

First Campus Reaching Wider Partnership Strategy 2018/19 to 2021/22

Lead partner institution name:	University of South Wales
Partners' name and addresses	University of South Wales, Pontypridd, CF37 1DL Cardiff University, Cardiff, CF10 3AT Cardiff Metropolitan University, Llandaff Campus, 200 Western Ave, Cardiff CF5 2YB

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Reaching Wider Partnerships' strategies - guidance note

In developing Reaching Wider strategies, Partnerships should take account of HEFCW's Reaching Wider Programme guidance circular. Reaching Wider Partnerships' strategies should provide relevant, recent information and verifiable data. If the information and data provided are not sufficiently clear, or it is difficult for HEFCW to reconcile with other information it holds, HEFCW will contact partnership for further information and/or clarification to enable us to understand the strategy more fully.

Section one: Background and Context

i. Executive Summary

First Campus Reaching Wider exists to widen access to higher education by tackling barriers to entry, progression and success in higher education. This document sets out our strategy for 2018/19 – 2021/22 and outlines our priorities, aims, objectives and alignment with key partners.

Our ambition is to be recognised for excellence and effectiveness in our widening access activities, committed, as an equal partner, to working with schools, colleges, HEIs, third sector organisations, communities and industries across south east Wales. Working in partnership, we will continue to tackle the barriers to entry, progression and success in higher education and all modes of study.

We want to ensure that First Campus continues to be an effective, sustainable and collaborative south east Wales widening access programme, with an increasing focus on being able to demonstrate the impact and evaluation of its operations.

ii. Mission, purpose and priorities:

First Campus Reaching Wider exists to widen access to higher education by tackling barriers to entry, progression and success in higher education. We will achieve this through offering a suite of long-term, sustainable interventions to support attainment raising, increase awareness and provide support for progression to higher education and level 4 learning opportunities.

The purpose of First Campus Reaching Wider is to:

1. widen access to level 4 HE provision in all modes, locations and with a range of providers;
2. reduce barriers to entry, and raise educational aspirations and success at level 4 higher education provision, for priority groups;

We will prioritise the following groups:

3. Young people in the final years of primary school to Key stage 4 and Adults over 21 years of age without level 4 qualifications in the bottom two quintiles of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) for the SE Wales region
4. Care-experienced young people
5. Carers in all age groups

Within these priority groups, the partnership will take into account individual circumstances, and will prioritise groups defined within higher education as 'under-represented' or 'hard to reach', or those with additional barriers. We will continue to work with HEIs to analyse current student data in order to identify groups who are under-represented in higher education.

iii. Alignment with Welsh Government Expectations

Civic mission and community engagement are central to the delivery of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act's (2015) seven well-being goals and five ways of working (section iv. outlines how the First Campus Reaching Wider objectives map onto the seven well-being goals). Kirsty Williams, Welsh Education Minister, identified four points of focus for enhancing civic engagement, as outlined below. The First Campus Reaching Wider partnership supports and develops the communities within which it works by contributing to improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of our target audience in the following ways:

1. Lead Place – We work collaboratively with civic organisations, using expertise, experience and resources from various sectors to deliver social, cultural and economic innovation. Key partners to date have included: The National Museum Wales on the Virtual Heritage Wales and CAER Project; Social Services, Carers Trust (For Carers); BBC Children in Need for looked after children and care leaver provision; the Mullany Charitable Trust; our partner HEIs and FE colleges; Health providers for the GP project promoting access to medicine.
2. Links with schools – The First Campus Reaching Wider partnership strives to help raise standards of education in Wales; one of the key purposes of the partnership is to widen access to level 4 HE provision and reduce barriers to entry. We do this through a variety of activities and programmes, such as: mentoring; delivering curriculum-related workshops with support from academic staff and students; revision classes; raising awareness of progression routes into level 4 learning and apprenticeships, public engagement in schools.
3. Active Citizenship – The First Campus Reaching Wider partnership works with local communities to develop leadership skills and promote collaborative working, communication and critical thinking, while influencing them to participate actively in social, political and cultural conversations. For example, the adult learning programmes involve working with local communities to develop courses that meet their needs whilst also developing leadership skills, communication and critical thinking, as well as encouraging adult learners to take an active role in making their communities more prosperous places to live.
4. Promoting Social Innovation – The First Campus Reaching Wider partnership contributes to the bridging of academic communities and research with local communities. Our programmes introduce community groups and school pupils to research undertaken by PhD students or research staff. We also work collaboratively to recruit, train and place PhD students in schools to deliver university-style seminars over longer periods of time.

