentages of students from LPNs.

During 2012/13 and 2013/14 the Compact Framework will be further developed to engage other specific target groups. For example schemes are being considered for the UWE Federation Colleges partnership, for Apprentices and for other work based learners.

#### Access to the Professions

Outreach activity to support access to the professions has been integrated in to our overall programme of outreach. Work to be delivered in 2012/13 will be continued in 2013/14 subject to review of its effectiveness. Activity will include:

- Further expansion of the Talent Ticket compact scheme in partnership with the BBC;
- A new Business and Law teachers network;
- A bespoke programme for ITT targeting men in to Early Years and BME students in to ITT;
- A bespoke programme to encourage diverse recruits in Social Work;
- An outreach programme supporting progression to STEM related careers.

In 2012/13 and 2013/14 there will be further review and development of outreach through our Enhanced Partnerships with schools (see Appendix A), and through the UWE Federation of partner colleges, and our Associate faculty at Hartpury College.

#### Targeting and tracking

In 2011/12 we have begun work to refine our targeting of outreach, building on the Aimhigher West Intervention model, and including a more effective approach to identifying target schools where there are students from LPNs. Our 2012/13 Agreement included further investment in this next year, and the outcomes of that investment will underpin adjustments to targeting for delivery, and monitoring and evaluation of outcomes, in subsequent years. In addition, we are aligning our targeting with changing school structures, particularly in the greater Bristol area, and the expansion of Academies. Our Agreement for 2012/13 gave details of our leading work nationally with Academies and Enhanced Partnerships (see update in Appendix A).

The investment in 2012/13 in research into and tracking of participants into and through the student life cycle at UWE will be continued in 2013/14. We will also review our monitoring and a range of qualitative and quantitative evaluation mechanisms. This started with the introduction of a new CRM system for Outreach activity across the University in 2011/12 and a new Toolkit for monitoring and evaluation of WP activity.

### **3.2 Retention**

There will be additional investment in our programme of retention measures, which will build on that planned for 2012/13.

#### Peer Assisted Learning – UWE Leaders Scheme

This scheme will expand in 2012/13 and 2013/14 to build on the established Peer Assisted Learning programme to offer students from disadvantaged backgrounds a wide programme of leadership training in Year 1. The scheme will nurture leadership skills and develop planning for and preparedness for employment through higher education, compensating for contextual disadvantage which can affect students from our target groups. We will support students in TEL, science and

communication, through our new Personal Tutorial Scheme, our new Academic Learner Support Programme (see below) and through other institutional services and provision. Targeted activities will be offered to address specific cultural/gender or other sensitivities. This programme will lead in to the Vice-Chancellors Student Leadership Programme in Year 2.

#### Vice-Chancellor's Student Leadership Programme

This will build on the PAL scheme and the existing UWE Careers Employability and Diversity Scheme to offer a new programme of support and interventions for disadvantaged target students. It will encourage the development of leadership skills and preparation for and entry to leadership roles in employment. It will offer:

- A series of fora and meetings;
- Bespoke training and development;
- Enhanced access to current leaders;
- Access to networks for future employment;
- Research opportunities;
- Opportunities for internships and mentoring.

#### Academic Learner Support for retention

In 2013/14 we will build on new development work in 2012/13 to provide additional university wide Learner Support which will improve retention, in particular in key subject areas and to support key target students. This new University wide approach will build on current best practice across the organisation in ways which are targeted and which will provide appropriate support for a range of generic and subject specific skills. A team of Graduate Interns and PAL leaders will provide integrated academic and "pastoral" support for current students. This will provide both bespoke subject and programme based support as well as engagement with more generic student services. Students identified as at risk of dropping out will be identified and offered tailored interventions. There will be bespoke tracking and monitoring and evaluation in 2012/13 to assess impact and inform further development for 2013/14. Provision will be inclusive of both ITT students and part-time students where it is appropriate.

