

TRANSITIONS

Background and data

Fife and Tayside has a population of 764,480, representing 15% of Scotland's population. The region is heterogeneous in nature, ranging from some of the most densely populated areas of Scotland, Dundee with 2376 people per sq kilometre (second only to Glasgow City) to Perth and Kinross which with 26 people per sq kilometre ranks amongst the lowest densities of population.

Significantly some of Scotland's most deprived communities lie within the region but it also includes some of the more economically prosperous areas of the country. However this can bring additional challenges as within these areas there are pockets of deprivation that can easily be overlooked in the overall picture.

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation measures levels of deprivation. The following statistics are taken from the 2006 report:

Fife has seen a relatively large increase in its share of data zones in the 15% most deprived areas in Scotland between the SIMD 2004 and SIMD 2006.

Dundee City and Fife with 5% each have a considerable share of Scotland's 15% most deprived data zones with only North Lanarkshire(9%), City of Edinburgh (7%) and South Lanarkshire (6%) exceeding them.

Dundee City (30%) has the 3rd largest local share of the 15% most deprived in SIMD 2006 exceeded only by Glasgow City (48%) and Inverclyde (38%).

The local authority area with the largest increase in the number of data zones in the most deprived areas is Fife (13%). Perth and Kinross with 6% has also shown a considerable increase.

Unemployment in Fife and Dundee is above the national average and in addition, the %age of working age population in employment in Dundee is significantly below the Scottish average at 72.1% compared to the Scottish average of 75.7%.

In summary, the region is one that, in addition to having significant levels of poverty and urban deprivation, presents challenges associated with other barriers to access, including rurality and remoteness from centres of learning.

Table 1 - Levels of deprivation

Table 1a show the percentage of the population who live in the 20% most deprived data zones (SIMD5). This shows that Dundee City with 37% of its population in this quintile has significantly higher levels of overall deprivation than the other three areas. However, Table 2 presents this in numbers and it can be seen that Dundee and Fife have similar numbers of people in this quintile and also that the numbers in Dundee are declining while they are rising in Fife. Both Perth and Kinross and Angus have also seen rises in the numbers of people in SIMD 5.

Tables 1c shows the numbers of datazones in the lowest 20% and Table 1d shows the number of datazones in the lowest 20% as a percentage of all datazones in the area. This shows that between 2004 and 2006, levels of deprivation have increased in all areas except Dundee although it also shows that in percentage terms, Dundee still has significantly higher levels of deprivation than the other areas. Overall levels of deprivation have increased slightly in Fife and Tayside between 2004 and 2006.

Table 1a

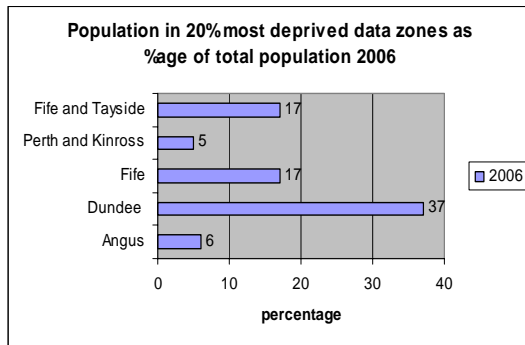


Table 1b

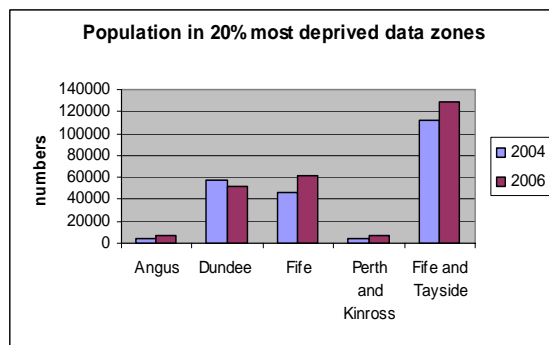


Table 1c

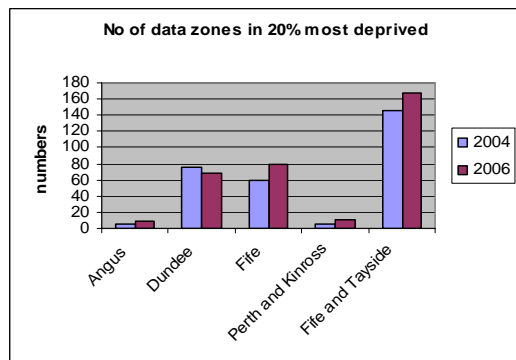
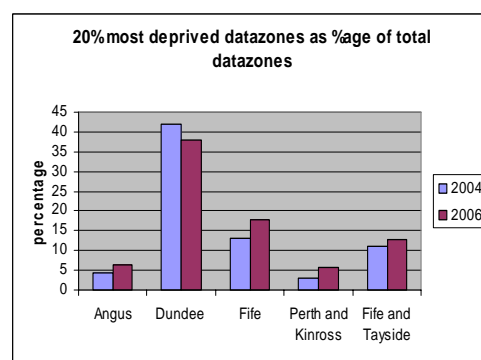


