



Widening Participation Project Summary of Feedback 24 Nov 2022

The Event

- This event brought together several FVC partners who are responsible for, and involved in, the transition of students to our college community – with a particular emphasis on those from widening participation (WP) backgrounds.

The event involved:

- Introduction to the purpose and aims of the Widening Participation Project (WPP).
- Facilitated discussion groups explored key themes around transition, using their experience to offer thoughts of improvements that could be made to enhance the transition process for students from WP backgrounds.
- Groups identified the risks and supports to a successful transition for future students from WP backgrounds, as well as suggesting the top 3 priorities for the focus of improvement.

Representation

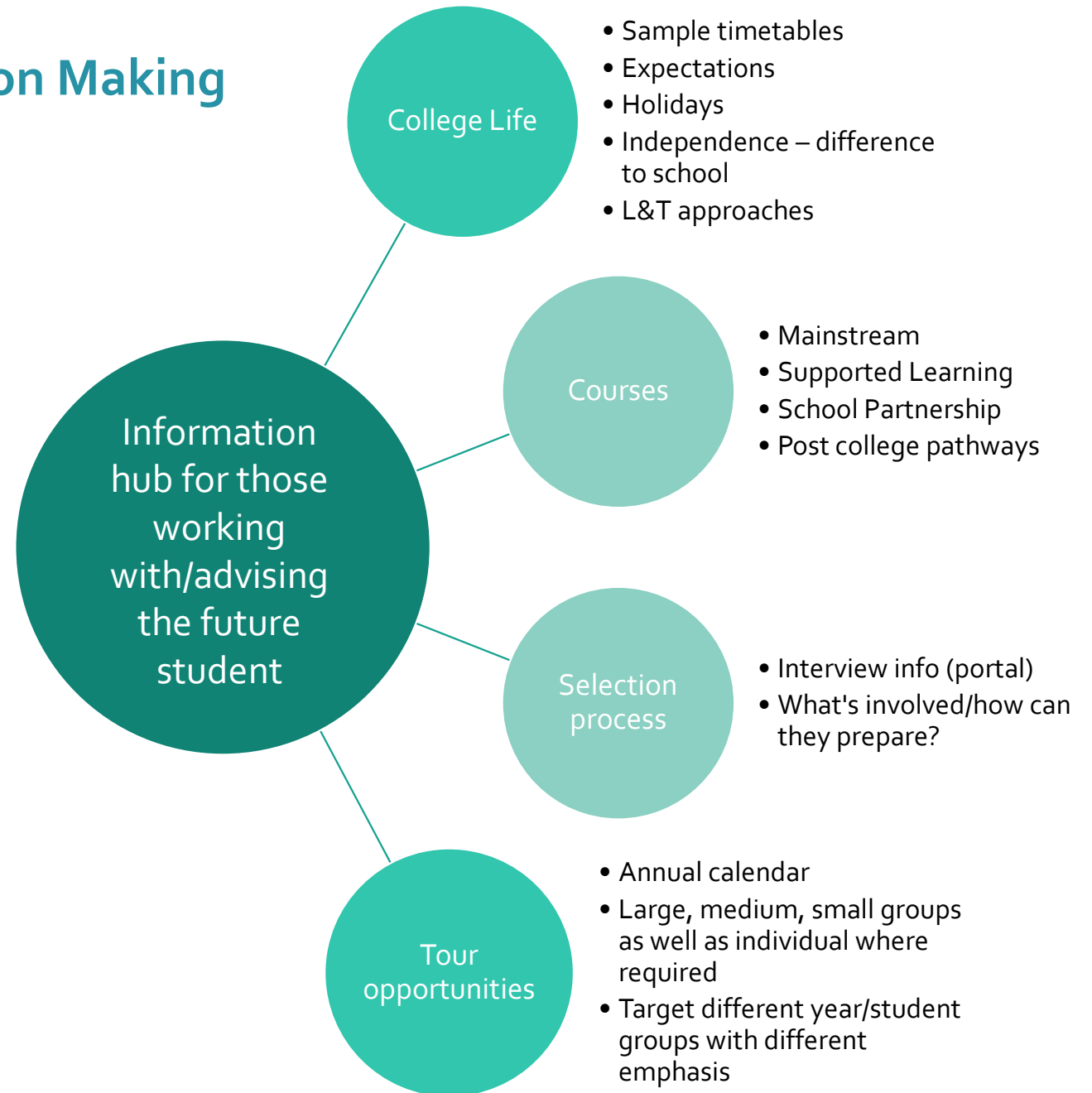
- Forth Valley College – Inclusion & Student Services
- Stirling Council Education Services
- The Conservation Volunteers
- Stirling Council Virtual Head Team
- Falkirk Social Work Team – ThroughCare & AfterCare
- Stirling High School
- Resilience Learning Partnership
- Skills Development Scotland
- Stirling Carers Centre
- Larbert High School
- Stirling Council – Children with Disabilities
- Developing the Young Workforce – Forth Valley
- Stirling Council Social Work Team – Criminal Justice
- Forth Valley College – Operations Managers
- Scottish Community of Access & Participation Practitioners
- Recovery Scotland
- Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise
- MCR Pathways
- Falkirk & Clackmannanshire Carers Centre
- Forth Valley College – Business Transformation

Imagine the 'ideal' transition process for students from WP backgrounds. What would that look and feel like for both you as a practitioner, and the future student? What activities and interventions would help realise that ideal?