#### **4. COLLABORATIVE OUTREACH**

Building on the commitment made in our 2012/13 Access Agreement, the University has agreed a range of additional activity that will be delivered in 2012/13 in collaboration with partner Universities to provide generic widening participation in higher education. These activities will be funded through the funding commitments included in the 2012/13 Agreement. They will be built on and further developed in 2013/14, subject to evaluation of their effectiveness. Please see Appendix B for detailed information.

#### The University of the West of England Federation of Partner Colleges

The University will continue to value collaboration with colleges through the work of the UWE Federation and with our Associated Faculty, Hartpury College. There have been significant changes for 2012/13, with Hartpury now responsible for its own Access Agreement, and a number of our colleges gaining student numbers under the 2011/12 bidding round. We will be exploring in 2012/13 how we can add value to and enhance our partnership work in particular with our core strategic partner colleges moving forward, and expect to implement development work in 2013/14. Our students in our partner colleges remain one of our priority groups for support under this Access Agreement.

## 5. TARGETS AND MILESTONES

### Track record and targets/milestones

We continue to recognise that the current and future environment and context will be unpredictable and challenging across the sector for a number of years. However we continue to identify ambitious and challenging targets for future years, based on our previous good track record.

Our overall objectives will continue to be to:

- Increase the number of students recruited from priority target groups where possible, taking into account student number controls;
- Increase the volume of activity through Outreach and through the student life cycle;
- Increase the number of students retained from priority target groups where possible, taking into account student number controls;
- Increase the number of leavers moving into graduate level employment or other graduate level destinations from priority target groups as a percentage;
- Continue current efforts to try to further develop sustained programmes of generic widening participation in partnership with other universities and associated stakeholders.

We are likely to wish to revisit our targets to take account of current and future significant changes to the external context within which we are operating. That will include consideration of

- the impact of a shrinking undergraduate sector;
- student number controls including core and margin and ABB + or equivalent recruitment;
- the impact of competition from other universities and the FE sector;
- evaluation of national (NSP) and local (UWE) bursary policies;
- ongoing changes in the schools sector – we are already feeling the impact of the demise of Aimhigher, Lifelong Learning Networks and changes to IAG services in particular through Connexions and the new all age guidance service

We made provision in our 2012/13 Agreement for additional investment in work to review targeting, monitoring and evaluation of our widening participation activity. This investment will allow us to further critically review our achievements to date and to target future work more accurately. This work will also be aligned with the development of a new Widening Participation Strategic Assessment for 2013/14 onwards.

### 6.1 Low Participation Neighbourhoods

Table 1

LPN - young full-time first degree entrants (HESA Table T1a)										
Baseline %	Achieved %				Target %					
06/7	07/8	08/9	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
9.5	8.9	9.3	10.2	9.5	11.0	11.4	11.8	12.2	12.6	13.0
Location adjusted benchmark 10/11 10.0%										

Table 2

<b>LPN - young full-time first degree entrants, all undergraduates including Fd, HND, HNC etc (HESA Table T1b)</b>										
<b>Baseline %</b>	<b>Achieved %</b>				<b>Target %</b>					
06/7	07/8	08/9	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
9.6	9.1	9.4	10.5	9.9	11.3	11.7	12.1	12.5	12.9	13.3
Location adjusted benchmark 10/11 10.4%										

Table 3

<b>LPN – mature full-time, all undergraduate entrants (HESA Table T2a)</b>										
<b>Baseline %</b>	<b>Achieved %</b>				<b>Target %</b>					
06/7	07/8	08/9	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
14.7	14.4	16.6	13.6	12.3	14.4	14.8	15.2	15.6	16.0	16.4
Location adjusted benchmark 10/11 11.1%										

## 5.2 Care Leavers

Our target for the recruitment of Care Leavers in 2013/14 will be 20, including over 25s and part-time students. This is the same overall target as for 2012/13. We recognise that this is particularly challenging target, in particular as the number of care leavers nationally entering higher education is falling. We intend to offer bursaries to include over 25 year olds from 2012/13 and in 2013/14. In 2010, of 11 Care Leavers that entered the university only 1 has withdrawn. We hold the Buttle UK Quality Mark for our work with care leavers.

