

# HE in FE presentation

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Distinction and Diversity  
in Higher Education

**Guild** 

# When did this all start...

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*'I am interested in looking at whether some institutions could benefit from linking themselves to an established exam brand with global recognition. This could, for example, help FE colleges looking to improve their higher education range and their progression routes. It's how they could continue to offer degrees should university partners move their provision back on campus. And, just as I previously worked on supply-side reform for schools, I am keen to see new higher education institutions: the experience of other countries suggests that non-traditional higher education institutions can widen participation, reduce costs and raise standards'*

David Willetts - at Oxford Brookes University on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2010

# What is nature of HE in FE today?

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- Some 11 – 15% of HE delivered in FE (in England)
- 124 FE colleges get direct HEFCE funding - £185m.
- 52,000 students undertaking recognised HE courses in FE
- 146 FE colleges also deliver franchised (funded through a higher education institution) provision to a further 56,000 students.
- 157 and MEG estimate around 'one in eight' undergraduates in FE;
- Almost 2/3 are mature students over the age of 21 (compared to a sector average of around a third).
- In FE half are part-time compared to a third in HE.
- Proportion from low participation groups higher than general

# Typology of HE in FE...

- 'Cold-spot' provision
- 'Hot and cold-spot' collaboration
- 'Hotspot' competition

Shows how provision is spread across access, progression and competition, depending on location and sector...

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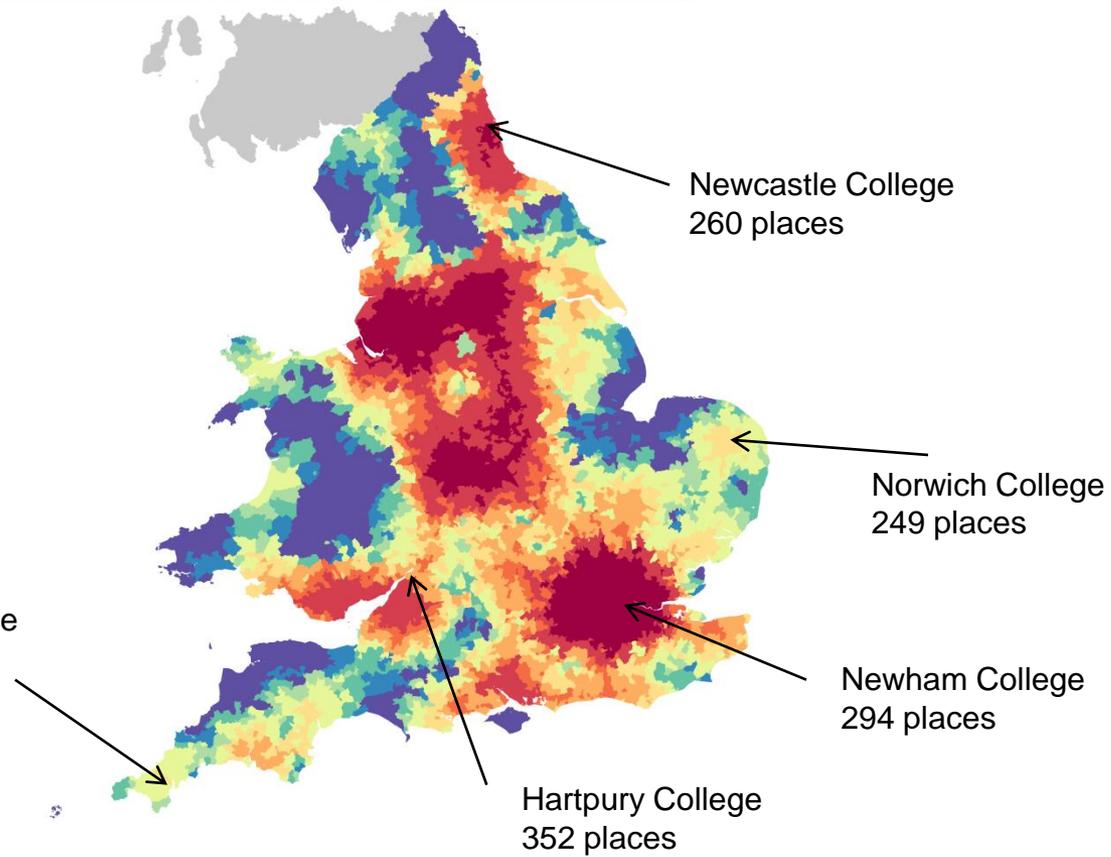
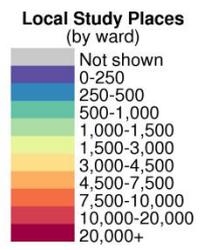


# Cold spots by provision



## HEFCE Common Evidence Base: Context Statistic, Local Study Places

**Local Study Places**  
Undergraduate entry places accessible for local study



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Mark Corner, Analytical Services Group, Higher Education Funding Council for England, February 2009.  
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# Cold spots by qualification

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HEFCE Common Evidence Base: Context Statistic, wards with low levels of HE qualifications

Wards with low levels of HE qualifications  
(in lowest 40 per cent by mature population)



Cornwall College  
241 places

Hartpury College  
352 places

Newcastle College  
260 places

Norwich College  
249 places

Newham College  
294 places

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# Diversity and Competition

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*'I have worked on many different areas of the public sector over the past 30 years. The biggest lesson I have learned is that the most powerful driver of reform is to let new providers into the system. They do things differently in ways none can predict. They drive reform across the sector...*

*It's the rising tide that lifts all boats – an insight which lies behind Michael Gove's recent school reforms. It also lies behind Andrew Lansley's proposals to empower GPs so they can choose providers in the best interests of patients.'*

**David Willetts 2011**

# FE colleges as ‘Alternative Providers’

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- FE, Private ‘for profit’ and ‘not for profit’, specialist institutions, schools...
- Underplays history, collaboration and partnerships?
- Competition, diversity, choice

... But not university title, degree awarding powers?

# Core and Margin and student numbers 2012/13 and beyond

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- 20,000 Core and Margin for 2012/13 (approx 11,000 for FE)
- What are recruitment numbers actually like?  
How many places are unfilled?
- 5,000 for 2013/14 (and 45,000 consolidated places from above – if filled?)
- Less financial and political pressure to create price competition in/from HE in FE?

# Contradictions, choices, challenges...

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- Compete on price or distinction (or both)?
- Elasticity of demand for HE in FE (see PT, lower socio-economic groups etc)
- Same as other parts of sector or different?
- One system or varied (by place, sector and student)?
- HE, FE (and HE in FE) policy and growth?
- Relationship to industrial policy?