



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

TEF-long coating integrated degrees with foundation year: Foundation Year Provision in the year 2021

#FYNAC17 Foundation Year Network Annual Conference
University of Warwick, 12/13 July 2017

Dr Willy Kitchen
Head of Department
Department for Lifelong Learning
University of Sheffield
w.kitchen@sheffield.ac.uk



Your journey starts here.

A WORLD
TOP 100
UNIVERSITY

Direction of travel ...

- TEF and WP
- The trouble with metrics (with due acknowledgement to WonkHE and others)
- Non-continuation metrics and benchmarks – out by Christmas?
- Retrospect and prospect – FY provision in the year 2021



Your journey starts here.



Les Ebdon (FYNAC keynote, Southampton Solent, 2016)

“... there are opportunities for the TEF to support progress on widening participation ... BUT ... ***WP must be prominent and meaningful in the TEF*** in order to guard against unintended consequences”.

[my emphases throughout presentation]



TEF metrics

- Teaching Quality
 - NSS (1-4) Teaching on my course
 - NSS (5-9) Assessment and feedback
- Learning Environment
 - NSS (10-12) Academic support
 - **HESA non-continuation data**
- Student Outcomes and Learning Gain
 - DLHE Employment 6 months after graduation
 - DLHE High skilled employment (6 months after)



More and less surprising outcomes (hostages to fortune):

Commenting upon UoS 'Silver' ranking, TEF assessors note (inter alia):

“... strong academic and pastoral support systems that deliver tailored provision, as reflected in high rate of continuation and excellent outcomes among full-time students and mature students in particular”.





And the trouble with Metrics

Goodhart's Law

“When a measure becomes a target, it ceases to be a good measure”

Campbell's Law

“The more any quantitative social indicator is used for social decision-making, the more subject it will be to corruption pressures and the more apt it will be to distort and corrupt the social processes it is intended to monitor”

Blog-posting accessed 11 July 2017

<https://svpow.com/2017/03/17/every-attempt-to-manage-academia-makes-it-worse/>

Welsh Govt Consultation on Support for FYs (Dec 2016 Response)

45. The Welsh Government accepts the view expressed by a number of respondents that ***there is insufficient evidence at this time to enable a clear decision to be made about support for foundation years.*** No changes will be made immediately.

46. However, as noted, ***the concerns of the Welsh Government have not been resolved*** by the responses to the consultation. The Welsh Government therefore intends to:

- monitor the number of students being supported on these courses;
- ***monitor the progression rate to the first year*** of undergraduate study; and
- ***initiate research and evaluation as necessary***, potentially including a study of value for money.

https://consultations.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultation_doc_files/161219-summary-of-responses-en.pdf

Out by Christmas?

- Taxi-meter analogy ... we're all loan salesmen now, and the clock (fee/access to loan) is ticking;
- Out by Christmas (well, 1st Dec actually) ... there's something here about metrics, and playing god too ...



Learning from our students ...

The last two years have not only helped me to be more successful academically but also on a more personal level, I've come out the other end more confident although I still have a way to go. Only recently I attended a workshop with other students the majority being PhD students, two years ago I would have felt way out my depth working in a group, but now I felt ok with myself and I was able to contribute positively to the group.

[D]LL really is about giving people a second chance and I would like to thank you and all my tutors and staff at [D]LL for giving me the opportunity of a better future. My advice to anyone on the course or just starting out, no matter how tough it gets because it does, and you feel like walking away, is don't, hang in there because there really is a light at the end of the tunnel



Inclusion of foundation year students within the non-continuation indicators

“Students undertaking an integrated FY are included in the WP and continuation statistics according to the qualification that the FY is integrated into. While this treatment is ***largely beneficial in raising the institution’s WP indicators*** the ***converse is true for continuation*** as students undertaking an integrated FY have on average lower continuation rates [72.0% : 89.6% in 09/10 PIs]” ...

“***An institution has argued that*** these students should not be included in the continuation indicator at all as they are very different to the students that are recruited directly into year one and there is a greater expectation that some will not progress.”

https://www.hesa.ac.uk/files/pisg/PITG_2013_02/PITG_13_06.pdf



All HE providers transition matrix for sector 2014/15 – status of FT First Degree FY students one year on

FT 1 st degree FY	FT 1 st degree Y1	FT 1 st degree Y1	FT Other UG	PT 1 st degree	PT Other UG	Transfer	Inactive	Total
4.7%	65.1%	0.3%	0.3%	2.7%	0.1%	9.9%	16.7%	14160

(HESA non-continuation rates summary, 9 March 2017, Table SN4)



