

## **The Creative Way Progression Agreement Scheme: An Overview and Some Key Messages**

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### **The Creative Way Progression Agreement Scheme.... What it is and who it's for....**

The Creative Way Progression Agreement Scheme is a framework designed to promote progression into HE. It is for learners following “vocational” and practice/work based programmes at Level 3. The Scheme is built on formal agreements between Level 3 providers and providers at Level 4 and above and is designed to give greater clarity about progression to HE for vocational and practice/work based learners.

The Creative Way Progression Agreement Scheme is operated by the Creative Way, a collaborative partnership of Further Education Colleges, 6<sup>th</sup> Form Colleges and Universities operating in the Thames Gateway.

### **Key principles....**

The Creative Way Progression Agreement Scheme is based on the underlying principle that there should be a level playing field for learners applying to HE who have followed a vocational rather than an academic pathway. The Scheme:

- Is based on a shared commitment to ensuring that learners with vocational qualifications are treated equally in the selection process for entry to HE;
- Encourages institutions to develop and articulate the selection criteria which assess the learner’s potential capability and their ability to benefit from the specific HE programme for which they have applied for entry;
- Ensures that institutions retain their autonomy with regard to the admissions criteria they wish to apply to their own programmes.

### **The details....**

The Creative Way Progression Agreement is made up of two linked agreements – the **Institutional Progression Agreement** and **Programme Progression Agreements**.

The **Institutional Progression Agreement** is an Agreement between an individual institution and The Creative Way partnership. It represents top-level, institutional

commitment to the Creative Way Progression Agreement Scheme and confirms institutional agreement to:

- Participating in curriculum mapping to identify potential progression opportunities;
- Working towards the development of programme-specific Progression Agreements where progression opportunities are identified;
- Considering the recognition and acceptance of evidence of achievement and attainment other than academic A-levels;
- Working towards the development and implementation of a credit transfer scheme;
- Providing data, subject to appropriate consents, to enable the tracking of learners and their progression.

**Programme Progression Agreements** are developed through close working between Creative Way staff and partner institutions and are designed to give clarity to potential applicants. Programme Progression Agreements set out:

- The qualifications that enable progression to the named HE programme;
- The institutions that provide the qualification enabling progression to the named HE programme;
- Details of any additional evidence required for admission to the named HE programme (ie any additional selection criteria such as portfolio, audition etc).

Programme Progression Agreements allow for specific guarantees to be given to learners (ie in accordance with institutions' own admissions policies). These may range from the offer of an interview to the offer of a place on a specific course.

### **And the benefits....**

#### **For the learner..**

- Increased clarity about the range of progression opportunities available and what they are required to achieve and demonstrate in order to be considered for entry on to a specific programme.

#### **For institutions..**

- A greater understanding of the range of potential progression pathways and an opportunity to achieve greater levels of alignment between the curriculum at Levels 3 and 4;
- A greater opportunity to secure local recruitment and improve retention, attainment and completion rates.

**And for further information... contact Richard Pyle, Progression and Credit Manager with the Creative Way;**

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