

Newsletter – July 2015

Workshops underway to improve the sector's data management capability

In June HEDIIP published the Data Capability toolkit. This provides a resource to help organisations better understand their capabilities in the management and governance of data and identify what improvements need to be made. The toolkit is being supported by a series of workshops, the first of which have now taken place in Cheltenham, Cardiff, Manchester and London. These workshops have considered:

- Why should we improve our data capability?
- What do we change and how do we prioritise?
- How do we start and sustain these changes?

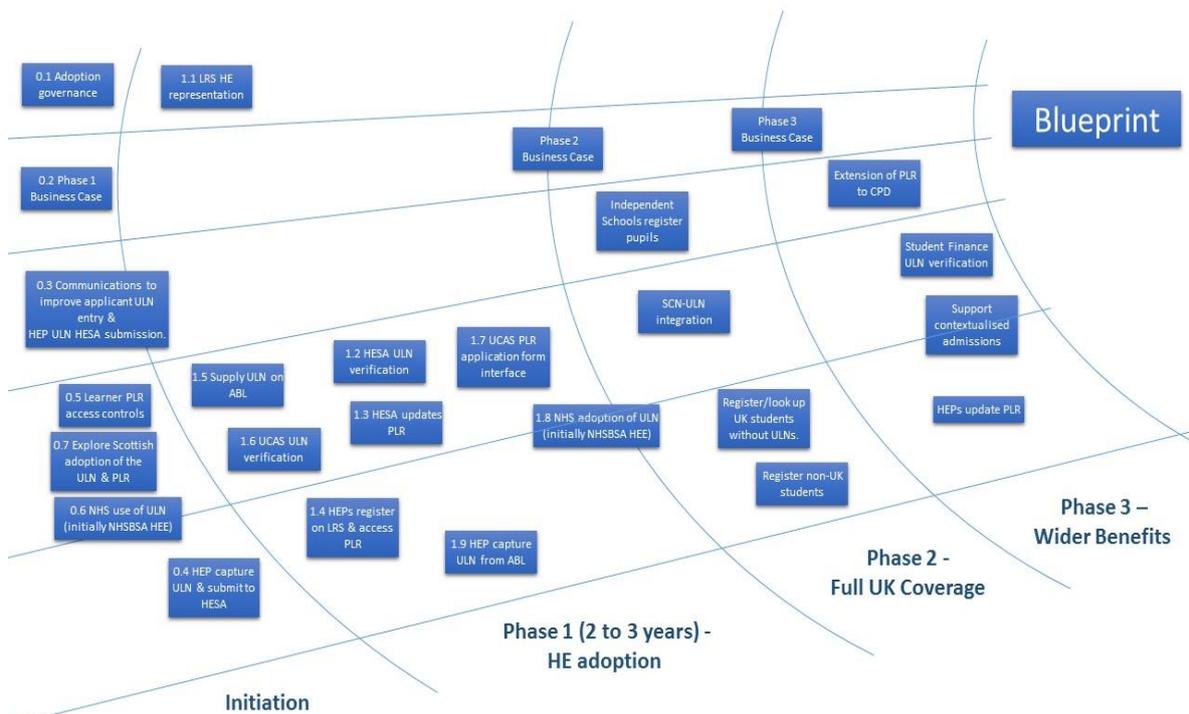
To date 156 delegates have booked to attend a data capability workshop; this covers over 50% of the HE providers that report to HESA. The [community of practice group](#) on LinkedIn will provide colleagues with an ongoing support mechanism for implementing the process they have learned during the workshop.

This work makes a significant contribution to the issue of data capability which has been highlighted in recent studies by [NESTA](#), [UUK](#) and the [British Academy](#) on data capability. This work also compliments the HESA/Jisc BI project as sound data management underpins the efficient and effective use of data for operational use, business intelligence and external reporting.

Data Capability Toolkit	http://hediip.ac.uk/dc_toolkit/
Community of Practice	https://www.linkedin.com/groups/HE-Data-Capability-best-practice-8319542/about
Workshop bookings	https://www.hesa.ac.uk/seminars

The Unique Learner Number

The [ULN Blueprint report](#) was published on 1 July. This sets out a roadmap for the adoption of the ULN in HE.



Adoption of the ULN in HE is being coordinated by the HEDIIP PMO and overseen by a [HE ULN Adoption Group](#). Implementation partners have taken ownership of their work packages for Initiation and Phase 1 (as outlined on page 35 of the report) and are undertaking a planning exercise to determine exactly what work will be involved.

The report made the following recommendations:

1. The ULN blueprint and roadmap described in this report are approved by the HEDIIP Programme Board as a statement of intent.
2. HEDIIP, together with implementation partners (including SFA, UCAS and HESA), initiate Phase 1 of the roadmap.
3. The HEDIIP PMO should work with the NHSBSA and HEE to explore the potential of mandating the ULN for students funded by NHS and Social Care bursaries initially in England.
4. In preparation for Phase 2 the HEDIIP PMO, working with the SFA, should liaise with:
 - SFC, SQA, Skills Development Scotland and the Scottish Government to resolve the issue about adopting the ULN and Personal Learner Record in Scotland.
 - Welsh and Northern Ireland Governments to establish how students will access their PLR.

ULN Blueprint report	http://hediip.ac.uk/the-uln-in-he/
HE ULN Adoption Group	http://hediip.ac.uk/he-uln-adoption-group/

New Subject Coding System

The project team have been collating responses received during the public consultation (Feb-May). The HECoS (Higher Education Classification of Subjects) vocabulary has been documented and, following review by the Advisory Panel, will be published to the HEDIIP website shortly; **this document will include a summary of consultation responses**.

The project has also been exploring subject-based analysis and text mining using the new coding system. This has involved engagement with colleagues specialising in this area and the document outlining recommendations will also be published to the HEDIIP website soon.

Furthermore, during consultation the project requested feedback on a draft governance plan. The governance plan has been revised to reflect comments made and is being reviewed by the HEDIIP PMO.

Data Language

HEDIIP is currently in the process of appointing a specialist in student data to work on a project that will define the Common HE Student Dataset with a supporting set of agreed Data Specifications to be used in the HESA data collection process. Given the strong links this project will have with the future HESA collections, this project will work closely with colleagues in HESA.

About HEDIIP

The Higher Education Data & Information Improvement Programme has been established to redesign the information landscape in order to arrive at a new system that reduces the burden on data providers and improves the quality, timeliness and accessibility of data and information about HE. The programme is hosted by HESA and is funded by:



HEDIIP is overseen by a Programme Board and supported by an Advisory Panel.

Programme Board	http://www.hediip.ac.uk/hediip-programme-board/
Advisory Panel	http://www.hediip.ac.uk/hediip-advisory-panel/

You can follow [@HEDIIP](#) on Twitter or contribute to the debate on the [HEDIIP Jiscmail list](#). You can email the Programme Management Office at info@hediip.ac.uk.