

Office for
Students



Intervention strategies

Wave 1 provider engagement webinars:
2024-25 ongoing access and participation
plans

April 2023

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Event notices

- Closed captions are available – please click the CC icon
- A recording of this event will be available on the OfS website
- Please use the Q&A box rather than the Chat box to ask a question
- Use the Chat box if you would like to speak to the events team.

Agenda

1300 **Welcome**

Introduction by Charlie Leyland

Overview of our expectations in relation to intervention strategies

Q&A

1430 **Close**

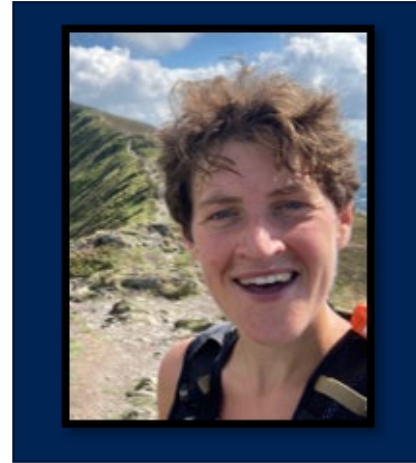
Quick recap

- Identified key risks to equality of opportunity
- Test with students/other relevant stakeholders
- Translate into objectives:
 - Should be timebound and measurable.
 - Can be longer-term (though targets/milestones should align with maximum four year duration of a plan)
 - One objective may address multiple risks to equality of opportunity (and one risk may have multiple objectives).

Introducing the presenters



Charlie Leyland
Student Participation
Team Lead



Esther Fisher
Senior Access and
Participation Officer

Telephone surgery dates

Telephone surgeries for the first wave of providers will be held for up to one hour between 1000-1600 on the below dates:

Tuesday 9 May

Wednesday 10 May

Thursday 11 May

Wednesday 17 May.

These will involve having a call with OfS staff about your access and participation plan and applying our expectations in your context.

To book a telephone surgery, please email app@officeforstudents.org.uk with a preferred time and date and a summary of the questions you would like to ask.

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1430 Close

Office for
Students

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OfS

Intervention strategies

Esther Fisher

Senior Access and Participation Officer

25 April 2023

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Intervention strategies

What we will cover:

1. What is an intervention strategy?
2. Designing an intervention strategy to address risks to equality of opportunity and associated objectives
3. Intervention strategies & objectives
4. Intervention strategies & activities
5. Intervention strategies & evaluation

What is an intervention strategy?

An evidence-based group of activities and/or measures that have been designed to deliver an objective

High-level summary of a theory of change:

- Explains what you are going to do to achieve change
- Demonstrates why you think the activities will achieve this change

Designing an intervention strategy

Indication of Risk	Student group(s) affected	Risks to equality of opportunity deemed to be relevant to context <small>(corroborated by student consultation/other internal insights)</small>
Low application rates	FSM students	[ACCESS] Knowledge and skills; information and guidance; perception of HE; application success rates despite qualifications
Low on course attainment	Black students; FSM students	[ACCESS] Knowledge and skills; information and guidance; perception of HE. [SUCCESS] Insufficient academic and personal support; mental health; cost pressures
N/A: EORR	Care experienced	[SUCCESS] Insufficient academic and personal support; mental health; cost pressures; capacity issues
+6		

- Objective 1:** To remove gap in application rates between FSM and non-FSM students by 2027-28
- Objective 2:** To remove gap in attainment rates between black students and all other students by 2029-30
- Objective 3:** To remove gap in attainment rates between FSM and non-FSM students by 2029-30
- Objective 4:** To ensure that there is no difference in completion rates between students who are care experienced and those who are not

Designing an intervention strategy

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- Objective 3:**
- To remove gap in attainment rates between FSM and non-FSM students by 2029-30
- Objective 4:**
- To ensure that there is no difference in completion rates between students who are care experienced and those who are not

