



Unit 4 User Group – Data Futures Update

5 May 2020



Programme Update

- Working with Jisc as our delivery partner in the new approach to developing the HESA Data Platform.
- Alignment of delivery to discrete collection.
- Release of version 1.0.0 data model.
- Clarifying implementation year for Data Futures
 - Annual Retrospective in 2022/2023
 - In-year reporting in 2023/24
- Sharing business requirements

Programme Vision

- The Data Futures transformation project will deliver a new HESA Data Platform (HDP) to facilitate in-year collection, assurance and dissemination of HE data, beginning with student data. The HDP will provide data three times a year for statutory customers, whilst maintaining data quality levels, increasing operational efficiencies, and enhancing data utility. This will support more timely decision-making with respect to UK HE on behalf of the statutory customers.
- The project will also deliver a more efficient system for HE providers to submit and quality assure their data, reducing the transactional burden inherent in the current system.

Discrete Collections

- Discrete collections can be categorised by three core dimensions:
 - Nature of the data: returned to reflect the status at a point in time, in this case the end of the reference period.
 - Nature of the collection: in a discrete approach, each collection operates independently from any others.
 - Scope of data: each dissemination requires the full coverage of the record to be returned, i.e. for each student all that is known about them at the time and relevant to the reference period is supplied.

Programme Benefits

- **Greater data utility**
 - Timely, high-quality data to support effective regulation and decision-making in relation to the UK HE sector.
 - Improved management information for HE providers.
- **Statutory data efficiencies**
 - More efficient data return and quality assurance process for HE providers.
 - Better alignment of regulatory and statutory data returns through a single model that connects with the increasingly diverse range of administrative business processes in HE providers.
- **Maintaining data quality**
 - Ensure appropriate data quality for national statistics products.
 - Providing fit for purpose data for regulation and statutory purposes.

Data Model

- Version 1.0.0 of the coding manual is live.
- Completion of the model has been a product of extensive work with statutory customers, HE providers and sector bodies.
- Needs to be able to flex and change alongside policy requirements, but model is structured so these are not fundamental.
- Data Futures: specification overview page lists any areas of uncertainty and any upcoming consultations.
- Regular updates to guidance are expected to begin on a monthly cadence.

Delivery Timescales

- Annual retrospective in 2022/2023:
 - Using the new platform and the new model and currently expected return deadline late summer /early autumn.
- In-year reporting in 2023/24:
 - Using the new platform and new model to the Reference Period 1 dates:
 - *Collection of data relating to activity in the period between 1 August 2023 and 15 November 2023 – for submission by 14 December 2023 with a dissemination point of 15 December 2023.*

Testing and Transition

- Current assumptions are:
 - Running a reduced Alpha phase during summer 2021.
 - Running a Beta pilot during 2022.
 - Minimising dual running with current Student collections where possible.
 - Transition year planning is ongoing as to help ease this time for providers.
 - Have been seeking feedback from Provider Forum on various approaches.
 - Looking to get commentary from software houses (meeting to be held in May).
 - Expect to have the full transition plan drafted for the autumn will be able to provide more information towards the end of the year.

Communication and Engagement

- Due to unprecedented times we are living in engagement will be limited.
- Conscious not to add more work onto providers at this time but we are still intending to provide updates where we have information available but with no expectations for action to be taken.
- Engaging with software suppliers and providers with in-house systems – meeting arranged for 21 May.
- Closer engagement with statutory customers to meet their requirements, with work underway on validations and derivations.

HESA

Questions?