

**AIMHIGHER WEST AREA PARTNERSHIP
SUB-AREA COORDINATOR
ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT
(1 August 2005 31 July 2006)**

SUB-AREAWiltshire...

Summary of Aimhigher Activity in the Sub-Area to date

NB If any of these have not been funded and/or provided by Aimhigher West, please give details.

- School co-ordinator meetings in October 2005, February 2006 and June 2006 – all target and some non-target schools attending. FE co-ordinators, Connexions and local LSC representative are included in this network.
- Meetings between individual target school co-ordinators and sub-area co-ordinator during September / October to discuss evaluation of school activities 2004-05 and the plan for 2005-06. Further individual contact made in June/July 2006 to review programme for the year at school level and discuss plans for 2006-07.
- Y9 roadshow for 240 students from seven target schools in November 2005. All students had a half day experience involving the 'bus', student ambassadors, Connexions input on choices post 14 and 16 and an activity on vocational pathways.
- Two Y10 aspirational visits to Oxford University in May and June 2006. This involved 80 students and at least one member of staff from each school - mainly target schools. The event was run by Oxford University and organised and co-ordinated by the sub-area co-ordinator and funded by central LA Aimhigher funds.
- Wiltshire schools hosted five ImpAct Theatre productions in March 2006, raising the awareness of careers in health care. Other schools in the area of the host school were offered places for Year 9 – 11 students. Funding for the theatre company was through the Aimhigher Health Strand and schools covered any transport and teacher supply costs incurred. Approximately 400 students from 12 schools were involved.
- Approximately 70 students from Wiltshire schools gained places on year 11 summer schools 2006.
- Approximately 80 students applied for places at the year 10 three day vocational summer school in July 2006, run by Wiltshire College. (No information currently about the number of students who actually gained places and attended).
- Sub-area co-ordinator attended SW region summer school meeting in September and the consultation meeting for summer schools in the future in January.
- Sub-area co-ordinator met with Swindon colleague, Connexions staff etc. to plan additional roadshow activities for 2005 and 2006.
- Sub-area co-ordinator met with Wiltshire area staff for Young People's Support Service (YPSS) to raise their awareness of the programme in general, resources and support available etc. for students and staff.
- Sub-area co-ordinator prepared a briefing paper and briefly spoke to the School Improvement Partners (SIPs) employed by Wiltshire LA at their induction training. As of April 2006 SIPs have replaced link advisers so it was important to raise their awareness of the programme, Wiltshire situation etc.

so they can have informed conversations with senior staff when carrying out their monitoring and support work in schools.

- Sub-area input/contribution to LA planning that has direct links with the Aimhigher programme e.g. 14 -19 strategy, vocational networks.
- Sub-area co-ordinator attendance at ASG, AOG etc meetings throughout the year.
- Sub-area attendance at Events and Operational strand meetings to particularly provide input on the school perspective / needs.
- Sub-area co-ordinator attended, and was one of the speakers, at the SW region 'Working with Schools' conference in January.

Type of Activity/Event	Number of Events	Number of Participants	Target Group	Activity Typology
Awareness & aspiration raising – Y9 roadshow	4 sessions	4 x 60 = 240	Year 9 students in Aimhigher cohort of target schools	a)
Awareness & aspiration raising – Y10 visit to Oxford University	2 days	2 x 40 = 80 8 staff	Year 10 students in schools engaged with Aimhigher (target & non-target)	a)
Awareness & aspiration raising – Y11 summer schools	1	Approx. 70	Year 11 students attending Aimhigher summer schools	a)
Vocational activities – ImpAct Theatre presentation	5 sessions	Approx. 400 students	Year 9 – 11 students (but some Y12 students also attended) with interests in health	c)
Vocational activities – Summer School run by Wiltshire College (Lackham)	1	Approx. 80?	Year 10 & 11 students potentially interested in vocational pathways at post 16/18	c)
Staff development & training – Network meeting for Aimhigher co-ordinators	3	3 x approx. 15	Aimhigher co-ordinators in target and non-target schools in Aimhigher West area + FE + LSC + Connexions	e)
Research and dissemination activities – briefing session	1	5	LA staff who work with students likely to be / are excluded from school (Young Peoples Support Service)	g)
Research and dissemination activities – briefing paper + session	1	10	School Improvement Partners now employed by the LA	g)

I am not including individual school activity with HEIs in Aimhigher West as this will come through the strand co-ordinators.

Commentary on activities

All target schools are actively engaging with the AH programme. Six of the seven schools have a member of staff with a defined responsibility for AH. The remaining school is in the process of replacing their co-ordinator. Aimhigher is recognised by the senior staff in each of the schools and all the co-ordinators are supported by their line managers.

Several non-target schools also engage in the Wiltshire network and engage in activities for their identified Aimhigher cohort when places/opportunities are available. All the target schools have produced a plan for Aimhigher activity for 2005-2006 and these have been used to inform the Wiltshire plan submitted to the Events Strand co-ordinator.