The OfS considers that an effective intervention strategy will include details about:

- a. The activities that will be put in place to achieve the objective.
- b. The evidence used to underpin the intervention strategy design.
- c. The theory of change, including relevant outputs and outcomes. This should include details of the outcomes expected to be achieved across the duration of the plan. Interim outcomes should also be included to allow a provider to monitor and adapt an intervention strategy at an early stage, and also longer-term outcomes where a strategy will not fully mitigate the risk to equality of opportunity across the duration of the plan.
- d. The approximate investment required to deliver the intervention strategy, excluding the cost of research and evaluation.
- e. A description of how each outcome will be monitored and evaluated, including methodologies to be deployed in analysing data, and including details of when evaluation outcomes will be shared and the format they will take

RN1 – para 63

The OfS considers that an effective intervention strategy will include details about:

a. The activities that will be put in place to achieve the objective.

b. The evidence used to underpin the intervention strategy design

**Summary in template,
detail in Annex B**

c. The theory of change, including relevant outputs and outcomes. This should include details of the outcomes expected to be achieved across the duration of the plan. Interim outcomes should also be included to allow a provider to monitor and adapt an intervention strategy at an early stage, and also longer-term outcomes where a strategy will not fully mitigate the risk to equality of opportunity across the duration of the plan.

d. The approximate investment required to deliver the intervention strategy, excluding the cost of research and evaluation.

e. A description of how each outcome will be monitored and evaluated, including methodologies to be deployed in analysing data, and including details of when evaluation outcomes will be shared and the format they will take

Amended the example in RA6 to clarify where we expect a high-level overview and where we expect more detail

Intervention strategies in your plan

Intervention Strategy 1: Objectives and targets

This section identifies the principal objective that the intervention strategy will contribute towards. If the intervention strategy is likely to contribute to other objectives, these can also be noted here.

Intervention strategy 1: objectives and targets

To remove gap in attainment rates between FSM and non-FSM students by 2029-30
Directly contributes to target PTS2
Indirectly contributes to targets PTS3

Risks to equality of opportunity

This section identifies the risks to equality of opportunity that the intervention strategy will address.

Risks to equality of opportunity

Information and guidance; insufficient academic support; insufficient personal support; mental health; cost pressures

Intervention strategies in your plan

Activity:

Provide a high-level description of each activity that will contribute towards reaching the objective of the intervention strategy, including:

- target student groups
- numbers of participants/schools (if applicable)
- if this is a new or existing already existing activity
- if this is collaborative

Activity

High level description of each activity

e.g. Deliver tutoring to 140 KS4 students per year who are eligible for FSM. Run in partnership with the Access Project, delivered in 8 local schools. New project.

A good intervention strategy is likely to have multiple activities that contribute towards the objective

Intervention strategies in your plan

Inputs:

Provide an estimation of the resources (human and financial) that will be needed to deliver the activity over the four years of the APP. Where resources are shared across departments or intervention strategies, an estimate of the proportion that will go into this activity should be made.

Inputs

e.g. Partnership with third party organisation and 0.2FTE staff admin (total c£7,000p/a)

Or can total up cost of all activities

Intervention strategies in your plan

Outcome indicators

Provide a high-level overview of the expected outcomes of the activity. These outcomes can be used to track progress and understand the impact of each activity on the overall intervention strategy objective

Outcome indicators

Increased on-course attainment (long-term); Increased GCSE and A-level attainment (medium-term); increased metacognitive scores (short-term)

Intervention strategies in your plan

Inputs:

Indicate if the activity will contribute other intervention strategies

Cross intervention?
Yes – IS2

Intervention strategies in your plan

Evidence base and rationale:

This should note the annex and page number of the associated evidence base & rationale commentary.

Evidence base & Rationale

We have conducted a literature review and have done targeted, anonymous student surveys and focus groups with current students in receipt of FSM. See Annex B, page 42 for full detail.