Transition Theme 1: Support for Decision Making

- ✓ Target audience includes parents, carers, school staff, SDS, social work etc.
- ✓ Include student voice
- ✓ Use a variety of media
- ✓ Clear, easy to access and understand information
- ✓ Focus
 - ✓ Is College the right choice for you?
 - ✓ Are you applying for the right course (level/subject?)
 - ✓ If you need support with transition – **who is the right person** to contact



Theme 2: Information Sharing

Understand the barriers faced to providing information

Standardised method of capture – matrix of need?

Review/clarify/publish data sharing agreements

Create detailed policy and procedure for transition information

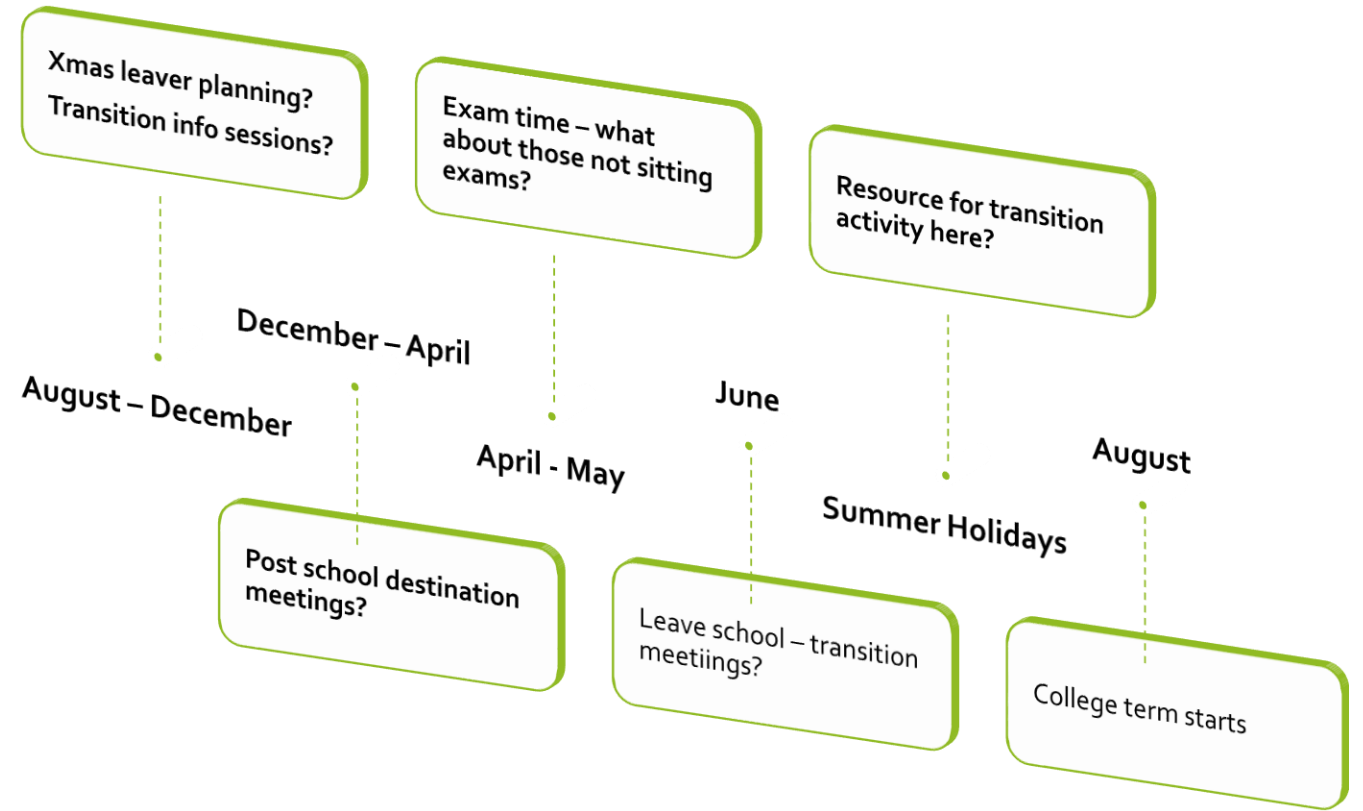
Build information sharing into transition timeline

