

QAA Response to OfS Consultation on a New Approach to Regulating Equality of Opportunity in English Higher Education

Introduction

On 6 October, the Office for Students (OfS) published a consultation on a new approach to regulating equality of opportunity in English higher education. This document is QAA's response to that consultation. We have not answered every question, instead focusing on questions where we feel we can add value to the sector based on our experience and expertise as the Access to Higher Education Diploma regulator.

QAA's overall view is that the current proposals do not give sufficient assurance that adult learners will not be neglected under the new approach. This is underpinned by a concern that there is not enough information given about how the Equal Opportunity Report and Response (EORR) will be constructed or who the decision maker will be, such that we cannot have confidence in its application not having unintended consequences for certain student demographics, particularly mature learners who may also suffer from other forms of disadvantage in accessing higher education.

Risk Register (EORR) when identifying its risks to equality of

Questions

- 1. To what extent do you agree with our proposals relating to**

focus of assessment of a plan is on whether the EORR risks have been reflected, lesser