Evaluation:

This section should provide a summary of the way in which the intervention strategy will be evaluated. It should detail which activities will be evaluated and the expected level of each evaluation. It should also detail whether the intervention strategy as a whole will be evaluated. More detailed information on evaluation should also be provided in the evaluation section. E.g. see Table 1: Example evaluation plan (Regulatory advice 6, page 54).

Evaluation

We will evaluate the outcomes of all activities to OfS type 2 standards, with the exception of Financial Support (already well evaluated). We also intend to evaluate the contribution of each activity towards the overall intervention objective. For further details on evaluation, see Table 1, Page XX.

Intervention strategies in your plan: example

- 8 activities in total contribute towards objective (one from an access related intervention strategy)
- 6 activities contribute towards other intervention strategies
- Inputs costed in total due to GDPR concerns for small cohort

Intervention strategy 8: Objectives and targets: Principal Objective: PTS_3 To ensure there is no continuation rate gap between care experienced students and non-care experienced students. Secondary objective(s): PTP_1

Risks to equality of opportunity: Information and guidance; Insufficient academic support; insufficient personal support; mental health; cost pressures

Activity	Inputs	Outcome indicators	Cross intervention?
Accommodation promise: 365 day accommodation guarantee for care experienced students, plus accommodation bursary to cover vacation residence. Guarantee of accommodation if student suspends status for one year. Accommodation guarantor scheme for Y2,3 and graduating students. New activity.	Accommodation budget per eligible student. Administrative costs and deposit loss fund.	Decreased financial concerns for students; increased sense of security; increased sense of belonging	PTA_1; PTS_2
£250 Start-up bursary for all care experienced students (paid after offer acceptance) to cover travel to university costs and purchase of home essentials (e.g. duvet, suitcase, cutlery), and accommodation welcome pack. Existing.	Bursary for students; 30hrs staff administrative costs p/a	Increased financial security; Decreased financial concerns for students	PTA_1; PTS_2
Named and trained staff contact for all care experienced students, whose role is to support students to access personalised academic and pastoral support services. Existing.	Staff training and 0.2FTE, plus administrative costs	Increase in % of students finding support helpful for personal or academic reasons; increase in engagement with services	PTS_2
Training for teaching, admissions and support staff on delivering educational services for care experienced students. New activity.	Staff training and 0.3FTE, plus administrative costs	Improved knowledge of the needs of care experienced students; increased confidence in supporting care experienced students in HE.	PTA_1; PTS_2
Access to fast track, mental health support for care experienced students, with counsellors trained in additional CPD in meeting the needs of care experienced students. New activity.	Staff training and 1x additional counselling staff for four year duration.	Increase in student wellbeing (using Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing scale); decrease in the number of mitigating circumstances forms submitted	PTS_2
Bespoke mentoring programme through careers service. New activity.	Mentor training and expenses, plus administrative cost		PTP_4; PTS_2
For activity addressing information and guidance risk, see Intervention Strategy 2	-	-	-
Total cost of activities p/a	£190,000		

Evidence base and rationale: We have conducted a literature review, alongside targeted, anonymous surveys and a focus group with our current care experienced students. See Annex B, | Page 34 for further information.

Evaluation We intend to evaluate each activity within this intervention strategy to OfS type 2 standards to establish whether or not they lead to the intended outcome indicators. We will also examine the extent to which each activity contributes towards meeting the overall objective. We will start the strategy in the 2023/24 academic year, and we intend to disseminate interim findings every year. We will share our findings at conferences and through networks such as NERUPI, and after 4 years we intend to publish our findings on our website. More detailed information on how we will be evaluating each activity can be found in Table 1, Page 29.