iv. Strategic aims and objectives

In order to ensure consistency amongst partner HEIs, the First Campus Reaching Wider Partnership has developed a core set of objectives¹ which will be shared across the region. Partner HEIs are invited to adopt the same framework for their own outreach activities. We have undertaken an initial alignment exercise to ensure these objectives contribute to the seven well-being goals, HEFCW priorities and the civic mission agenda, with further alignment work to be done when the First Campus activities are reviewed.

First Campus Reaching Wider Objectives	Alignment with the Seven well-being goals	HEFCW Priorities	Civic Mission
<p>1. Aspiration: develop students’ knowledge and awareness of the benefits of (higher) education and graduate employment, and in doing so foster ambition.</p>	<p>1) A prosperous Wales, 3) A Healthier Wales, 4) A more equal Wales, 5) A Wales of cohesive communities, 6) A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language, 7) A globally responsible Wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all-age recruitment from WIMD40 areas • promoting Wales as the destination of first choice for HE. • supporting government priorities relating to tackling poverty, social mobility and equality of opportunity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead Place • Links with schools • Active Citizenship • Promoting Social Innovation
<p>2. Progression: develop students’ capacity to make informed choices and meaningful decisions in order to navigate key transition points throughout compulsory education, into post-compulsory education and through to employment</p>	<p>1) A prosperous Wales, 3) A Healthier Wales, 4) A more equal Wales, 5) A Wales of cohesive communities, 7) A globally responsible Wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all-age recruitment from WIMD40 areas • improving progression pathways into HE. • improving fair access to the professions, high level skills and the priority sectors • supporting government priorities relating to tackling poverty, social mobility and equality of opportunity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links with schools • Active Citizenship

¹ These objectives have been developed using the NERUPI framework for evaluating and researching outreach initiatives: www.nerupi.co.uk

<p>3. Development: develop students' confidence and resilience to negotiate the challenges of school, college, university life and graduate progression.</p>	<p>1) A prosperous Wales, 2) A resilient Wales, 3) A Healthier Wales, 4) A more equal Wales, 5) A Wales of cohesive communities, 7) A globally responsible Wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all-age recruitment from WIMD40 areas • improving progression pathways into HE. • improving fair access to the professions, high level skills and the priority sectors • supporting government priorities relating to tackling poverty, social mobility and equality of opportunity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links with schools • Active Citizenship
<p>4. Skills: develop students' study skills and capacity for academic attainment and successful graduate progression.</p>	<p>1) A prosperous Wales, 4) A more equal Wales, 5) A Wales of cohesive communities, 7) A globally responsible Wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting Wales as the destination of first choice for HE. • prioritising higher-level learning and skills, retention and student success. • improving fair access to the professions, high level skills and the priority sectors • supporting government priorities relating to tackling poverty, educational attainment, social mobility and equality of opportunity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links with schools • Active Citizenship • Promoting Social Innovation
<p>5. Knowledge: develop students' understanding by contextualising subject knowledge.</p>	<p>2) A resilient Wales, 3) A Healthier Wales, 4) A more equal Wales, 5) A Wales of cohesive communities, 6) A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language, 7) A globally responsible Wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all-age recruitment from WIMD40 areas • improving progression pathways into HE. • promoting Wales as the destination of first choice for HE. • prioritising higher-level learning and skills, retention and student success. • improving fair access to the professions, high level skills and the priority sectors • supporting government priorities relating to tackling poverty, social mobility and equality of opportunity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links with schools • Active Citizenship • Promoting Social Innovation

v. Evidence underpinning the aims and objectives

We are committed to working sustainably and regularly seek input from key partners and target groups to inform our priorities and activities. The partnership have identified there would be great benefit nationally in developing a robust means of evaluation to inform future direction. The three Reaching Wider partnerships have met with staff from WISERD and Cardiff University and are keen to work collaboratively to develop a national good practice model. In addition to this, The First Campus Reaching Wider partnership is now a member of NERUPI, which provides a toolkit and framework for evaluating the impact of outreach practices.

