

LLN Research Database by sussexlearningnetwork

ID: 11498300000026023

Title: SLN Student Study

Keywords: HESA data; student constituency

Organisation: Sussex Learning Network

Purpose: The aim of this research is to provide evidence of the SLN's effectiveness in reaching its target audience, and assess the impact of learning on the experience and plans of higher education students on a range of vocational courses.

Method: Part 1 – data analysis

A series of data sets is available relating to the 141 learners that enrolled in 2006/07. These are taken from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) return. The tasking is to identify the relevant data sets and to undertake some analysis of this information, drawing out a profile of the SLN learner.

Part 2 – student survey

141 learners who enrolled on courses in Sussex in 2006/07 took up the places that the SLN had allocated to institutions to support vocational learners locally. In 2007/08, approximately 430 additional learners have taken up places provided by the SLN.

The student survey will identify a total of 50 students, 20 from the 2006/07 cohort, and 30 from those enrolling in 2007/08. Making use of a range of appropriate methods, which may include focus groups or in depth interviews, supported by questionnaires, the survey will address the following issues:

1. The background and profile of the SLN student. This should include a breakdown of factors such as age, gender, residence, ethnicity, and highest qualification on entry to higher education. This should reflect and build on the data for 2006/07 analysed under part 1 of the project (above). This section should also address whether students are in employment, and if so whether their work is directly related to their course; whether they are studying full or part-time, and whether they have any family or caring responsibilities.

2. The factors that influenced the SLN student's choice to study, and their choice of what to study, at higher education. This should include exploring what resources students accessed to support them with their decision, and who they spoke to during their decision making process. It should also look at the student's motivation to progress to higher education, and to study their chosen subject.

3. The on-course experience of the SLN student, including how the course content and mode of study meet their expectations, and how their experience on the course is shaping their future plans.

4. The future study and / or career aspirations of the SLN student and the factors which are influencing their plans at this specific stage in their studies.

Outcomes of research: The report produced as a result of this research will contribute to the overall

evaluation of the SLN, providing evidence of the SLN's effectiveness in targeting its intended student constituency, and in achieving a positive impact on vocational learners in Sussex.

The report should briefly set the work in context, sourcing and including reference to any comparable studies that may provide evidence to support the report's findings and recommendations.

A presentation of the findings and recommendations to the SLN Board and Curriculum Team will be required shortly after submission of the final report.

Is a final report available?: No

How will the findings be disseminated?: Through the Sussex Learning Network website and the Lifelong Learning

Network National Forum. Also to be presented to the first day of the SLN conference on 25 June 2008.

Access the SLN Research Database online at <http://www.sussexlearningnetwork.org.uk/research>