Determine pre and post offer level of information required

All in agreement that the sharing of relevant, proportionate and meaningful transition information is a critical part of enhancing a student's transition to college, and that it needs to be clear what processes are triggered once that information is shared to ensure that timely interventions can be implemented to support a successful transition

Theme 3: Timing

- Create a timeline/calendar detailing the critical points in the transition journey for future students as well as current applicants
- Tiered level of transition activities from S2 onwards
- Recognise that future students from WP backgrounds may need enhanced transition interventions which are actioned earlier in the calendar year and build this in



Theme 4: Preparedness for College Life

Actions to address **Theme 1: Support for Decision Making** will also benefit this theme.

- ✓ Ensure late applicants/enrolments (waiting lists) receive same level of support and information as other students
- ✓ Incorporate into system, process of following up on those students who miss first enrolment and induction activity.
- ✓ Phased distribution of prioritized pre-course/induction information from pre-application/decision making to getting ready for your first day
- ✓ Timetables to be available much earlier (at least the days and times of the week) - thereby setting expectations and allowing students to arrange their part time employment and/or childcare arrangements



- ✓ Incorporate social activities into induction activities for particular student groups
- ✓ Digital skills 'Get ready to learn' workshops (summer)
- ✓ Robust laptop loan policy and procedure so the student gets laptop on day 1 of college.

Theme 5: College Support to Succeed

Early identification of those in need of enhanced transition

WP Strategy - Systems, Policies & procedures

Mechanisms to provide enhanced support

Transparent, easy to find information for future student (themes 1 & 3))

Schedule of enhanced transition activity (theme 4)

Data analytics – predictive allocation of resource

Transition information sharing (theme 2)

Standardised approach to reviewing engagement

Getting to know the student need

FVC pre-entry Support & Guidance

FVC key contact directory

Post school destination meetings

Matrix of needs leads to targeted intervention

Who is 'at risk' - partnership approach to prevent disengagement

Examples of individualised support packages

'Named Contact' support

Mentor/Buddy schemes

Laptop from day 1

Nurture spaces

Relationship based practice

Relevant policies and procedures to be considered include:
Digital Inclusion, Attendance Management, Student Discipline, Equalities, GDPR, Student Funding

What supports a successful transition?

Strong, continuous partnership working

Robust systems-based approach to early identification

Suite of tiered support interventions dependent on need

A whole college approach to supporting transition – understanding of how to eliminate, or minimise, barriers

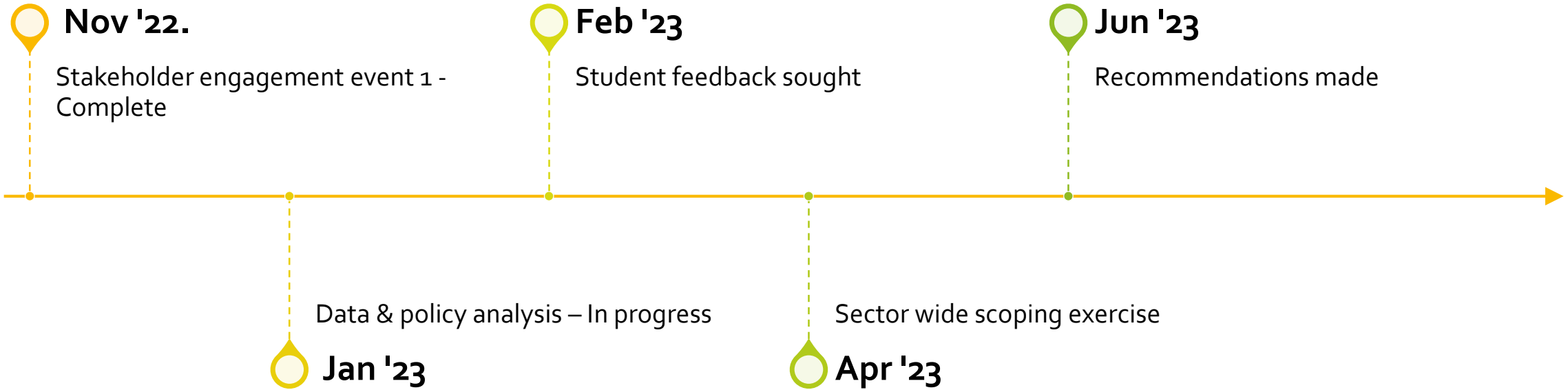
Right support at the right time from the right people

Clear communication

Support for partners to support decision making

See the 'whole' student





A reminder of Year 1 activity

Useful Information



View the 'Downloads' area of the website for more presentations and the Project Logic Model



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