



2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

Provider impact report

This impact report summarises the progress made by East Surrey 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

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

East Surrey College is a general further education college serving the Eastern half of Surrey, as well as to the South of Croydon and the North of West Sussex. It is based on one campus: at Gatton Point to the north of Redhill. The College's main prescribed higher education portfolio primarily serves the local area and a local demand for skills, specifically in early years education, business & management, design & media, software development, electrical & electronic engineering, and construction.

The College firmly locates higher education, both prescribed and non-prescribed, at the core of its mission. It is inextricably linked and continuous with its other provision, specifically further education, and employer engagement, along with vocation support for local sixth form provision.

Higher education is central to the College's aim to widen participation and support local communities through enabling economic prosperity and social inclusion. This is reflected in the College's Strategic Aim 3: "To develop complementary partnerships to widen opportunities and increase participation." We are a diverse college that respects and celebrates differences in race, disability, gender, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, faith and religious beliefs, background or personal circumstance. We want everyone to feel valued and included in the college community and to achieve their full potential.

The College performs very well in recruiting part-time, disabled, non-white and mature students. The conspicuous area of underperformance is in recruiting POLAR3 Quintile 1 students, and this is largely due to the College's location and the fact that College HE students are predominantly from the Travel To Work Area.

The College sought to maintain a steady state of BAME students and students with disabilities accessing HE programmes. It sought to steadily increase the proportion of part time HE students, and double the percentage of full time young HE students from the 20% of the lowest participation postcodes. Other aims were to support success and progression by steadily seeking to increase the continuation rate, and offer Level 6 top up provision within the College. As primarily an FE College, another aim was to support progression into higher education by ensuring Level 3 programmes met or exceeded their national achievement rates.

The College aimed to spend 25% of its higher fee income on Access, Student Success and Progression measures.

The College allocated the largest percentage of its Access and Participation Fund (55%) to bursaries primarily in order to increase the percentage of students from low participation neighbourhoods. The College's performance was below benchmark and it believed that this financial support, coupled with increased outreach activities that focus on the funding of degree-level study, would help break down concerns amongst many potential students on the cost of pursuing an HE qualification. A bursary was identified as being more attractive to students from a widening participation background as it offered immediate financial support for course materials, travel and other personal or financial matters which can impact on attendance and continuation.

An allocation of 20% of the Access and Participation Fund was aimed at outreach (15%) and progression (5%) activities. This was to support the College's Marketing and School's liaison functions and further improve the advice and guidance given to HE students wishing to progress on to postgraduate study or employment. The additional funding supported the cost of delivering additional events, increasing staffing at events, producing information for applicants and providing support in College for students applying for HE, further HE study and seeking employment.

25% of the Access and Participation Fund was allocated to strategies to increase success in order to help students who encountered either personal circumstances or academic challenges to complete their programme. As a further education college, our HE offer targets students with a lower UCAS entry profile enabling a large number of people who are not able to study at a higher education institution achieve a degree-level qualification. This lower entry profile attracts a large number of students who experience academic challenges but do not qualify for additional statutory support. By increasing the number of additional learning support hours available to HE students, the College anticipates that its continuation rate will increase.

[Footnote: East Surrey College merged with John Ruskin College in February 2019 which was not anticipated in the original 2019/20 Access and Participation Plan. The John Ruskin College campus does not offer Higher Education programmes currently, but will in the medium term.]

2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by East Surrey 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 East Surrey 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)	Further increase the proportion of part time prescribed HE students at the College (headcount) by 0.6% per year	2017-18	35.6%	n/a	36.4%	Percentage	2019-20	51.1	Expected progress
T16a_02 (Access)	Maintain the proportion of students with a declared disability at over 15% (headcount) or above	2015-16	13.4%	n/a	13.8%	Percentage	2019-20	14.6	Expected progress
T16a_03 (Access)	College Level 3 study programmes to meet or exceed the relevant national achievement rate in their subject areas	2017-18	National rates as in E18	n/a	tba	Percentage	2019-20	87.8	Expected progress
T16a_04 (Access)	To double the percentage (headcount) of young full-time undergraduate entrants from low participation neighbourhoods.	2017-18	3.7%	n/a	4.6%	Percentage	2019-20	1.5	No progress
T16a_05 (Access)	To maintain the proportion of non-white students at 13% (headcount) or above	2017-18	12.9%	n/a	13%+	Percentage	2019-20	22.6	Expected progress
T16a_06 (Progression)	Establish two Honours top-up programmes at the College by 2022/23 which provide an internal progression route from Level 5.	2017-18	0	n/a	0	Other	2019-20	2	Expected progress
T16a_07 (Success)	To increase the continuation rate for all prescribed higher education programmes to 87% (headcount)	2016-17	86.3%	n/a	86.5%	Percentage	2019-20	91.4	Expected progress

T16a_08 (Access)	Work with the University of Chichester to develop bridging courses between FE & HE that recognise and enhance current skills and meet the needs of Health & Social Care employers.	2017-18	0	n/a	0	Other	2019-20	1	Expected progress
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Other milestones and targets

No data was returned for this section in East Surrey College's 2019-20 [access and participation plan](#).

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	£2,053.00	£3,890.61	90%
Financial Support	£7,526.00	£1,000.00	-87%

4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected East Surrey 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	A much more ambitious target for Q1 and Q2 of all modes and ages was set in the 2020/21 Access and Participation Plan. Because of our location, we find it very challenging to attract day students from Q1 postcodes so in conjunction with OfS advice we felt it more realistic to set a target for Q1 and Q2 together. In the medium term we also aim to offer HE at our John Ruskin College campus which is close to Q1 postcodes.

5. Confirmation

East Surrey 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	
East Surrey 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	Jayne Dickinson
Position	Principal (East Surrey College) and CEO (College Group)

Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets

East Surrey 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?
No, in 2019/20 we fell short of the original commitment. It was very specific and did not anticipate the unprecedented movement in numbers towards part time provision at the College.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
We have promoted our HE provision heavily at our John Ruskin College campus (merger took place in February 2019 after this plan's submission) which is close to Q1 postcodes. We used in-person (2019/20) and online presentations (2020/21) via Google Meet due to Covid restrictions.

Annex B: Optional commentary on targets

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

Reference Number	Optional commentary
T16a_01	Very high levels of growth in part time provision, which was not anticipated.
T16a_02	Sustained position, with more part time male technology students being prepared to declare a disability, which was previously identified as an issue (eg in TEF4 dataset).
T16a_03	Level 3 programmes performed very well overall for 19/20 – was 87.8% which was 2.3% above the national rate. Achievement improved by 2.6% on 2018/19 so this is an upward trend. We have made expected progress and have a 3 year trend of sustained improvement.
T16a_04	Full time Q1 and Q2 for all ages was 4.4%, any mode Q1 and Q2 young was 6.6%, and part time young Q1 and Q2 was 5.1%. Overall 16.8% of students were from Q1 and Q2. It is unfortunate not to meet the specific target but the overall trend for Q1 and Q2 is upward. Also the College could not reasonably anticipate the dramatic move to part time study over the last two and a half years since the target was set which has affected the weight of numbers contributing to performance against target here.
T16a_05	Very strong performance especially in terms of access for Black students.
T16a_06	We are continuing to push into Level 6 to offer progression opportunities internally.
T16a_07	Students responded incredibly well to online learning and support.
T16a_08	