



Dr Claire Lyness
HE Academic Support Tutor

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HE Academic Support Tutor Project

- Collaborative partnership between three FE colleges serving 2,307 HE students
- Funded by HEFCE Catalyst Fund 'Addressing Barriers to Student Success' to improve outcomes for key groups affected by educational inequalities, e.g. students with disabilities, from areas of low participation, mature students
- Three HE Academic Support Tutors across three colleges appointed summer 2017



Aims of HE Academic Support Tutor project

- Address identified gaps in preparedness, achievement and progression of HE students in the FE colleges
- Provide a positive study skills support service via 1:1 tutorials, drop in sessions, in-class workshops and online resources
- Improve academic literacies, levels of achievement, and raise confidence & resilience
- Particularly amongst young, white males (YWM); students from POLAR 1 & 2 quintiles; and students with disabilities and mental health issues
- Share good practice across the partnership colleges

Vocational students in the North East

- Crossover between project's target groups and vocational students
- Regional: lower than average rates of participation in HE in the North East (29% median participation compared to 48% in London)
- 36% of students from North East studied **only** vocational courses at level 3
- White working-class students in particular more likely to hold BTEC qualifications – in North East around half (48%) white working-class students held at least one BTEC qualification
- SMF report highlighted issues with progression routes for BTECs, engagement with HNC/D students through the project

Progress & challenges so far...

Progress

Good engagement from target groups
- 76% accessing 1:1 intervention

Positive feedback
from students

Challenges

Engaging young
white males

Sustainability after
project funding ends