FE-HE Collaborative Provision Annual Conference

Thursday 21 May 2009 | London

Widening Participation through Collaboration: Implementing Effective Strategies

Professor Stuart Billingham | York St John University

York St John University

The Vision

Transformation through Collaboration

York St John University

Widening Participation

"more than a commitment to outreach and retention: it is a core strategic concern integral to thinking about marketing and recruitment, learning, teaching, and curriculum development, collaborative relationships, and institutional perspectives"

HEFCE Discussion Paper, December 2004

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What works?

A key finding of the three national independent research projects commissioned by the Aimhigher National Evidence Group and reporting in 2006 was that:

- Integrated, cumulative and sustained interventions have most impact on the HE-awareness, HE-aspirations and the achievements of school and pre-HE college students from currently “under-represented groups”

An Integrated Strategy for Sustainable Change

Requires

- A consensus about what we mean by WP
- a new discourse and new practices *informed by and informing* new ways of working with each other and local communities
- long-term partnership agreements with specific WP objectives

WP is not Just…

- About “the who” but also, about the
- Where?
- When?
- How?
- What?

Some Keys to Success

- Focus on complementarity
- Constant and consistent communication
- Managing the “messiness”
- Working in tandem as a “strategic pressure group”
- Proactive and public commitment from “the top”

The Challenge

"Is HE simply a sorting device or does it have transformative possibilities? Unless it begins to deliver the latter, its social effects will be regressive."

From: David Watson (2006) A Discussion Paper, HEFCE, p.3

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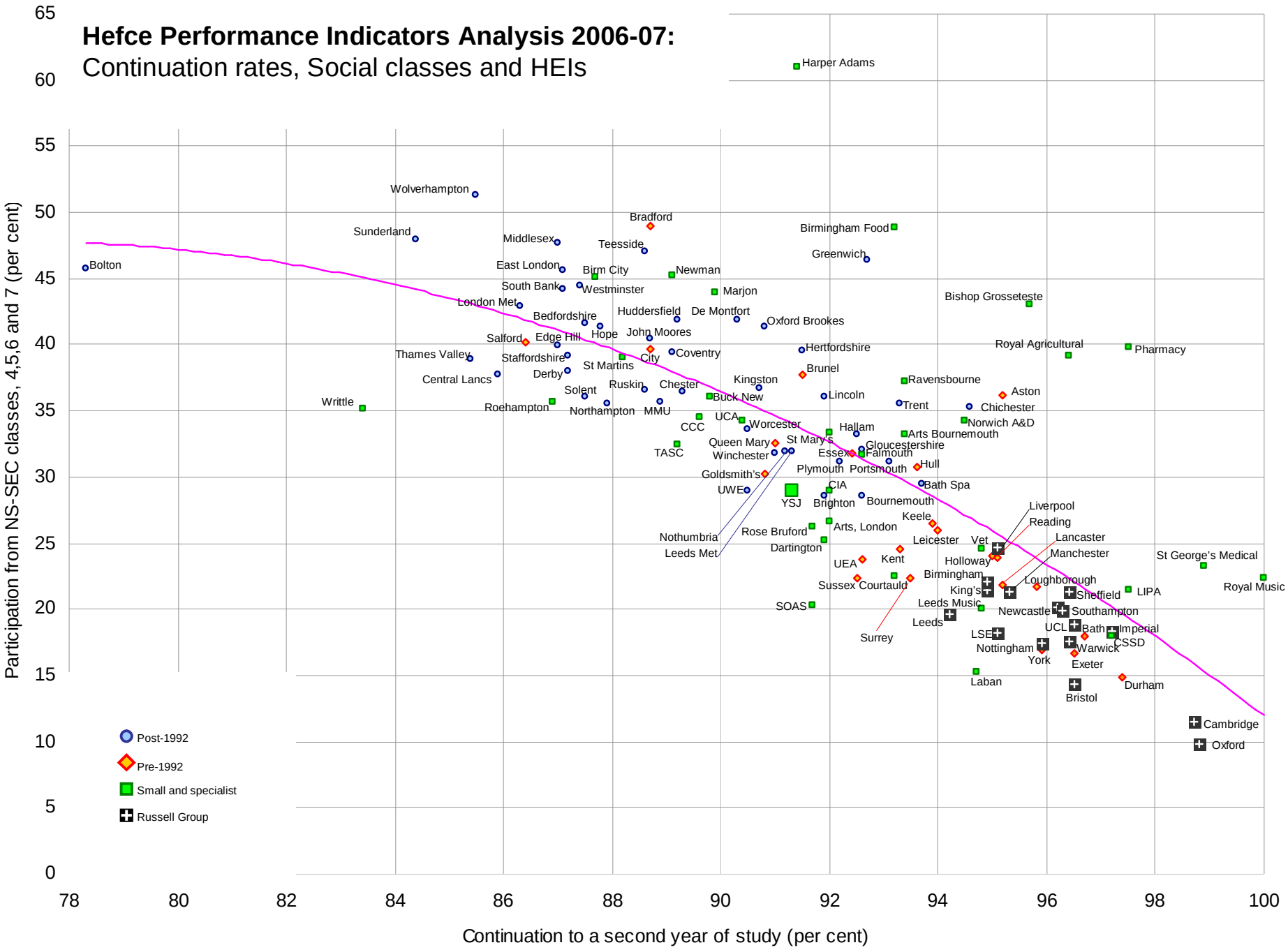
Hefce Performance Indicators Analysis 2006-07:
Continuation rates, Social classes and HEIs
Participation from NS-SEC classes, 4,5,6 and 7 (per cent)
Continuation to a second year of study (per cent)
Post-1992
Pre-1992
Small and specialist
Russell Group
Harper Adams
Wolverhampton
Bradford
Sunderland
Middlesex
Teesside
Birmingham Food
Greenwich
Bolton
East London
Birm City
Newman
South Bank
Westminster
Marjon
Bishop Grosseteste
London Met
Bedfordshire
Huddersfield
De Montfort
Oxford Brookes
Salford
Edge Hill
Hope
John Moores
Hertfordshire
Royal Agricultural
Pharmacy
Thames Valley
Staffordshire
City
Coventry
St Martins
Brunel
Central Lancs
Derby
Kingston
Ravensbourne
Solent
Ruskin
Chester
Aston
Writtle
Roehampton
Northampton
MMU
Buck New
Lincoln
Trent
Chichester
UCA
Norwich A&D
CCC
Worcester
Hallam
Arts Bournemouth
Queen Mary
St Mary's
Gloucestershire
TASC
Winchester
Essex
Falmouth
Plymouth
Portsmouth
Hull
Goldsmith's
CIA
Bath Spa
UWE
YSJ
Brighton
Bournemouth
Liverpool
Keele
Reading
Arts, London
Rose Bruford
Nothumbria
Leicester
Vet
Lancaster
Leeds Met
Dartington
Manchester
St George's Medical
UEA
Kent
Holloway
Birmingham
Loughborough
Royal Music
Sussex
Courtauld
King's
Sheffield
LIPA
SOAS
Leeds Music
Newcastle
Southampton
Leeds
UCL
Bath
Imperial
Surrey
LSE
CSSD
Nottingham
Warwick
York
Exeter
Laban
Durham
Bristol
Cambridge
Oxford

An Agenda for the Future

- "We should create…new partnerships to strengthen innovation. We need to develop new forms of brokerage, networks and clusters…"

From: *England's rural areas: steps to release their potential,* Advice from the Rural Advocate to the Prime Minister, Commission for Rural Communities, CRC67, May 2008, p.3