

2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

Provider impact report

This impact report summarises the progress made by Cornwall 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

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

In the 2019-20 Access and Participation Plan, TCCG set out how, as one of the largest FE Colleges in England, our purpose is to lead positive action that can change circumstances and habits that may have led or lead to social exclusion. The delivery of our Higher Education portfolio is a critical way to deliver social cohesion; removing barriers that are connected with social exclusion through education. TCCG recognises that both within our local communities and beyond, there are potential learners, who, due to their domicile and histories, both recent and longstanding, are less likely to enter HE, may be more at risk of non-continuation than their peers and are influenced in their destinations (careers) by the relevancy of our portfolio.

TCCG set specific ambitions in relation to Access, Success and Progression which are summarised as follows;

Access

Stabilise in the short term and increase in the longer term the number of learners from South West England entering HE; maintaining the proportion of learners from low participation neighbourhoods and from areas of high deprivation

Set specific targets for recruitment of young males.

Maintain the number of mature learners enrolling in the face of a declining national average,

Maintain the proportion of learners with disabilities entering HE.

Work with key partner HEIs and employers to further develop flexible study options to meet the needs of a wide range of learners.

Continue to provide opportunities for learners from across the UK to participate in specialist programmes.

Success

To reduce the gap in withdrawal rates between learners of specific characteristics in the short term and ultimately ensure that all learners have the same chance of success.

Particular groups of learners that were to be targeted included learners from low participation neighbourhoods, mature learners, young male learners remaining at home to study and learners with a declared disability.

Progression

TEF data provides evidence that progression into further study or employment (including highly skilled) is more challenging for students who remain in county. TCCG seeks to continue to

address the long term challenges in Cornwall and Devon. TCCG has embarked on an ambitious journey as 'The Career College' and the measures put in place will ensure that we are adequately preparing all of our learners for their futures.

2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by Cornwall 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 Cornwall 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)	Maintain and further increase proportion of mature students (over 21) recruited	2017-18	50%	50%	55%	Percentage	2019-20	58	Expected progress
T16a_02 (Access)	Maintain and further increase the proportion of young learners entering our HE provision (particularly Foundation Degrees) from low participation neighbourhoods.	2016-17	14%	16%	17%	Percentage	2019-20	14	Limited progress
T16a_03 (Access)	Through targetted outreach activities, increase proportion of young male learners studying HE.	2017-18	42%	42%	44%	Percentage	2019-20	43	Limited progress
T16a_04 (Access)	Maintain and further increase proportion of disabled learners recruited to accessible degree and Foundation Degree programmes.	2017-18	15%	15%	16%	Percentage	2019-20	29	Expected progress
T16a_05 (Success)	Reduce gap between disabled learners and other groups to ensure disabled learners are not more likely to withdraw than other groups without a declared disability.	2017-18	14% (withdrawal rate)	12%	10%	Percentage	2019-20	13.5	Limited progress
T16a_06 (Success)	Improve overall average completion rate.	2017-18	80%	85%	87%	Percentage	2019-20	79.8	Limited progress
T16a_07 (Progression)	Improve rates of progression of part-time learners to employment or further study.	2017-18	93.6%	95%	97%	Percentage	2019-20	95	Limited progress

T16a_08 (Progression)	Build on key existing strength to further improve progression of learners to highly skilled employment or further study.	2017-18	70.3%	71%	74%	Percentage	2019-20	68.8	No progress
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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 (Access)	Increase partnership activities within local schools to raise aspirations	2012-13	49	61	61	Other	2019-20	65	Expected progress
T16b_02 (Access)	Working closely with NCOP to ensure target students to attain and progress to Higher Education.	Other (please give details in Description column)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Other	2019-20		Expected progress
T16b_03 (Other/Multiple stages)	Continue to develop reporting systems to enable comparisons against national benchmarks	Other (please give details in Description column)	N/A	all	all	Other	2019-20		Expected progress
T16b_04 (Access)	Formalised meetings around the National Network for Collaborative Outreach and other WP activities.	2012-13	N/A	4	n/a	Other	2019-20		Expected progress
T16b_05 (Access)	Increase the number and type of outreach activities to increase the proportion of priority students within the HE cohort-low income background	Other (please give details in Description column)	N/A	n/a	n/a	Other	2019-20		Expected progress
T16b_06 (Access)	Outreach WP activities to increase awareness of HE opportunities available with Cornwall and Devon (where appropriate)	2018-19	20 %	22 %	24 %	Percentage	2019-20	24	Expected progress
T16b_07 (Success)	Review the achievements of those students with disabilities	Other (please give details in Description column)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Other	2019-20		Expected progress

T16b_08 (Success)	Evaluate the effectiveness of our significantly revised package of financial support, coupled with enhanced pastoral support, in retaining learners.	2018-19	Non-continuation rates	Baseline year	3 % reduction in non-continuation rate from baseline	Percentage	2019-20	3	Expected progress
T16b_09 (Access)	Work closely through NCOP to undertake targeted aspiration raising activities in schools e.g. mentoring and STEM sessions, that raise attainment through enhanced learner motivation.	2018-19	% agreement academically ready for HE	Baseline year	5 % increase in agreement from baseline	Percentage	2019-20	5	Expected 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	£120,000.00	£141,500.00	18%
Financial Support	£98,500.00	£77,000.00	-22%

