Student Finance Notes

**2019/20 Announcements/ Updates:**

* Maximum full time fee levels unchanged
* Support unchanged
* England and Wales identical package
* Wales still have grants but with some changes in set-up (see presentation)
* Application launch likely to be late February England, early to mid-March for Wales
* Postgrad going up in line with inflation. £10906, £25700
* Expected that the support for Welsh students will increase including a grant and loan package

**Support for Students 19/20**

Disabled student allowance, rates available online

New process for childcare grants (English fulltime only, wales full and part time)

* For new and continuing students. Currently have to give cost estimates and paid according to this.
* Addresses previous issues in overestimation of costs and having to pay this back which can lead to hardship.
* In 19/20 childcare providers will be paid directly, this will apply in 19/20 for current and new students.
* Wales will continue with the 18/19 system, but this is likely to follow these changes in the future.

**Supporting our Work with Schools**

* SLC don't work with schools but work with further education providers and other training providers, careers advisers etc.
* Big challenge in engaging with partners is differing structures across university teams. Difficult as information goes out of date quickly, causes challenges for account managers with multiple contacts across an institution.

**Student Finance Working Group Case Study – Solent University**

* A student finance working group can bring together multiple teams who are engaging with student finance to address the above challenges.
* The group meets four times a year to ensure up to date information and can feedback updates to SLC in a coordinated approach.

**Group Discussions: Student Finance in your Institution.**

*Which teams deliver advice and guidance?*

*Do they work with the SLC FIS team?*

Main points:

* Separation between current student advice and prospective student advice
* Identified issues around not knowing all of the teams who are using student finance
* Most universities are working with FIS teams in some way

Resources

* Some teams have the knowledge and information and others have the expertise to deliver this in an appropriate way for different age groups (i.e. schools liaison teams)
* Discussed toolkits of content to support transferring information and advice
* Delivering 'on behalf of' SFE, schools and colleges, talked about statements at the beginning of presentations to help with a distinction between your university info and SLC info
* Letters can go out to schools from SLC to explain student finance updates and remind schools that the offer is there for universities to deliver information on behalf of SLC.

*Is there scope for better collaborative working in this area?*

* Internal - Academic faculty engagement, ensuring that they are well informed and not giving poor information. Not likely to engage with working group however representatives from working group would be difficult, could utilise team meetings
* Working group idea widely accepted, SLC would benefit from a single point of contact, considering a reward type system to recognise this responsibility. Discussed having meetings for these lead contacts to represent their university.
* Where working groups aren't possible, have shared resources to add in information from multiple teams and share best practice

**Teacher and Adviser Forum Case Study – University of Manchester**

* Network group of around 18 members, events four times a year for teachers and careers advisers.
* Put together to help teachers and careers advisers with up to date advice, give a state of the nation type overview of changes in the sector etc. teachers then act as representatives to take this information back into schools.
* Take requests for presentations about particular subject areas from attendees. Also invite external partners such as SLC and NCOP groups.
* Timings are spread throughout the year April for student finance, then later for clearing updates etc.
* 3:30 - 5:30 timings but will vary to find the best time of day for this to suit teachers and careers advisers.
* Promotion of events is by word of mouth and making use of current relationships.
* Not currently collaborative with other universities but this could be helpful for showcase other areas e.g. more vocational options. Kept very impartial but hosted on campus.
* Discussed using academics for subject talks as a positive, teachers want to hear from them directly.
* Discussed using a ‘skills audit survey’ for teachers and careers advisers to inform conference areas of CPD desired by target audience.