

Aimhigher Steering Group Meeting

Wednesday 11th October 2017

1:00 – 3:00pm Teddington School

Meeting note

In attendance: Lorna Ellis (Carshalton Boys College), Kath Corrigall (Teddington High School), Rachel Leighton (University of Roehampton), Catherine Fenwick and Suzanne Marchment (Aimhigher London South)

Apologies - Ben Rowe (Kingston College), Jenni Woods (Kingston University), Suzanne Parrott (Virtual School Head AfC Richmond and Kingston)

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting (15th June 2017)** – approved

2. **Annual Review of Terms of Reference**

The group agreed parental, student ambassador and student involvement was not necessary but involving these stakeholders in a specific point of discussion at the beginning of a meeting would be useful and could help steer the focus of the meeting. Agreed that Carshalton Boys school would host the next meeting and a student/parent would be invited to share their experiences about a specific topic.

Agreed an Employment representative should be invited to the group.

The Terms of Reference were approved.

3. **Annual Review of collaborative targets**

The group discussed the value of having a basket of measures that schools can use to identify Aimhigher cohorts of students eg, FSM and a range of other measures (Pupil Premium, first generation, polar quintile 1). Proposed using the old AHLS 75% (66%) cut-off point so that schools can identify participants from one or more of the indicators listed.

In terms of measures of deprivation students accessing the programme from Low Participation Neighbourhoods (LPN quintiles) are of interest to HEIs, for schools accessing funding streams such as FSM/PPG helps to identify students' suitability for particular programmes.

The group discussed basing benchmarks on targeted programmes v generic core programme and identifying these targets in relation to progression.

Action: AHLS to adjust AHLS collaborative targets 2016-2020 and collaborative targets 2016-17 relating to LAC and SEND from '% participating in AHLS activities progressing to University' to '% SEND/LAC participating in AHLS activities'.

Agreed: Progression stats for AHLS to be reported annually across participants in all activities and reported on separately for targeted activity that relates to a particular group involved in an 'extended' project.

The group agreed, as per the previous meeting, students with mental health needs should be included in AHLS activity but collecting this information can be problematic.

Action: Add an 'other' category that incorporates schools' local knowledge of learners who don't fit any of the identified selection criteria to be completed at the discretion of the school. Learners with mental health needs could be added to this category.

Action: AHLS to identify guidance for schools on how to target your AHLS cohort. Agreed guidance could be presented at Coordinators training/partnership meetings.

4. Progress and update

NCOP - a presentation was tabled on the day outlining the highly targeted, extensively evaluated nature of the programme in selected geographical areas aimed at increasing the numbers of young people progressing to university from disadvantaged areas. Noted the significant progress made so far in terms of learner, parental and ambassador involvement. Undergraduate ambassadors are key as coaches and in contributing to the overall programme, an Aimhigher NCOP ambassador scheme is being developed, 49 ambassadors have shown interest in being involved.

Noted NCOP schools are invited to participate in matched control groups, take up from schools so far has been lower than hoped but RL from Roehampton recognised the exciting opportunity this presents in terms of measuring 'what works'. Noted the opportunities NCOP presents for AHLS members in terms of developing activity for learners and their parents/carers, working with ambassadors and evaluating 'what works'.

Employability - noted progress made since the last meeting in terms of employer involvement. Core conferences have been designed with a focus on the end goal of improved employability. A new year 8 conference to be delivered in November will include a session on future employment. Noted the developmental work with Francis Barber PRU (Tooting) as part of the Wandsworth Ambitions Careers Cluster which will focus on 'ready to work' skills linking in with the units Work Experience programme.

Noted AHLS contribution to the 'What Uni?/What Career? Live' event at Kensington Olympia for learners, advisers and parents. There was a clear requirement for enhanced information on apprenticeships at all levels but particularly at higher and degree level. AHLS has an apprenticeship CPD session planned for teachers and advisers in March .

The work to involve employers is ongoing.

5) Engaging with school clusters

A paper outlining the rationale and strategic approach to working with clusters of schools in particular Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) was tabled.

The group agreed approaching clusters of schools made sense in terms of strategic growth. Limited time prevented a full discussion but agreed that AHLS should initially approach 2 member schools that are part of MATs to develop a pilot approach.

Action: AHLS to approach SMT of GLF and Richmond West Schools Trust to negotiate a way of working across clusters.

6) Date of the next meeting – Wednesday 7th February 1:30 – 3:30pm at Carshalton Boys' school - TBC