## 5.3 Access to HE Diploma students

The University has a long and successful track record of work to support Access students, including the established Access to HE Progression Accord. As reported in our Access Agreement and Widening Participation Monitoring Return for 2009/10, our Access students come disproportionately from disadvantaged groups.

Table 4

	Access acceptances 10/11	Non Access acceptances 10/11
NS SEC 4 – 7	30.4%	12.1%
LPN (Polar 1 and 2)	44.4%	24.1%

## 5.4 Percentage of students recruited in receipt of Disabled Student Allowance

The University has made good progress in recruiting students in receipt of Disabled Student Allowance (see Table 5 below). However, we recognise that only counting DSA is likely to mean considerable underreporting of disability. We intend therefore to target 100 Disabled students for

bursaries in 2013/14 on the basis of disability benefits or assessment for high non-medical support costs. Disabled students will be offered bursaries and integrated programmes of access measures.

Table 5 HESA Table T7

Baseline %	Achieved %				Target %						
	06/7	07/8	08/9	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
Full time students 10/11 Benchmark 5.7%											
3.9	4.1	4.6	5.5	5.7	6.1	6.4	6.7	7.0	7.3	7.6	
Part-time students 10/11 Benchmark 3.4%											
2.9	3.1	3.4	4.9	5.5	5.5	5.8	6.1	6.4	6.7	7.0	

### 6.5 Percentage of students retained

The University has a good track record for retention. Our Agreement for 2012/13 stated that we expected to see a decrease in 2009/10 as we had already tightened regulations with a view to increasing standards. We have set demanding targets for future years.

TABLE 6 using HESA data

Baseline %	Achieved %			Targets %						
	06/7	07/8	08/9	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
89.1	88.3	89.4	85.2	89.0	89.5	90.0	90.5	91.0	91.5	92.0

### 6.6 Percentage of target students taking up graduate level employment or further study

We do not have disaggregated data on graduate level employment or further study for our target students. National datasets do not at this time enable tracking by these categories. We are developing infrastructure to support the delivery of the measures in our Access Agreement 2012/13 which will enable analysis in future by target groups, and the identification of relevant performance indicators in future years. The University of the West of England Student Progression Framework will support the continuation and improvement of our current work to enhance the employment opportunities of our graduates from under-represented groups.

In 2010 unemployment of our graduates was approximately 6.7%, well below the national figure of approximately 9%. We are awaiting confirmation of 2011 data, but expect the level to be similar. The access measures included in this agreement will support a further reduction in that figure.

## 6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Plans for monitoring and evaluation in 2013/14 are based upon:

- The additional investment included in our Agreement for 2012/13 to provide additional staff resource to critically review our current data analysis and monitoring and evaluation, and



implement additional and meaningful new mechanisms for the timely and systematic flow of information to provide evidence of impact and to inform future planning.

- The systematic infrastructure we have developed in 2011/12 to enable detailed tracking of students and their participation in our access measures and as beneficiaries of financial support in 2012/13 and future years. This infrastructure will contribute towards the measurement of the impact of interventions in year and at year end, and will be used to influence future targeting and delivery.
- Pilot research undertaken in 2011/12 into the achievements and retention of BME students which is due to report in July 2012. The outcomes of this research will also influence our planning and delivery in future years.
- The implementation across the University in future years of a new toolkit developed in 2011/12 to measure the impact of WP interventions. This will enable us to take advantage of best practice in the University and embed that across the organisation.

