

Next Steps South West Evaluation Strategy Tranche 8 2023/4

Version control

Version	Date created	Author	Comments
1.0	01/06/2018	Eleanor Hodgson Charlotte True	
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4.0	05/07/2019	Eleanor Hodgson Charlotte True	First version submitted to Office for Students.
4.0	29/07/2019	Eleanor Hodgson Charlotte True	Revised version submitted to Office for Students, following feedback.
5.0	30/06/2021	Robert Hart Charlotte True	Revised version to consider changes to the project in Phase 3. Renamed 'Evaluation Strategy V5'.
5.1	04/11/2021	Robert Hart Charlotte True	Activity Outputs (table 2) revised. Renamed 'Evaluation Strategy V5.1'.
6.0	16/12/2022	Robert Hart Charlotte True	Activity Outputs (table 2) revised. Renamed 'Evaluation Strategy V6.0'.
6.1	17/01/2023	Robert Hart Charlotte True	Pre 16 Careerpilot activities renamed 'Careerpilot/Unifrog' and barriers updated. Text added re: control groups and activities that are/are not evaluated. Renamed 'Evaluation Strategy V6.1'.
7.0	Finalised Oct 2024	Charlotte True Robert Hart	Changes to V6.1 for Tranche 8 Details of Attainment Raising Programme added. Renamed Evaluation Strategy V7.0.
8.0	08/01/2025	Charlotte True Robert Hart	Changes to V7.0 for Tranche 9

Introduction

This document, **NSSW Phase Three Evaluation Strategy Tranche 9 2024/5** provides an update to the NSSW Evaluation Strategy Phase 3 Tranche 8 Version 7.0 available at NSSW Teamsite>Evaluation General>[NSSW Evaluation Strategy v7.0.pdf](#)

Tranche 9 is broadly a continuation of Tranche 8, with no changes to the Uni Connect remit from the OfS.

Revisions have been made to the evaluation strategy in line with re-modelling and operational changes resulting from a reduction in funding.

Changes to the structure of the Evaluation Team

The staffing for T9 is:

Evaluation Team Leader (1FTE)

Evaluation Officers (1FTE, reduced from 2FTE in Tranche 8)

Changes to reporting

There is expected to be a call for evidence for Tranche 8/9 attainment raising work at some point.

Changes to the evaluation strategy for Core Offer

Targeted Outreach in 2024/5 no longer includes Years 9,10 or 11 therefore there is no data collection or delivery of Core Offer for these year groups.

A scaled-down Core Offer continues to be delivered to Years 12-13, see 2024/5 schools and college brochure for details. Engagement data is collected and reported in the same way through registers, and as in Tranche 8, evaluation surveys are no longer carried out for the Core Offer.

Changes to data collection for core delivery: schools

In Tranche 8, NSSW had sufficient individual student data held on HEAT from Tranche 7 to enable most of the activity registers to be processed by collecting just student names. However, by Tranche 9, many of the student records are now out of date (e.g. name changes, change of postcode and students moving schools).

Therefore, all school activity registers collected in Tranche 9 contain the names, DoB and postcode of each student. This means that student data is only collected as and when they engage with NSSW, which also ensures that only necessary data is collected.

Data collection for core delivery: colleges – no change

Registers are collected as in Tranche 8, requiring full name, DoB and postcode.

Strategic Outreach and data recording – no change

As in Tranche 8, key members of staff are identified as Strategic Outreach Officers, covering Plymouth, Torbay and Somerset. These outreach officers deliver the Core Offer in the same way as the Target Outreach Officers, but their activity is recorded as Strategic Outreach on HEAT.

The NSSW Attainment Raising Programme

Changes to the Attainment Raising offer:

The following programmes are offered, with the same AR Theory of Change and evaluation as T8:

- Year 8 Crafting Accurate Sentences Tutoring (CAST).
- Year 9 Articulate – revised content, but no change to short-term evaluation.

Year 10 Study Skills Mentoring is offered, with the removal of the TASO surveys questions, due to it becoming evident that the validated scale is not suited to this project and does not allow accurate measuring of impact.

Year 11 Exam Success is discontinued, due to a lack of data collection and resulting evidence.

Focus groups for Articulate

The desired outcome of Articulate is improved speaking skills and this is evaluated by the English Speaking Board grade awarded to students. This outcome is short-term and recorded directly after the week-long programme. To capture medium/longer-term outcomes, focus groups were piloted during Tranche 8 and will be rolled out as evaluation in Tranche 9.

The focus groups take place approx. 3 months after the students take part in Articulate and aim to capture the medium/longer-term effects of the activity on their speaking skills, such as where the skills developed have been transferred to other aspects of the students' life. In addition, they aim to identify whether the students' confidence and educational outlook have changed because of the programme.

Analysis

The overall success of the NSSW AR programme will be reviewed throughout the year, with an interim assessment/review in February 2025, and full analysis in August 2025. It may be necessary to revise the programme, based on findings, OfS directives and funding.

Reporting

NSSW will respond to OfS requirements, tbc.

During Tranche 8, NSSW worked in partnership with the University of Exeter, the University of Plymouth, the North East Uni Connect Programme and GROWS, collecting and analysing CAST pre- and post-programme assessment data. This dataset has been analysed by NSSW and shared with the University of Exeter, who are compiling an overall cross-partnership report due for publication in winter 2024/25.