Evaluation Capacity Building

in Widening Participation Practice



Gathering the Team and Identifying Connections 2A

Gathering a team from across the institution

The importance of widening participation for individuals and sections within an Higher Education Institution will vary. For some, it is their core purpose and major, if not only, remit. For others, the connection with widening participation activity may be unclear, limited or low in terms of priority. Evidence from all the consultancies suggests that there is a strong case for bringing together a wide range of colleagues at least at the evaluation preparation phase. The wider team can also play a valuable role in commenting on the draft and final evaluation plan. This approach supports embedding and is an effective way of helping to ensure future sustainability. It is important to ensure that strategic as well as operational staff contribute to the preparation of an evaluation plan, as well as the dissemination of evaluation findings and future reviews of your evaluation plan and activity.

Bridger K (2007) Embedding widening participation and promoting student diversity. What can be learned from a business case approach? A Summary prepared on behalf of the research team and Higher Education Academy

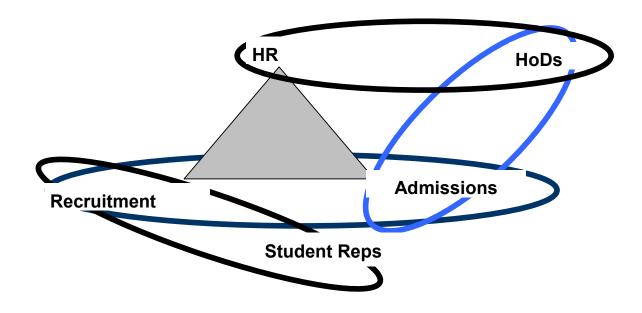
Website:

www.heacademy.ac.uk/assets/York/documents/ourwork/institutions/FINALVERSIONBusiness_Case.pdf

Interface Loops

This activity can aid colleagues in recognising existing contacts and communication channels within their daily working practice. The activity aims to enable staff to think about who they work with and who they perhaps 'should' work with – 'thinking outside the box'.

Ask colleagues to draw a triangle and list three categories of staff inside (or outside the institution) with whom they work. Then add in other categories of staff and around the outside. Through discussion try to identify who interacts with each category of staff and discuss what roles and responsibilities or decisions specific individuals have within the institution. It's possible that building up a shared interface loop will enable a team to identify who is core and who influences specific activities or decisions.



Available from: www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/events/capacitybuilding/index.php