PURPOSE

You have been sent this survey because you are participating in the What works? Student retention and success change programme, led by the Higher Education Academy and funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. This survey is part of the contextual evaluation led by Action on Access. It is intended to develop understanding of the context in which change is happening, and to understand the process of change.

The survey builds on the work undertaken at the residential events for discipline teams, and is designed to complement (rather than duplicate) the information which you will submit to the HEA at the end of July 2014. We appreciate and would like to work with you further to understand and develop your work as part of the programme.

The information you supply through this survey may be used to inform the institutional case study and/or the contextual evaluation more generally. You will not be named in the case study or in any other report or dissemination of outcomes. You may however be identifiable to your institution. The institutional case study will be finalized in collaboration between the researchers and the institution.

CONFIDENTIALITY

PLEASE READ AND CONFIRM THAT YOU HAVE UNDERSTOOD.

	YES	NO
I have read and understood the information about the research, and participating in the survey.		
I voluntarily agree to participate in the project.		
I understand I can withdraw at any time without giving reasons and that I will not be penalized for withdrawing nor will I be questioned on why I have withdrawn.		
The procedures regarding confidentiality have been clearly explained to me, and I know that I will not be named in the report or in other feedback to the University.		
I understand that the answers in this survey will be used to inform the analysis, and may be reproduced in the research outputs.		
I understand that data may be used in research, publications, sharing and archiving, but that I will not be named.		
I understand that other researchers will have access to this data only if they agree to preserve the confidentiality of the data and if they agree to the terms specified in this form.		

Please summarize the main changes that have occurred at the institutional level that have had an impact on your work as part of the What Works? programme over the past 12 months (for example student number controls, recruitment issues, institutional re-structuring, new priorities and funding arrangements, institutional audit, change of leadership etc.).

Please identify changes that have happened within your academic area (faculty, school, department) that have had an impact on your work as part of this programme over the past 12 months (for example change of leadership, re-structuring, budget cuts, changes to student recruitment, change in priorities regarding retention and success etc.).

How does your work intersect with institutional policy (to what extent is your work influenced by or likely to influence institutional policy)? Choose the statement which best describes the situation at your institution.

Discipline teams are implementing institutional policy at the local levels as part of this programme.

The core team is developing institutional policy as part of this programme

Work by the discipline teams is expected to inform institutional policy.

Positive outcomes at the discipline level may influence policy within the institution.

Our work is not influenced by institutional policy and is not expected to influence institutional policy.

Other (please specify)

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How did you choose the interventions to implement as part of this programme?

Decided by the discipline team.

Decided by the core team.

Decided in collaboration between the core team and the discipline team.

Others (please specify)

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How confident are you that your chosen interventions were informed by:

	Very	To Some Extent	Not At All	Don't Know
Institutional research about student retention and success.				
National/International research about student retention and success.				
Findings from the first phase of the What Works? Student retention and success change programme				

Which of your interventions or approaches do you think will have the greatest impact on student retention and success and why?

What other changes or interventions were implemented this year that may have a positive or negative effect on student retention and success in your discipline area?

In what ways have the core team supported you to be effective this year? You may tick as many statements as you wish.

Reviewed our plans and kept us on track.

Provided a blue print of what we needed to do.

Sharing research and resources on effective practice.

Provided funding for our interventions.

Provided staff development.

Met with us to review progress.

Meeting with other discipline teams.

Administrative support.

Provision of institutional level data.

Research and evaluation about the implementation and impact of our work

Others (please specify)

What strategies do you use to engage with academic staff in your academic area and beyond? You may tick as many statements as you wish.

Discussing our work at programme/departmental meetings.

Presenting evidence about the need for change.

Using students to communicate about the work we are doing.

Dissemination activities about our work.

Encouraging discussion and sharing practice about retention and success.

Talking to individuals to persuade them to work with us.

Involving staff in particular activities.

Others (please specify)

Which have been the most effective strategies for engaging staff?

Which students have been involved in the work you have undertaken as part of this programme, and what has been their involvement?

	Very Involved	Involved to Some Extent	Not Very Involved	Not Involved At All
Student course reps.				
Elected State Union officer				
Student Union member or staff				
A committed student from our course				
A group of students from our target programme(s)				
No students involved				

Which have been the most effective strategies for involving students in contributing to change?

What strategies do you use to engage with senior managers? How effective have these strategies been?

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How have you disseminated your work across the university?

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If the intervention is successful what will need to happen for it to become embedded?
(a)   In your academic area?

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(b)   Across the university?

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What have been your three main successes this year?

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What have been your three main challenges this year?

What has surprised you this year?

What do you feel are the best features of the programme so far?

How else do you think the What Works? programme or your institutional core team could have supported you better?

- Thank you for completing this survey -