FYNAC 2011 Conference call

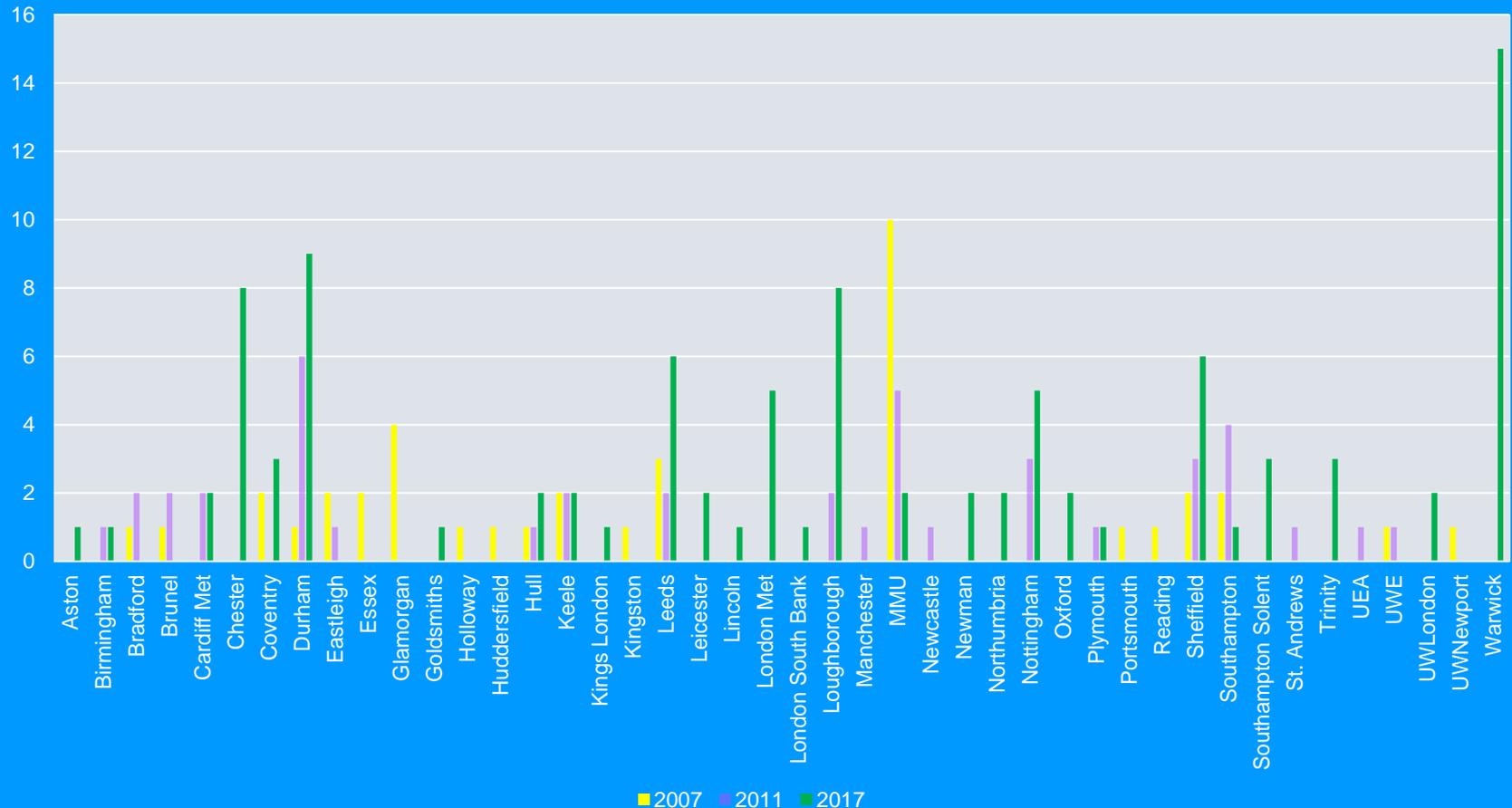
“The theme of this year’s conference is ‘After Browne – Foundation Year 2012’. ***The entire HE sector is facing a period of fundamental changes*** following the implementation in part or whole of the Browne Report recommendations. These include the introduction of ***vastly increased student fees*** in tandem with the requirement that HEIs ***enhance their provision to students from non-traditional backgrounds***. As such, ***these changes pose great opportunities as well as significant threats to the current provision of FYs***; yet we must remain broadly optimistic for the future bearing in mind that FYs have already been referred to on a number of occasions by ministers and in conjunction with the proposed National





Continuity, fragility, change ... and growth?

