John Widdowson

Principal - New College Durham

Chair - Mixed Economy Group of Colleges

mixed economy group

New College Durham

New partnerships and collaborations: post Browne, pre White Paper

- How will institutions react?
- Will existing partnerships continue?
- What is the role of HE in FE?
- Are there any prospects for growth?
- What will be the impact on students and their decisions?

Which partnerships will survive?

- Clear and accepted roles
- Mutuality of benefit
- Transparent business model
- Innovative curriculum models
- Strategic commitment
- Student interests at the centre

The role of FE Colleges

- Local provision
- Focus on Higher Level Skills
- Progression from L3 Vocational courses
- Part time students and Higher Apprenticeship
- Close links with employers
- Focus on teaching and student support
- Progression to HEIs
- Cost effective provision

Institutional responses

- Should all colleges offer HE?
- Will HEIs focus on (or redefine) their mission?
- The impact of Access Agreements and National Scholarship Scheme
- Closer bi-lateral relationships including Widening Participation and Gifted and Talented

The shape of things to come?

- Colleges as HE validators
- Closer consortium working between colleges
- Some successful local collaborative partnerships between HEIs and FECs
- Better progression to higher level skills including Apprenticeship
- Greater range of providers and validation arrangements

The English Community College?

- Widening participation
- Vocational progression FE to HE within the same institution
- Excellence in teaching and learning
- Close employer links
- Progression to employment and higher study
- Quality at an affordable price