Formal arrangements for monitoring and evaluation within the University will be similar to those described in the 2012/13 Agreement. The success of Access Agreements, and associated Widening Participation Strategic Assessments, will be monitored and reviewed at senior management level through report to the relevant Executive Groups (Participation, Community and Public Engagement and Learning and Teaching and Student Experience) and the Employability and Enterprise Management Group and be approved by the Vice Chancellor's Executive Group for report to the University Board of Governors. The President of the Student's Union is a member of the Board of Governors and the Student Union VP Education is a member of the Learning and Teaching and Student Experience Executive. Operational matters will be considered by the Widening Participation and Partnerships Management Group. Reports will be submitted for approval as required to OFFA and HEFCE.

## **8. PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS**

We will provide clear and accessible information to prospective students, staff in partner schools and colleges and other key influencers including parents in numerous ways. The following ways are just a selection:

- Bespoke web pages on
  - o financial and disability support available nationally and specifically from the University of the West of England, including details of our bursary schemes. This information will go live immediately after our Agreement is approved.
  - o The range of access measures available to prospective students.
- Bespoke hard copy materials, for example
  - o a detailed programme of WP activities available to partner schools and colleges;
  - o a detailed programme of interventions included in the new UWE Compact Scheme for WP.
- Specific sessions giving information, advice and guidance to prospective students on campus and in schools and colleges.
- One to one financial advice for prospective students, including a bespoke telephone helpline.
- A programme of information sessions and CPD for staff in partner schools and colleges
- Briefings for University staff.

Communications to prospective students for 2012/13 entry will be reviewed with key audiences, including the Student's Union, in order to inform our communications plan for 2013/14.

We will provide timely information to UCAS and the Student Loans Company as required so that they can populate their course databases and allow timely and accurate applications from students.

## **7. CONSULTATION WITH STUDENTS**

The UWE Student's Union made a significant contribution to the development of the 2012/13 Agreement, in particular advising on bursary policy. In developing the 2013/14 Agreement there has been ongoing discussion with the President of the SU and the VP Education. The President is a member of the Access Agreement Project Board, which has overseen the development of policy and detailed provision for 2013/14, and a member of the Governing Body of the University which has approved fees policy and the development of the new Agreement.

Operationally a range of SU networks and groups are engaged in the development of delivery for 2012/13 and this will continue into 2013/14. In particular SU networks are supporting the introduction and dissemination of a range of access measures.

## **8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

The alignment of work related to the University's responsibilities under the Equality Act 2012 has been developed in the following ways:

- Production and approval by the Governing body of a Single Equalities Scheme that is congruent with our Access Agreement;
- Report to Equality and Diversity Management Group, which is chaired by the Pro Vice-Chancellor Partnerships, Diversity and Civic Engagement;
- Report to the Equality and Diversity Forum.

An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed.

**ENHANCED PARTNERSHIPS**

The University has a long standing commitment to working locally and regionally with schools on diverse programmes to support widening participation in higher education. UWE recruits approximately 50% of its undergraduates from the local region, and works closely with schools and the local authorities to enhance attainment, to raise aspirations and promote progression to University of local school and college students. The city of Bristol includes areas of stark social inequality and educational and multiple deprivation. The University was the first higher education institution to support an academy when we sponsored the City Academy, Bristol in 2003. This sustained partnership working with an inner city school in a low participation area, has proved very successful and seen dramatic improvements in pupils' achievements and progression to higher education. UWE is currently engaged in support for an increasing number and range of academies, trusts and federations, including Trust in Learning (1 all-through school, 1 secondary and 1 special school), the Cabot Learning Federation (6 academies and 4 primaries from September 2012), Ashton Park secondary school and primaries, Worle and West Haven Trust and Olympus Trust Bradley Stoke Community School/Abbeywood Community School.

The impact of our earlier work was evaluated as a part of a HEFCE-funded research project, published in 2011, which provided sound evidence of the positive impact of this work and evidence since then shows continuous impact of these partnerships on pupil attainment and progression rates. UWE is also actively involved in the development of a new Teaching School (again through CLF) and a University Technical College (with City of Bristol College).

