

Dear all

We wanted to get in touch to update you on a couple of developments:

Information repository

At the last NNCO event in February, we mentioned our plan to create a repository for resources that networks have developed so that we can build a legacy from the scheme that will be useful to NCOP consortia and more widely across the sector.

We are discussing this with colleagues now and hope to start collecting information/documents from you over the next couple of months. We'll be emailing our official request to you in early July and will be looking for responses in early September. We will provide more information on the repository and guidance on what we're looking for with this request. This is simply advance notice that a request will be coming to you soon.

Blogs for HEFCE website

The HEFCE website now includes a separate blog section and we've been asked by colleagues for some blogs on outreach work. It would be great to hear directly from networks about your approach and examples of outreach work – for example, in working with particular learner groups in disadvantaged areas or engaging successfully with schools. It would be good if the blogs included comments from teachers and students too about the impact that networks have had in terms of raising aspirations and awareness of HE opportunities. Accompanying photos or vlogs are also welcome! We'd really like to help promote the good work that you're doing in your local areas.

We've attached a link to the HEFCE website (<http://blog.hefce.ac.uk/>) to show the topics and style of blogs that we've published so far.

If you are interested in writing a blog for the HEFCE website, please can you let us know. We're happy to provide advice on writing this and getting it published on our website.

NNCO event

We're in the process of planning a final conference to celebrate the work of NNCOs (networks and projects) and are hoping to hold this in either London or Birmingham on **Wednesday 16 November**. This will be an open event and we're keen to understand and share effective approaches to collaborative outreach amongst NNCOs and with new NCOP consortia and other interested parties.

So, please hold this date in your diary for the moment and we will confirm the venue with you in early July.

Monitoring and evaluation of NNCOs

We appreciate that there might be some confusion about the questions that the evaluation team are asking you and the questions we've included in our final monitoring

forms. We thought it might be useful to clarify the difference, as we see it, between evaluation and monitoring.

The evaluation team are asking these questions of you at this stage as part of their data collection and their focus will be to understand your network model, what you're doing and your findings at this point in time, from an evaluation perspective. Their overall aim in conducting the evaluation is "to assess their [networks'] value, beyond existing activity, in terms of enabling co-ordinated, efficient and effective outreach with schools and colleges".

As funder of the scheme, HEFCE is responsible for assuring that funding has been used appropriately, which includes understanding how funding has been spent and what the scheme has delivered. We believe that the questions we're asking you in the monitoring forms will deliver that assurance and provide us with the additional information needed to put that assurance in context in the final scheme report. Both reports will be published.

As some of the questions appear on both forms, we would be happy to receive the same information as submitted to the evaluation team if it's still relevant at the time of the monitoring return.

Regards

Gemma and Alex