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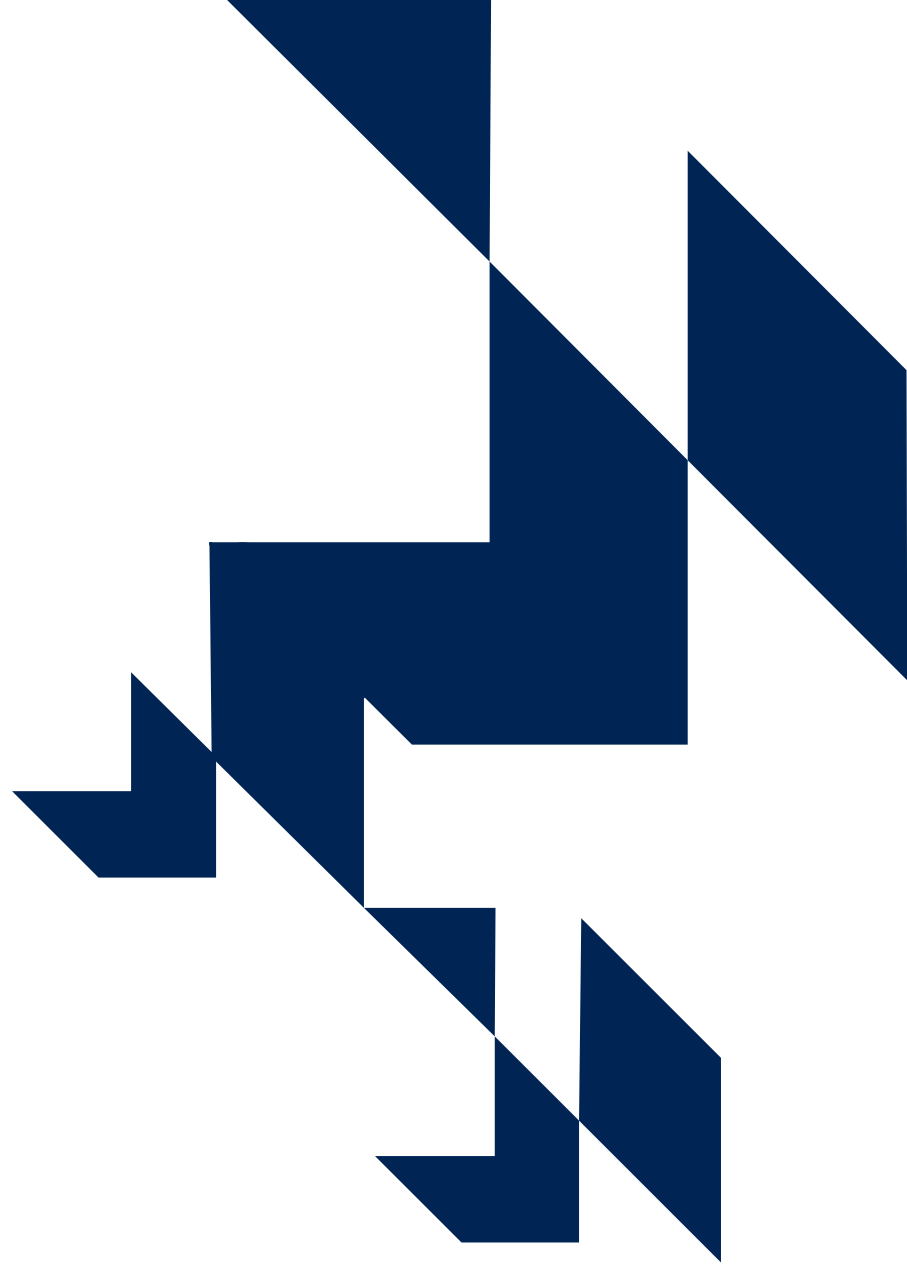
Introduction

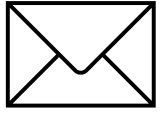
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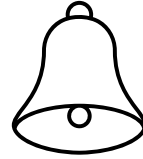
1430 Close

Questions and answers

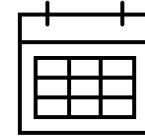




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April 2023

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