FYNAC attendance by institution



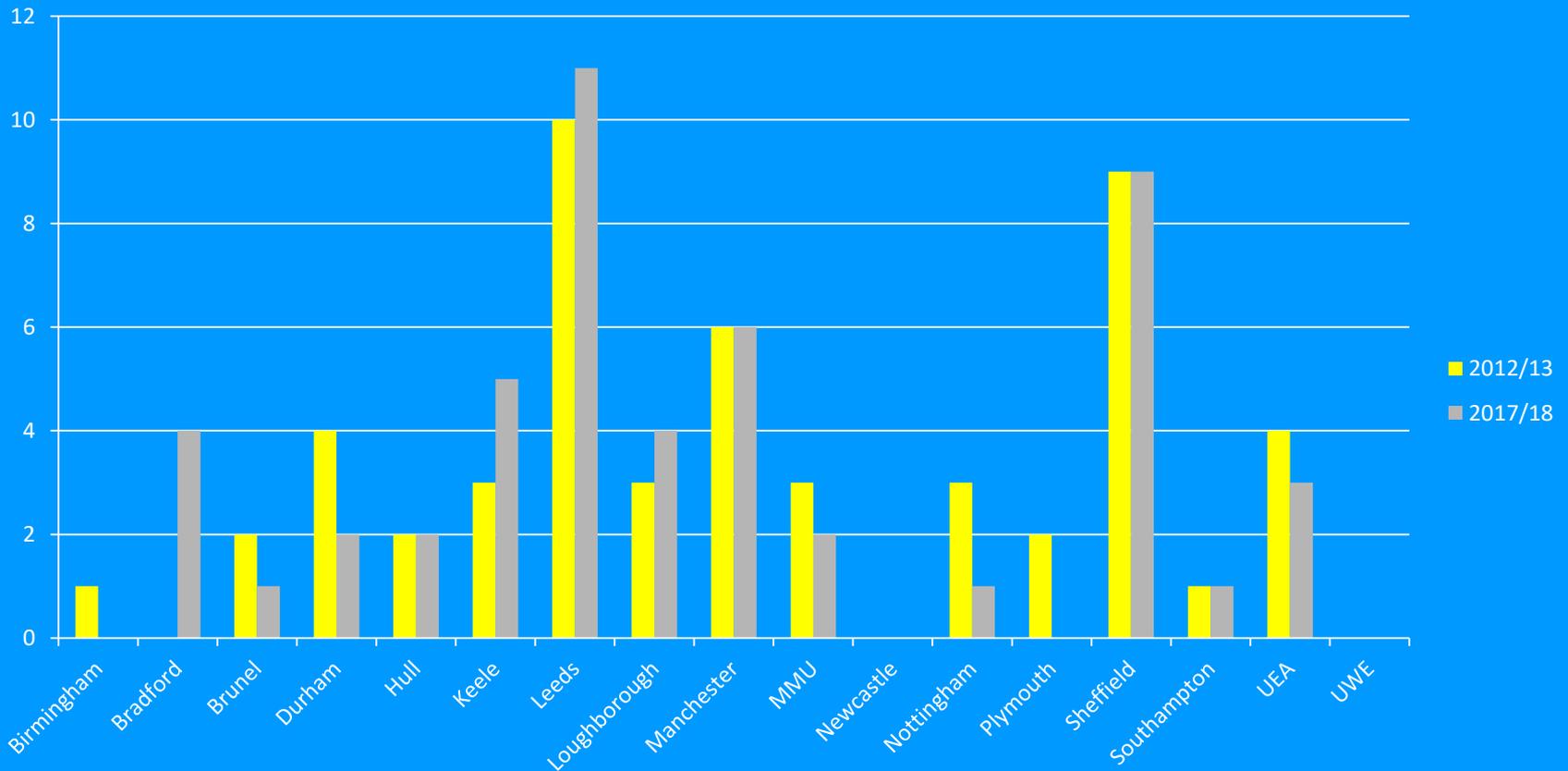


One sign of the times?

“... I just thought that I should let you know that we won't be coming this year. The foundation year has been shrunk to max 15-20 places this year, I have been taken off the teaching team and X is moving over to outreach projects so there is a poor future for foundation year here it seems - they (the university bigwigs) don't think it's necessary if we can recruit enough directly into the first year. Who knows, maybe with the fees increase they will change their minds in a couple of years....at the moment it is seen as superfluous. Good luck with the conference and send our regards to everyone - we will keep in touch with the network as things develop here and you may see us again at the next conference! Regards I”



Comparison of references to FYs in Access Agreements 12/13 and 17/18



Source: OFFA <http://www.offa.org.uk/access-agreements/>



Student testimony (DLL FY Tracking Project, July 2015)

“I don’t think I have ever heard of or been to an institution where their main goal wasn’t just to get me through exams so I look good on their stats, kind of thing. With the foundation year I think that the main focus was making sure I was stable and happy and that I was able to work to my full potential”