

Progress to date on the development of new WP indicators

UKPITG 16/02†

Issue

1. To understand the progress of development work required to deliver new Widening Participation (WP) UK Performance Indicators (UKPIs) at the earliest opportunities. Development work needs to facilitate a small number of new measures being published as 'experimental statistics' in 2016.
2. Members representing the four UK nations will be asked to provide an oral update on progress since the December 2015 meeting of the UK Performance Indicators Technical Group.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that UKPITG consider the updates received from members, and:
 - a. Confirm an appropriate level of HRI for consideration in WP indicators.
 - b. Clarify the feasibility of providing HE institutions with pre-release access to UKPIs based on linked individual-level data not provided by the institution.
 - c. Clarify development opportunities regarding a UK-wide measure examining school admissions policy.
 - d. Clarify development requirements regarding measures examining pupils in receipt of or eligible for free school meals.
 - e. Confirm the area-based measure(s) to be used as Wales' nation specific indicators.
 - f. Consider the opportunities and processes to re-examine feasibility of including IMD measures within a UK-wide UKPI for area-based disadvantage.

Discussion

4. At the December 2015 meeting, UKPITG members representing the four UK administrations were tasked with taking forward the following actions in relation to the review of WP UKPIs and the development of experimental statistics to be published in July 2016. These actions are described below:

Extended coverage of WP UKPIs

- **DELNI** to explore the processes required to facilitate incorporation of HE provision registered at Northern Ireland further education colleges into UKPIs, and report back to UKPITG.
- A similar update is required from **SFC** in relation to the incorporation of HE provision registered at Scottish further education colleges.

School-based measures of disadvantage

- **BIS** to explore the processes employed by DfE in terms of data sharing and the school destination measures, with a view to understanding the options available (and equally, not possible) in relation to sharing school-based measures based on linked data with HE institutions in advance of publication.

- **HEFCE, HEFCW** and the **Welsh Government** to explore the possibilities related to establishing a categorisation of Welsh schools by admissions policy.
- **DELNI** to keep UKPITG up to date on developments in the availability of linked schools data over the following year.

Free school meals (FSM)

- **HEFCE** and **BIS** to engage with DfE with a view to enhancing availability of FSM information at the school level.
- **HEFCW** to confirm whether data capture extends to both receipt of and eligibility for FSM, or just to eligibility.

Household residual income

- **Wales, Northern Ireland** and **Scotland** to confirm the lower thresholds for HRI within their student support packages, to enable **HEFCE** to incorporate this information into analysis which will be based on lowest threshold observed across the UK.

Area-based measures of disadvantage

- **Representatives of the four UK nations** to consider the potential use of IMD measures in UKPIs further.
- **UKPITG secretariat** to locate and circulate records of UKPITG's previous discussions on the potential use of IMD measures in UKPIs.
- **HEFCW** to confirm use of WIMD or Communities First Areas as supplementary area-based measures of disadvantage, alongside POLAR3.

Further information

5. For further information contact Alison Brunt (Phone: 0117 931 7166; e-mail: a.brunt@hefce.ac.uk) or Mark Gittoes (Phone: 0117 931 7052; email: m.gittoes@hefce.ac.uk).