Schools have made contact / bookings with local HEIs – I have not been alerted to any problems with this. One target school (11-16) has also a planned programme of

activities with Wiltshire College. Brief evaluations seen of activities that have taken place during the Autumn and Spring were extremely positive. Summary evaluations completed by students and staff directly after the Y9 roadshow and ImpAct Theatre presentation were extremely positive and had achieved aims of the activity. However it is too early to see longer term 'hard' evidence of impact.

Issues arising from activities, if any

Y9 roadshow – a lot of time was taken up in planning and organising the two days. Host schools also needed to spend time planning and organising. Parking the 'bus' was not the problem but finding a school with sufficient free rooms for the additional activities was. Now we have confirmation there will be a roadshow in 2006, plans will be able to be made earlier to ensure the organisational concerns raised in the evaluation of 2005 can be addressed. Swindon and Wiltshire AH have already agreed to work together again for 2006.

ImpAct Theatre production – 'NHS and You' – organisation and making it happen took up a lot of sub-area co-ordinator and administrative support time, however the initial feedback and then the evaluations showed it to be successful in raising awareness. Longer term impact has yet to be seen.

Sub-area co-ordinator actively promoted and oversaw the distribution and chasing of the Y11 summer school materials. Uptake was high by Wiltshire schools in AH West area. Once again this takes time, but is effective.

The new on-line monitoring system is proving to be extremely useful for monitoring of bookings etc. without bothering school co-ordinators. I was also able to download the information and provide each school with a summary of the activities for the year. This helped co-ordinators with their own monitoring.

Operational issues, if any

As much advance notice as possible is needed of opportunities, so that schools in particular can plan / liaise / negotiate for release of students and / or staff. This is not an issue, where individual schools make their own bookings with HEIs. However, opportunities offered to groups of schools do present organisational challenges, and relatively short notice can mean schools are unable to participate and therefore the students miss out. Discussions and future plans being made by the Events Strand in particular should help to alleviate some of the problems.

Sub-area co-ordinator, is a relatively minor part of my main job, however the demands on my time to are increasing. I want to be fully involved and attend meetings, working groups etc. to represent Wiltshire and our schools but I have to plan my involvement carefully. Fortunately my school co-ordinators are motivated and want to do the best for their students so we get by with effective communication by e-mail etc. I also rely heavily on administrative support for organisation of centrally co-ordinated activities.

Security of funding (and at an increased level) has helped schools to make longer term plans – I hope to see this impacting on the time and support the school co-ordinators get to carry out their role.

Teaching and Learning Responsibilities (TLRs) have just been introduced into schools – this is having an impact on the responsibilities that teachers have. I have yet to see what real effect this will have on the AH co-ordinator role in all target schools. At our meeting in June, the picture was mixed but it is likely at least one co-ordinator will not retain her post.

Having been involved in Aimhigher for two years, schools now want to have a progression of activities for their students as they move through the school. This is naturally increasing the demand on the HEIs. In June I was receiving feedback from some co-ordinators that there was lack of capacity and they were not going to be able to meet the schools' needs. This is a concern, as once involved, we need the schools to continue to engage.

Evidence, if any, of impact of activities

In 2004 very few staff in schools could tell me about the Aimhigher programme. This is not the case now. There is a similar picture with colleagues working within the local authority.

All target schools have working plans for 2005-06, and cohorts of identified students. Draft plans exist for 2006-07, and there is evidence in some schools that Aimhigher is being incorporated into year group and whole school planning.

A wider range of non-target schools are also engaging in HEI opportunities and several have identified cohorts.

Although it is too early to show real impact, some schools are reporting changed attitudes of some students since involvement in activities.

I have been working with a number of schools on their self evaluation - the summary of it being recorded on the School Evaluation Form (SEF). Involvement in the Aimhigher programme is featuring as a way forward to improve attainment and achievement, progression and guidance.

Aimhigher features in the educational development plan for the LA, linking with 14 - 19 Strategy, Vocational Networks, Gifted and Talented provision etc.

Links with other local strategies, networks or organisations

Particularly with 14-19 development work we have established strong links so as colleagues (Connexions, LSC, LA) we liaise and work together so that we (and particularly schools) do not get duplication and limited resources can be carefully targeted.

Update / training events are planned with input from all providers.

I frequently speak with the LA 14 -19 adviser to share information, planning etc. He provides my main link with local and regional strategies, LLN etc.

Connexions and our local LSC are part of the Wiltshire Aimhigher Network so we can share information, make joint plans, ensure our own plans reflect the thinking of other providers etc.

Transition and progression of students continues to be a national priority – Aimhigher provides opportunities to support both of these. I have started initial discussions with Wiltshire Connexions service with regards to Connexions helping schools in the tracking of their students.

As I also have strategic responsibility for Gifted and Talented education within the LA, I do use opportunities to also raise awareness of the Aimhigher programme with staff responsible for this area.

Any other information

Now the way forward at national and regional level has been determined, it would be extremely helpful to have not just key dates for meetings mapped out for the year but also for activities e.g. interim and end of year reporting, return of plans etc. This would enable us at sub-area and school level to plan and organise accordingly so we are able to work smart and use network meetings etc.

Name of Sub-area Coordinator ...Liz Banister

Date 29th August 2006