

2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

Provider impact report

This impact report summarises the progress made by Middlesbrough 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

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

In 2017, the College formed new partnership arrangements with The Open University and Pearson Education and at the same time applied for - and was granted - direct funding status.

This move represented a significant shift in strategic direction for the College's HE provision and is reflected in the focus of investment as stated in the 2019-20 Access and Participation Plan. Throughout the process, the College has been fully committed to ensuring that its HE offer will continue to be built upon high quality of provision and good outcomes for students. In support of this intent, the College has invested in its infrastructure and support mechanisms for staff and students. This activity includes:

additional core staff to support HE teaching teams and staff who are new to HE to provide consistent high quality provision;

additional staff to support students throughout their time with the College, from application to graduation;

the provision of additional time to support staff to undertake and apply relevant research and scholarly activity directed at enhancing the student experience;

the introduction from 2018, of a College-wide HE delivery model that provides a minimum package of formal scheduled teaching and academic support for all students;

additional resources to support both new programme development and to enhance existing provision, including the provision of a new HE Centre;

the continued proactive approach to student engagement at all stages of College HE activity to ensure that new process and policies are student-led;

the inclusion of additional National Occupational Standard qualifications in HE awards, where they are required, to support employment and enhance employment opportunities.

The College is also committed to ensuring that students receive value for money and that they recognise the link between higher education and positive employment outcomes. In order to achieve this ambition, the main HE portfolio is vocationally focussed with work-related learning and employability at its centre. New course development proposals are tested against these criteria in advance of approval for development. Central to this activity is the use of labour market intelligence and employer liaison to ensure that course content meets the requirements of employers and that students are prepared for employment.

2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by Middlesbrough 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 Middlesbrough 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 (Success)	Increase in full time student retention	2015-16	89%	90%	91%	Percentage	2018-19	90	Expected progress
T16a_02 (Progression)	Increase full time student pass rate	2015-16	81%	85%	86%	Percentage	2018-19	87	Expected progress
T16a_03 (Progression)	Increase percentage of full time leavers in work or further study	2015-16	92.6%	93%	93%	Percentage	2015-16	92.6	Limited progress
T16a_04 (Access)	Maintain the percentage of female to male students on courses	2015-16	38%	51%	50%	Percentage	2019-20	55	Expected progress
T16a_05 (Progression)	Review and refresh the portfolio of courses in line with student, employer and PSRB recommendations	2015-16	35	49	55	Other	2019-20	56	Expected progress
T16a_06 (Multiple)	Maintain high NSS overall satisfaction rate	2015-16	90%	90%	90%	Percentage	2019-20	83	Limited progress
T16a_07 (Success)	Maintain formal links with employers on all new programme developments. To be achieved through, placement, work-based learning, knowledge transfer, research projects and employer input.	2015-16	100%	100%	100%	Percentage	2019-20	100	Expected progress
T16a_08 (Success)	Improve completion/continuation rates for full-time white male students	2015-16	85%	87%	88%	Percentage	2018-19	88	Expected progress

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)	Provide support for students in 65 local schools through: GCSE revision classes; A-level tatser days; Master Classes; STEM focus-days	2015-16	65 schools	65	65	Other	2019-20	65	Expected progress
T16b_02 (Access)	Raise the aspirations of school leavers in low participation neighbourhoods through understanding of the diversity of higher study options available to them and where they can lead.	2015-16	35 schools	38	39	Other	2019-20	39	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	£44,251.88	£98,104.00	122%
Financial Support	£17,500.00	£24,525.00	40%

4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected Middlesbrough 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_03	The College is committed to providing support to encourage full time student progression to work or further study. Consultation with students has identified several new initiatives that will be supported by the College moving forward.
T16a_06	The specific issues that led to the fall in overall satisfaction rates has been identified and addressed. The overall satisfaction rate for 2020, was 90%.

5. Confirmation

Middlesbrough 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	
Middlesbrough 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	Zoe Lewis
Position	Principal/Chief Executive

Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets

Middlesbrough College's commentary where progress against targets was less than expected.

Target reference number: T16a_03
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Yes
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Additional resource has been provided in terms of supporting full time student progression to work or further study. This includes: Additional staffing designated to support student career guidance and job applications. Embedding professional qualifications into course design wherever possible (the College pays student membership fees). Liaison with employers to provide a platform for students to develop professional contacts.

Target reference number: T16a_06
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
Yes
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Additional resources have been provided to students to support their teaching and learning. In addition, the HE specific work and social area have been extended and improved following student feedback..

Annex B: Optional commentary on targets

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

Reference Number	Optional commentary
T16a_01	N/a
T16a_02	N/a
T16a_03	The College does not have access to historic DLHE data for students after 2015-16. The data was provided as part of a report from a previous validating partner but is no longer accessible. Current graduate outcomes data is not yet available to use as a guide to performance post 2018-19. This target will be monitored and progress reviewed as soon as this data becomes available.
T16a_04	N/a
T16a_05	N/a
T16a_06	The fall in satisfaction in 2019-20 was a result of two specific cases of IT failure which affected a number of students at the time they were completing the NSS. The issues were resolved quickly and have not reoccurred.
T16a_07	N/a
T16a_08	
T16b_01	While outreach activity continued in 2019-20, the range and type of activity was restricted in the summer term by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.
T16b_02	While outreach activity continued in 2019-20, the range and type of activity was restricted in the summer term by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.