

Summary 2009-10



South East Forum

widening access to
college and university

The South East Forum (SEF) is a partnership of 18 colleges and HEIs in the South East of Scotland and is one of four wider access regional forums established in 1999 by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC). This new-sheet provides you with a summary of 2009/10s achievements and information about future changes and developments.

For further information, please see the South East Forum's Annual Report 2009/10. To obtain a copy of this or to subscribe to our e-newsletter, go to:

www.southeastscotlandforum.ac.uk

Work with Schools

Progression to HE

The South East Forum working in partnership with **LEAPS**, has made a positive change in terms of progression to HE in 17 out of 23 priority schools across the South East. Between 2005/6 and 2009/10, there was an average increase of 5.8% in progression to HE in these 23 schools. This compares with an increase of 5.5% for the South East 'region' and a Scottish increase of 5.2%.

Progression to FE

During 2009/10, the Scottish Funding Council reviewed the forums' work with schools and asked them to re-focus on widening access to higher education (in college and university) only.

As a result, the **Routes 2 Success** project, working in S2 and S3 to promote FE as a positive destination for young people, came to an end in July 2010. A lasting legacy of this work will be its college network, evaluation report and valuable interactive web-based resources promoting FE as a positive destination for pupils. These are available through the South East Forum website (www.southeastscotlandforum.ac.uk/) and will continue to be promoted in 2010/11.

Work with Communities

Access to FE, HE and employment (Access to Industry)

Access to Industry (AI) created new opportunities for community based adult learners (CBALs) and thematic communities targeting recovering substance users, care leavers, young offenders, and street sex workers through its Transition and Passport projects.

- It brokered and supported 21 AI course partnerships to engage a total of 249 learners.
- Of these, 73% completed the AI programmes and just under 61% had positive outcomes: 33% moved onto FE or HE, 12% to training, and 16% to employment.
- An additional 200 learners were engaged through 'Transition' and 269 through Passport – with 29% and 48% achieving positive destinations respectively.

Access to HE (SWAP)

In the South East Forum area 426 students enrolled on a **SWAP-East** course and 209 completed - a retention rate of 73% and an increase on last year's 70%. Of the SWAP-East students completing, 82% progressed to HE (2009/10).

Communication and sharing good practice

The South East Forum has continued to support the partnership through a range of communication and dissemination channels. These include SEF's seminars, conferences, website and e-newsletter. We also continue to work closely with the other regional forums and Scottish Funding Council to support joint networking, the sharing of good practice and problem-solving.



Looking forward

2011/12 will see big changes. In September 2010 The Scottish Funding Council announced its decision to cease funding the four wider access forums in July 2011, following an earlier decision to wind up their communities programmes at the end of 2010/11.

However...

The forums' Schools For Higher Education Programme, delivered for the first time in 2010/11 will continue to be funded until July 2013. The South East Forum's communities programme has been delivered through Access to Industry and SWAP-East for a number of years. Both have excellent track records and aim to continue to add value in the current economic climate, securing funding through different routes.

The Schools For Higher Education Programme (SHEP) will provide a lasting legacy of the forums' work and will be funded by the Scottish Funding Council until July 2013 as part of a 3-year commitment.

The Schools For Higher Education Programme (SHEP)

Aim

This forms part of a new national entitlement that aims:

- **To increase progression to HE from low progression schools to support the entitlements of the Senior Phase of Curriculum for Excellence, as planned through 16+ Learning Choices.**
- **In the South East region, 19 schools will be entitled to this support.**

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| • Wester Hailes Education Centre (Edinburgh) | • Castlebrae Community High (Edinburgh) |
| • Craigroyston Community High (Edinburgh) | • Liberton High School (Edinburgh) |
| • Tynecastle High School (Edinburgh) | • Forrester High School (Edinburgh) |
| • Drummond Community High School (Edinburgh) | • Leith Academy (Edinburgh) |
| • Gracemount High School (Edinburgh) | • Newbattle High School (Midlothian) |
| • Inveralmond Community High School (West Lothian) | • Armadale Academy (West Lothian) |
| • Whitburn Academy (West Lothian) | • Hawick High School (Scottish Borders) |
| • Eyemouth High School (Scottish Borders) | • Lornshill Academy (Clackmannan) |
| • Alloa Academy (Clackmannan) | • Bannockburn High School (Stirling) |
| • Grangemouth High School (Falkirk) | |

- **Specifically, the programme will target those:**
 - with potential to achieve HE entry, but at risk of not achieving this;
 - achieving, but (who) don't recognize their potential for progression to HE.

Funding

In the South East, £277,500 per annum will be provided to LEAPS to deliver SHEP on behalf of the South East regional partnership. The programme will be funded until 31 July 2013 to provide support from S3-S6. For further information about SHEP: www.leapsonline.org

Programme Management Group (PMG)

A PMG will be established by the Host Institution for SHEP (the University of Edinburgh) for 2011/12. This will include representation from colleges and universities, schools, LAs and Skills Development Scotland in the South East region.

SWAP

A national SWAP will be funded by the Scottish Funding Council to support the recruitment and progression of adults with few or no qualifications into access programmes that provide guaranteed entry into higher education.

SWAP will receive £175,000 per annum in 2011/12 and 2012/13. During the 2 years of funding SWAP are expected to have delivered a more co-ordinated strategy with clear support structures in college.

For more information about SWAP: www.scottishwideraccess.org

Access to Industry

Despite secured funding to continue the Passport and Transition services until March 2012 the intended SFC budget cuts will jeopardize the progression routes and opportunities for the award winning services that Access to Industry provide locally to help vulnerable groups into employment and education. The SFC cuts will also result in the end of the Course Development programmes developed across the South East of Scotland. For more information on how Access to Industry address national issues like youth offending, poor education, low skilled low paid labour, substance misuse and homelessness go to: www.accesstoindustry.co.uk

If you would like to make a donation to Access to Industry's – Big Give fundraising campaign: https://secure.thebiggive.org.uk/donate/donate.php?charity_id=7930

Access to Industry has also been chosen by The Guardian Christmas Charity Appeal – follow this link to find out more: www.guardian.co.uk/society/2010/dec/28/christmas-appeal-access-to-industry



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