These 'Enhanced Partnerships', which have been supported under earlier Access Agreements, will be sustained and further developed in 2013/14, through the delivery of the proposed key interventions and access measures and through dedicated engagement in particular under the Outreach Programme. We will work with partners to generate and share knowledge, expertise and resources related to teaching, learning, curriculum enrichment, learner support, leadership, governance and organisation with a view to building educational excellence.

**COLLABORATIVE OUTREACH**

Delivery in 2012/13 and, subject to evaluation of effectiveness in 2013/14, will include the following. Collaborative outreach work will be funded through core allocations of funding under this Access Agreement, including to provide adequate staff time.

1. **Joint with the University of Bristol:**

- Mentoring and tutoring in schools  
A long standing collaboration, previously supported by the TDA.
- Raising aspirations and attainment activity through Into University;
- Collaborative outreach for STEM subjects, in partnership with the Society of Merchant Venturers Bristol;
- A joint Research Cluster focused on widening participation.

2. **With the Universities of Bristol, Bath and Bath Spa**

Building on the partnership work established through Aimhigher West and the Western Vocational Lifelong Learning Network, the 4 Universities have continued to collaborate to promote common messages about HE and to share communications about institutional provision to support widening participation in HE. The 4 Universities are now planning a small integrated programme for delivery in 2012/13 focused on raising aspirations and attainment linked to subject specialisms, employment opportunities and career progression. This pilot scheme will be evaluated for potential expansion in 2013/14.

3. Continued collaboration through the **Western Access Progression Accord** for Access to HE Diploma learners.
4. Support for the **Open College Network South West Region** through membership of the Board, and including delivery of the UWE funded Rod Coleman Bursary Scheme for Access Learners.
5. Through **Universities South West** in 2012/13 and 2013/14 (if funding is confirmed):  
HEIs in the South West are committed to continuing and strengthening their collaborative widening participation partnerships to ensure that young people and adults across the region have access to activities that promote successful progression to HE. A co-operative organisational structure has been agreed with individual universities leading on key areas along with meetings and some regional events co-ordinated through Universities South West, the membership organization for the 13 HEIs in the region. The work will include:
- i. Sharing and building upon best practice in WP;
  - ii. Joint planning of provision in the region and identification of future areas for collaboration;
  - iii. Developing coherence and consistency in data collection and data protocols to facilitate M&E;
  - iv. Identification of future opportunities for promoting further collaborative delivery mechanisms.

The University of the West of England will lead on the development and delivery of a Regional External Knowledge Exchange Network related to Care Leavers and will deliver an annual conference for practitioners including staff in schools and colleges, Virtual Heads and colleagues in Social Services. UWE will make a financial contribution to the network and also to the Disability Network.

6. The University of the West of England will assume the administration of the **Southern Widening Participation Network** from 2012/13 and for future years.
7. **Regional 14 – 19 External Knowledge Exchange Network** – this was developed under the Western Vocational Lifelong Learning Network and continued in 2011/12 by the **Western**

**Vocational Progression Consortium.** From 2012/13 and into 2013/14 UWE will continue this partnership network. WVPC have agreed the following statement:

The University of the West of England is a member of the Western Vocational Progression Consortium (WVPC) of 7 HEIs in the northern sub-region of the South West and their FEC partners. The WVPC is the successor to the Western Vocational Lifelong Learning Network (WVLLN). The work of the consortium focuses on the progression of vocational and non-traditional learners into and through higher education. The consortium is jointly responsible for the following online resources that contribute to widening access:

- The Lifepilot website ([www.life-pilot.co.uk](http://www.life-pilot.co.uk)) offers information, advice and guidance to adult, part-time and work-based learners about progression routes to higher level study.
- The Careerpilot website ([www.careerpilot.org.uk](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk)) helps 14-19 year olds plan they progression to study and work by showing the pathway choices at key decision points and the multiple routes to higher level study.