

2019-20 access and participation plan monitoring

Provider impact report

This impact report summarises the progress made by The SMB Group 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

The SMB Group's ambition and strategy as detailed in the 2019-20 access and participation plan:

The SMB Group, formerly Brooksby Melton College has a long standing tradition of raising aspirations and supporting academic achievement and progression. HE awards at the college are currently validated by the University of East Anglia, Derby University and the University of Bolton. Widening participation and value for money are amongst the fundamental drivers for our HE provision. As an FE provider we are experienced in successfully supporting students in under represented groups within our 16-18 cohort to achieve, succeed and progress into higher education. The college benefits from small HE cohorts and extensive practical resources. Well established and effective support mechanisms allows students from non-traditional backgrounds to receive academic and pastoral support to meet their needs.

The Group are committed to growing the infrastructure including staffing and supporting functions to actively grow student numbers including those from under represented groups. We currently analyse qualitative and quantitative data from the OfS access and participation data set and internal data sets to evaluate the impact of existing actions and prioritise further actions where appropriate

2. Self-assessment of targets

The tables that follow provide a self-assessment by The SMB Group 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 The SMB Group'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 (Student success)	Progression from Level 3 - For pathway courses	2015-16	27%	38%	40%	Percentage	2018-19	69	Expected progress
T16a_02 (Student success)	Progression from Level 5 to Level 6 - All courses	2015-16	70%	80%	85%	Percentage	2019-20	90	Expected progress
T16a_03 (Student success)	Achievement rates at Level 5 & Level 6 - All courses	2015-16	89%	93%	93%	Percentage	2019-20	95	Expected progress
T16a_04 (Progression)	To increase the number of students attending employability and/or post grad workshops or 1-2-1 advice.	2015-16	10	17	20	Headcount	2019-20	32	Expected progress
T16a_05 (Access)	To increase % of external students vs internal students - All courses	2015-16	44%	48%	49%	Percentage	2019-20	40	Limited progress
T16a_06 (Access)	To increase the number of BME students on HE courses	2015-16	0.75%	1.5%	1.75%	Percentage	2019-20	10	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)	Meet Target Recruitment Numbers	2015-16	90	53	80	Headcount	2019-20	48	Limited progress
T16b_02 (Success)	Increase number of student engaged with the Alumni	2015-16	0	45	60	Headcount	2019-20	62	Expected progress
T16b_03 (Student success)	Increase number of student engaged with the NSS survey	2015-16	86%	92%	95%	Percentage	2018-19	92	Expected progress
T16b_04 (Progression)	Increase number of student engaged in internal progression workshops	2015-16	30	60	70	Headcount	2018-19	82	Expected progress
T16b_05 (Student success)	Reduce the Non Conituation rates through targeted support.	2015-16	23%	12%	10%	Percentage	2018-19	19	Limited progress
T16b_06 (Progression)	Progression events with Schools/Open days	2015-16	6	8	8	Headcount	2019-20	15	Expected progress
T16b_07 (Progression)	To increase the number of students on HE courses responding to DLHE survey.	2015-16	79	83	84	Percentage	2016-17	81.25	Limited progress
T16b_08 (Success)	Higher Education Study Programme	2015-16	20	25	50	Headcount	2019-20	62	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	£24,000.00	£24,000.00	0%
Financial Support	£11,750.00	£11,750.00	0%

4. Action plan

Where progress was less than expected The SMB Group 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_05	Revised HE Strategy under development for SMB Group
T16b_01	N/A
T16b_05	Continue to develop/implements strategies to increase continuation rates such as bridging courses
T16b_07	Further work to be completed to record destination data. This is currently under review

5. Confirmation

The SMB Group confirms that:

Student engagement	
Have you worked with your students to help them complete the access and participation plan monitoring student submission?	
Yes	
Have you engaged with your student body in the design, evaluation, and monitoring of the plan?	
Yes	
Verification and sign off	
The SMB Group 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	Dawn Whitemore
Position	Principal

Annex A: Commentary on progress against targets

The SMB Group's commentary where progress against targets was less than expected.

Target reference number: T16a_05
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
No
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Significant partnerships currently under negotiation with major employers. Recruitment of students with a major national sports coaching provider has been agreed with first students from September 2021

Target reference number: T16b_01
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
No
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Recruitment/target marketing strategy underway

Target reference number: T16b_05
How have you met the commitments in your plan related to this target?
No
Have you taken any additional steps other than that detailed in the plan to reach the selected milestone?
Engagement with student body to further understand any reasons for non-continuation

Target reference number: T16b_07
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?
No

Annex B: Optional commentary on targets

The SMB Group's commentary on any of the targets listed in [Section 2](#).

Reference Number	Optional commentary
T16a_01	Careers advice and guidance processes currently under review
T16a_02	.
T16a_03	.
T16a_04	.
T16a_05	.
T16a_06	.
T16b_01	
T16b_02	
T16b_03	
T16b_04	
T16b_05	
T16b_06	
T16b_07	
T16b_08	