

# Getting ready for Data Futures – The AP Perspective

# APs – who are we?

## Shaun Briggs – Kaplan Open Learning

- \* Online provider of Higher Education (UG & PG)
- \* Subjects range from Business, Law, Criminology and Health
- \* Around 1,500 students currently studying



## Heidi Wright – Nazarene Theological College

- \* Manchester-based Theological College
- \* Cert HE to PhD, validated with the University of Manchester
- \* Around 250 students, about 80-90 of whom we currently report in the AP student report



# What we'll cover

1. Unique position of APs for data reporting
2. Impact of that position for data futures
3. The Kaplan Open Learning perspective
4. The Nazarene Theological College perspective

# What makes APs unique when it comes to data futures?

- \* APs are new to HESA reporting
- \* Still on a learning curve
- \* Small number of admin staff
- \* Small budgets
- \* Small technology infrastructure and support
- \* Small number of students
- \* Often have international organisational links

# How does this impact APs when it comes to data futures?

- \* New players in HESA reporting
  - \* We're flexible
- \* Small staff
  - \* One or two people driving data futures agenda
- \* Small budgets
  - \* New system or adapt current one?
  - \* Same staff taking on more

# How does this impact APs when it comes to data futures?

- \* Small tech infrastructure
  - \* Outsourced IT
  - \* Off the shelf systems
- \* Small student numbers
  - \* Manual entry
- \* International organisational links
  - \* Likely to share system with sister colleges overseas
  - \* Harder to get international product to adapt to UK reporting requirements



# The Kaplan Open Learning Perspective...

## Challenges

- **Data Quality**
- **Student system**
- **Move to in-year**
- **New processes/rules**
- **Time management**
- **Initial implementation**



# Potential Impact

- **Workload increase**
- **Increase in reporting**
- **More pressure on quality of data**
- **Audits**
- **Student Record System**





## Getting Prepared...

- **LOTS of meetings / discussions!**
- **More stringent audit process**
- **Data items comparison**
  - **What are we collecting, what do we need to start collecting?**



## Resource

- **2 people – Data Returns Officer (Me!) & in-house IT developer – develops bespoke software solutions**
- **Unlikely to change initially – as an AP we are fortunate to have resource to fully commit just to returns and data**



## Looking Ahead...

- **Risk analysis – what do we need to be aware of! (Q3 2017)**
- **Invest in additional bespoke software solutions (Q4 2017 / Q1 2018)**
- **Testing of each ‘Segment’ (Q3/4 2018)**

# The Nazarene Theological College (NTC)

## Data Futures journey

### Existing Systems

- AP Report
  - Data fields for AP report entered in SRS manually by admissions officer and Registrar
  - SRS generates excel AP report
  - Outsourced tech company converts excel file into XML
  - XML file uploaded to HESA, amendments made through HESA data entry tool (by Registrar).
- DHLE data reported through HESA data entry tool (by Registrar)
- UNISTATS data reported through HESA data entry tool (by Registrar)

# Looking forward – What do we know about Data Futures?

- Reporting more frequently
- Reporting more information
- Reporting more students (PG coming onto scope)

## NTC Response

- Senior Leadership Team are aware
- Looking for more information to determine resource allocation needs
- Committed to Data Futures Alpha pilot

## Challenges Identified

- We need to determine if our can SRS handle the changes
- Pressure on Registrar to do reporting during busy semester period (particularly in 19/20)
- Need procedures to guarantee good data under greater time pressure

## From here...

- Participate in Data Futures Alpha Pilot
- Eagerly await further info on types of reports and data fields required, to determine if current SRS can meet needs
- Develop procedures to ensure data is entered into SRS accurately and can be cross-checked quickly
- Think about if current staffing levels are adequate



# Conclusions

- \* APs will be significantly impacted by data futures
- \* We're keen to see the AP sector have a voice in Data Futures development
- \* We'll continue active involvement in the Data Futures pilot
- \* Awaiting Data Futures new report details to determine resource needs for 2019/20.