Our objectives are being developed into a framework that will allow us to better assess the impact of programmes. In using the same framework across the SE Wales region, we open up the possibilities of longitudinal impact assessment and the potential to ascertain the 'distance travelled' of a learner from key stage 2 through to key stage 5 and onto university, or equally the progress made for adult learners as they progress through alternative pathways to higher education.

In order to develop this strategy key stakeholders were consulted through a strategy workshop, which included representation from all HEIs in the region, FE colleges, Careers Wales, Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, Learning and Work Institute and Consortia. This workshop proved extremely beneficial for all partners and has provided the opportunity for closer alignment with regional widening access strategies. Following this workshop, we are reviewing membership of the steering group to ensure better representation from various sectors across the region. All partner HEIs have signed off the strategy and in doing so agree that it both provides alignment with institutional strategies and avoids duplication.

vi. Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015): the five ways of working

The First Campus Reaching Wider partnership has adopted a set of core values that underpin all activities. These values been developed with reference to the Wellbeing of Future Generation Act (2015) and the five ways of working, as outlined below.

1. **Partnership:** We recognise the importance of collaboration and engagement; we will work in partnership with all key stakeholders, with a particular emphasis on the 'learner voice'. We will provide a regional forum for sharing effective practice within the region and across Wales alongside the other RW Partnerships to offer sustainable provision. [*Sustainability principles: long term; prevention; collaboration; involvement*]
2. **Inclusion:** We are committed to equality and diversity, and will ensure all programmes are inclusive, accessible and promote diversity. This includes promotion of Welsh as a living language ([see ix.](#)) [*Sustainability principles: collaboration; involvement*]
3. **Responsive:** We strive to be responsive to the needs of the region and recognise the importance of adapting our programmes to meet the needs of future generations. [*Sustainability principles: long term; integration; prevention*]
4. **Evidence-led:** We embed evaluation in to programmes from project initiation to ensure we are evidence-led, and that effective-practice is shared for the general

benefit of society (as outlined in [iv.](#), our aims and objectives are informed by evidence and research) . [*Sustainability principles: long term; prevention; collaboration; involvement*]

5. **Learning:** We will work to instil a love for learning, recognising that education is not always a utility but has value in itself, both in formal and informal capacities. [*Sustainability principles: long term; prevention; involvement*]

vii. Management and governance structures

The University of South Wales is the lead partner of the First Campus Partnership (2018-2022). A decision was made that the new Chair of the partnership would be the Deputy Vice Chancellor at the University of South Wales. Professor Owen has taken the role as Chair since December 2018.

As the lead of the partnership, the policies developed by the University of South Wales are used across the partnership to ensure appropriate safeguarding, data protection and risk management practices are in place.

In reviewing the previous strategy, we identified the need to update the terms of reference and to review membership of the Steering Group. The extended Steering Group will be more representative of the key stakeholders across the partnership and will provide a much stronger oversight and on-going direction of the Partnership's work. The key functions of the group include monitoring progress against targets, verifying that HEFCW grant money is being used properly, ensuring suitable policies are in place for safeguarding, risk management and data protection, and ensuring that the partnership is collaborative and continues to meet the needs of the region. The Partnership will be looking to produce a Memorandum of Understanding between all HEIs for the new strategy period.

viii. Equality and diversity

As outlined in our [values](#), inclusion underpins all First Campus Reaching Wider activities. This strategy has undergone an equality impact assessment through the lead institution, USW, where the impact for all protected characteristics has been considered. The outcome suggests the strategy will have a positive impact on equality groups. The steering group and members of the partnership have all considered the impact of this strategy to ensure it promotes equality, diversity and inclusion in promoting access to higher education and level 4 learning opportunities.

