

AGENDA |

Student Services and Access and Participation Network

Wednesday 23 October 2024, 10:00 – 16.30

Central Film School, 72 Landor Road, London

10:00 | Welcome and introductions

Co-Chair: Kate Le Cocq – Head of Student Affairs, Futureworks

Co-Chair: Shereen Sally - Assistant Registrar Student Experience and Success, TEDI London

10:05 | Policy updates from the IHE Policy Team

Ellen Engstrom, Senior Policy and Engagement Officer

Angela Halston, Senior Policy and Engagement Officer

A briefing on the key policy developments and news from the sector relevant for members of the Student Services and Access and Participation Networks

10:30 | Transitions

Jenny Shaw, Higher Education External Engagement Director, Unite Students

This session will explore the choices, experiences and challenges of students transitioning into Higher Education, drawing on findings from the May 2024 report [‘Improving the transition to Higher Education’](#) and the July 2024 Applicant Index. Drawing out particular challenges for students from underrepresented groups, and impacts of transition on mental wellbeing, this opening plenary will frame the day with a focus on the importance on inclusion.

11:10 | Break

11:20 | Supporting disabled students to thrive through inclusive approaches

Developing inclusive approaches that support diverse student groups is a real strength of IHE members. This session will provide opportunity to share some of the approaches being used in teaching, learning and student support that make a difference to the experience and success of disabled students. We will hear from three members about what they are doing, and then there will be opportunity for all to share good practice and ideas.

12:00 | Roundtable: Harassment and Sexual Misconduct

A practical session considering the [new OfS requirements on Harassment and Sexual Misconduct](#) and how these can be implemented in practice. We will share our new resource for IHE members and discuss approaches and challenges to meeting the condition with a particular focus on reporting processes, and training.

12:45 | Lunch

13:30 | What can an SU do for you?

We will begin with a panel to explore the benefits of having a Students' Union or association, the different models, and considerations for establishing one – both from the viewpoint of external expert speakers as well as IHE members who have created SUs. We will hear more about why students need support when taking formal representative roles, and how IHE can help with this. The panel will be followed by a discussion and Q&A to identify the key issues for members in creating a student body able and supported to represent students at their institution.

14:15 | Workshops

a) Compassionate policies and communications

On behalf of the Department of Education, the Higher Education Mental Health Implementation Taskforce has committed to developing guiding principles for use in higher education for those who communicate policies and processes which can impact on the wellbeing of students. This workshop will consider the principles as they apply to the specific example of student drug use, following the recent publication of the [UUK Drug Taskforce report](#), before a discussion on how compassion applies in daily practice.

b) Care Leaver Accreditation Scheme

Following the [outcome](#) from the independent review of children's social care, the government stated their commitment to introducing a gold standard accreditation scheme for higher and further education institutions. This breakout group will hear an update on some of the discussions to date on how to best shape this accreditation scheme, and have a chance to talk through what the implications may be.

c) Supporting students to succeed after graduation

This workshop will invite members to reflect on their student profile, and how risks to equality of opportunity in relation to progression are experienced. We will consider what successful outcomes might look like and what barriers are experienced – in particular for those from underrepresented groups. We will share current strategies and practice and together develop ideas to address these risks in different provider contexts.

15:00 | Tea Break

15:15 | Career paths or career accidents: How did you get here?

We will conclude the day with a focus on career development. Three members will share their journeys so far, followed by table networking where we will share experiences, challenges, and aspirations.

16:30 | Close
