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Further to this, and in line with the new priorities the Office for Students have asked us to reflect on, we are undertaking the following in relation to our Access and Participation Plan (APP):

- We will review our communications relating to the APP and will develop a communications plan, ensuring the information is always clear and accessible to the audience.
- We are enhancing our programme of work with local School Hubs to support in raising pupil attainment.
- We will review how our diverse portfolio of Degree Apprenticeships and Higher Technical Qualifications can further support access for students from underrepresented groups.

We believe that the delivery of our APP is central to delivery of our Transforming Bedfordshire Strategic Plan and have fully embedded the APP in our delivery mechanisms. The following committees have oversight of implementing the strategic measures:

- **Access Working Group** – this Group will focus on access and outreach activities. It will also play an important role in advising on student bursaries and financial support.
- **Retention Working Group** – this Group will focus on retention activities, bridging and transitions work to ensure students are well supported to progress through and beyond their course.
- **Employability Working Group** – this Group will focus on embedding employability in the curriculum, co-curricular and extra-curricular activity.
- **EDI Student Success Working Group** - this Group will focus on addressing the degree awarding gap as well as wider student equality, diversity and inclusion, and ensuring inclusive approaches to teaching and assessment.
- **Student Experience & Student Voice Working Group** – this Group will focus on delivery of extra-curricular student activities and opportunities. It will also lead on delivery of the Mental Health Charter as part of the new whole-university Wellbeing Framework.

## How students can get involved

We worked with the Students' Union to gather student input into the design of our access and participation plan. Students are represented on our Access and Participation Plan Steering Group which is responsible for overseeing implementation of the plan and on the Education and Student Experience Delivery Board and associated working groups that are delivering against our strategic measures.

To provide feedback, students can contact [Beds Students' Union](#).

To become involved in this work, contact our [Access and Participation Lead](#).

## Evaluation – how we will measure what we have achieved

Our access and participation strategic measures and action plan are informed by the best available evidence about what works for our students, drawing on both sector research and internal views. We collect data and feedback to evaluate the impact of our activities and interventions, from key surveys including the National Student Survey and Graduate Outcomes Survey, and data from our institutional student voice mechanisms. A standardised internal evaluation framework is under development, considering examples available on the Office for Students website, guidance from the dedicated hub to support research and evaluation (TASO) and best practice shared at sector Special Interest Groups. We have invested in a Research Fellow Role and an Educational Research Awards initiative to support the evaluation of our activities in relation to the APP targets.

## Contact details for further information

You can contact our [Access and Participation Lead](#) for further information.