All First Campus Reaching Wider staff are expected to follow the equality and diversity-related policies and practices of the institution within which they are based. Each institution provides a clear framework and equality objectives for implementing and embedding requirements of the Equality Act (2010), which promotes an equal and diverse society. This includes the completion of equality impact assessments, with relevant changes made where necessary. Working in partnership with institutions, First Campus works to actively promote equality, diversity, dignity and respect as incorporated within Human Rights principles across the region.

ix. Welsh language

The First Campus Reaching Wider partnership is committed to promoting Welsh as a living language by working collaboratively with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol. In the table below, we set out the key agendas for the Welsh language and align them to First Campus activity.

Agenda / Policy	First Campus alignment / contribution
<p><u>Cymraeg: 2050</u> Welsh Government report Cymraeg: 2050, the aim of which is to have 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050. The overarching goal is to reach a position where the Welsh language is an integral element of all aspects of everyday life. Some areas with a lower percentage of Welsh</p>	<p>The promotion of Welsh as a living language (not just used in education). First Campus will achieve this through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ After school / youth club opportunities / weekend & holiday clubs ○ Family learning ○ Creative skills / arts; extending the language beyond the ‘subject’ ○ Open Educational Resources through OpenLearn Cymru
<p><u>Welsh Language Standards</u> The Welsh Language Standards came into force on 30 March 2016. HEIs have to comply with the requirements and ensuring that people can engage with the organisation in their language of choice.</p>	<p>First Campus responds to the Welsh Language legislation in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff are expected to abide by the Welsh language policies of the institution within which they work. <p>Other examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilingual website / social media / promotional material • Promoting CPD opportunities for staff • Ensuring there is resource for translation budget • Bilingual delivery of programmes / translation accessibility. • Working in collaboration with Welsh Language Units and Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol • A new communications post has been created with Welsh language as an essential requirement.
<p><u>Future Generations</u> A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation. The Welsh language is an important facet of Welsh culture, and something we celebrate as a nation. There also exists a rich culture which is unique to the Welsh language and which is expressed in many forms. As a nation, we need to</p>	<p>First Campus contributes to the agenda in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Welsh Language Education Programmes • Promoting the HEFCW HE/FE project Flexible Essential Skills, led by the OU in Wales, to promote numeracy skills through the medium of Welsh • Promoting Welsh as a Living Language (not just used in education) through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ After school / youth club opportunities / weekend & holiday clubs ○ Family learning ○ Creative skills / arts; extending the language beyond the ‘subject’

do more to celebrate this participatory culture, or 'diwylliant', both within Wales and beyond.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Performances and celebratory events are bilingual
<p><u>Welsh language education</u></p> <p>The early years: expand Welsh-medium provision in the early years as an access point for Welsh-medium education.</p> <p>Statutory education: create a statutory education system which increases the number of confident Welsh speakers. The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol works with universities across Wales to develop Welsh language medium opportunities for students. It funds Welsh medium lecturers and offers undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships for students to study higher education courses through the medium of Welsh.</p>	<p>First Campus contributes to the Welsh language education agenda through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future representation of the Coleg on Steering Group and Operations Group • Using Welsh language Student Ambassadors, for example, to write blogs or deliver activities • Identifying and promoting pathway opportunities for Welsh and bilingual provision in the Further Education and Apprenticeship sectors, linking pre-16 Welsh language programmes to post-16 pathways. <p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop partnership agreements with Welsh Language schools to ensure we are working with pupils who are from WIMD40 areas. • develop programmes from KS2 – KS4 which have pathways to study at Level 4 in Welsh • promote Welsh beyond the classroom and into the community through family learning and adult-focussed programmes.

Key Partners

Organisation name	Name	Position	Email
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6. Merthyr Tydfil LEA	David Swallow	Strategic Lead for Secondary Schools (Maths)	
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