4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected Cornwall 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	Work has already been undertaken to further understand the barriers to entry that students in Polar 1 areas face and in particular from those specific areas within Cornwall. In doing so TCCG has identified further opportunities for engaging younger people during their compulsory education to help them form positive learner identities that will encourage them to see HE as an achievable future for themselves.
T16a_03	Through the ED&I committee, further exploratory work is being undertaken to evaluate where and what activity can be undertaken to address barriers that may exist due to gender stereotypes
T16a_05	The monitoring and review of this activity is ongoing to continue the positive trajectory.
T16a_06	As per cell W24, activity is ongoing to raise the quality and achievement of all our HE provision.
T16a_07	Moving forward, it is clear that additional activity needs to be undertaken with key stakeholders (employers, LEP, Council) to increase understanding of the employment difficulties being experienced in the communities and how the College can further support progression for students into new and growing industries.

T16a_08	<p>It is clear that progression into employment, highly skilled employment or further study needs to be prioritised in order to better support students. As outlined in cell x25, additional activity needs to be undertaken with key stakeholders (employers, LEP, Council) to increase understanding of the employment difficulties being experienced in the communities and how the College can further support progression for students into new and growing industries.</p>
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5. Confirmation

Cornwall 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	
Cornwall 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	John Evans
Position	Principal and CEO

Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets

Cornwall 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?
No. Using the APP Data Dashboard, the proportion of learners from Polar 1 increased in 2018/19 from 13% in 2017/18 to 15% before falling back to 14% in 2019/20.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
During the recruitment phase for the 209/20 academic year, the activity carried out to meet this target was largely focussed on the activity set out in the APP.

Target reference number: T16a_03
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Some progress has been made, both internal data and the TEF Year 4 data show that the proportion of males, is at 43%.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Whilst progress has been made at a 'Group' level, it is still evident that there are some curriculum areas that are particularly skewed towards either male or female cohorts.

Target reference number: T16a_05
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Yes, however TCCG has undertaken significant work to improve our reporting of data which has made a fundamental change to the alogrhtyims employed to monitor retention and achievement. The 13.5% non-retained figure is a more stringent way of assessing performance (cohort retention rather than current stage). This means that the progress made, which is positive, is masked. Using the APP data dashboard, the continuation rates have increased to 87% in 2018/19 from 83.0% in 2016/17. Our internal data shows a similar trajectory- increasing retention from 76.3% in 2017//18 to 86.5% in 2019/20)
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Significant work went into supporting students with disabilities. A number of changes or adaptations to practices have been made and are seeing to have a positive impact.

Target reference number: T16a_06

How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Yes, significant work to improve our reporting of data which has made a fundamental change to the algorithms employed to monitor retention and achievement. We have now moved to a methodology that looks at Cohort retention, pass rates and achievement rather than current stage (or single academic year) which is a much more stringent methodology. Whilst the 79.8% achievement rate recorded in the table does not appear to show progress, over the last three years, using this new methodology, we have increased achievement across HE from 74% to 79.8%.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Whilst we are pleased with the progress made and the new approach to data monitoring, TCCG has set in place a series of improvements to Teaching, Learning and Assessment, support methods for students, quality processes and monitoring both at operational, management and governance level to ensure that this progress continues.

Target reference number: T16a_07
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
The data source for cell T25 was the Year 4 TEF metric. The APP data dashboard and accompanying data spreadsheets suppress all data for PT progression statistics owing to the sizes of the cohorts. Although the TEF data shows some progress it is clear that more needs to be done to secure the target.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
More activity needs to be carried out to understand the opportunities and support needed for part-time students. The majority of our part-time offer is infill. The college has improved its monitoring of students intended destinations in order to provide more nuanced support.

Target reference number: T16a_08
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
No. The Year 4 TEF data suggests that no progress has been made to improve progression into employment or further study.
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Yes, during 2019-20 the careers support offered internally was restructured in order to provide better support to students.

Annex B: Optional commentary on targets

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

Reference Number	Optional commentary
T16a_01	The improved data analysis using the APP Data Dashboard is signalling that that there has been a decline in the proportion of mature students between 2017/18 and 2019/20 and therefore this target although met needs further activity. Since 2018/19 significant work has been undertaken to better understand the barriers that mature learners face before entering HE. This has influenced marketing and 'outreach' activity which will help secure the milestone moving forward. TCCG has already put in place activity to increase the Adult FE portfolio which will provide more opportunities for adults to reengage in education at lower levels, with clear pathways to progress into HE
T16a_02	
T16a_03	
T16a_04	
T16a_05	
T16a_06	
T16a_07	
T16a_08	
T16b_01	
T16b_02	
T16b_03	
T16b_04	
T16b_05	
T16b_06	
T16b_07	
T16b_08	
T16b_09	