Table 1d

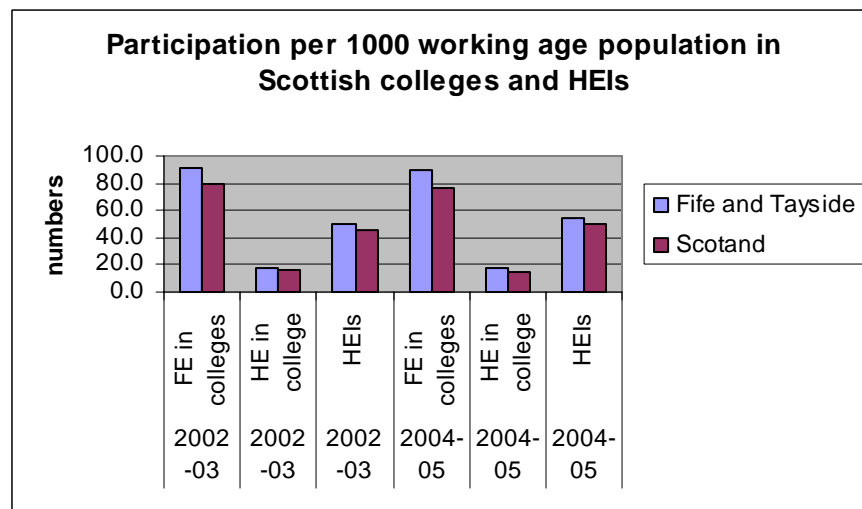


(Source – SIMD report 2006)

Adult participation in learning

Table 2 measures the participation in learning of working age population in Scottish colleges and HEIs. This shows that participation at all levels is slightly above the Scottish average (although it is only marginally above average for HE in colleges) in 2002 -03 and in 2004-05 and also that levels of participation have remained relatively static over that period.

Table 2



(extracted from data in LfAll Measures of success 2006)

The Forum strategy is to develop and support provision that will engage with learners at critical transition points. The information in this report provides some background to the Forum area that will assist the Executive and Transitions Group in making decisions about how and where resources should be allocated.

Over time, more information on local participation will be added to this report. This will include more detailed information on participation in local colleges and progression from colleges to universities through articulation routes. We are currently working with partners and SFC to include this information in future updates.

The Forum has funded activities that seek to increase participation by those who live in the 20% most deprived communities or those who face other barriers to access.

The following information is drawn from statistical reports from the two main Forum funded activities that engage with community learners to provide opportunities for progression to further and higher education. These are:

- Pre Access programmes that develop and deliver collaborative provision to engage community learners in courses that offer progression to further and higher education and
- A range of provision delivered by SWAP that provides and supports routes to higher education for learners who lack the normal entry requirements.

It should be noted that the information used below focuses on participation and reaching deprived communities. There are further statistics available relating to gender, employment status, ethnicity etc that have not been included in this report.

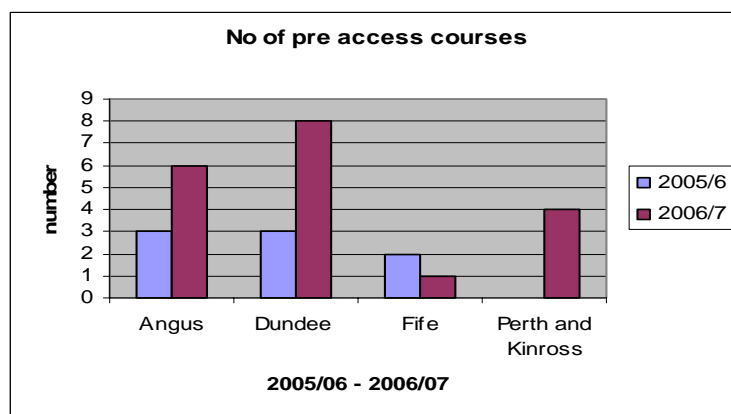
Pre Access Provision

Pre Access provision has been developed across the region to increase supported transition and progression routes between community learning and further and higher education. Partnerships have been identified in each area to lead this activity and pre access activity has been delivered since 2005.

Table 3 shows the number of courses developed and delivered in 05/06 and 06/07. In some areas, particularly Angus and Dundee, partnerships were able to respond more quickly to this initiative. In 06/07 Perth and Kinross has been able to start delivering. Discussions are continuing in Fife to identify suitable progression routes for development and it is expected that there will be an increase in this area in 2007/08.

The data used for the following tables has been taken from statistics collected from pre access courses. In some cases, course information has been incomplete – where this known, it has been highlighted.

Table 3



In this funding period, targets groups have been identified as:

- Deprived communities in lowest 20% SIMD
- Long term unemployed (>6 months)
- Ethnic minorities
- Migrant workers
- Care leavers
- NEET
- Communities suffering rural deprivation.

The level of allocation to each area has not been linked to levels of deprivation, however in the next funding period, it is expected that this will be considered in allocation of funding.

Table 3a shows the number of pre access participants enrolled on courses by area. Table 3b shows the percentage of those from communities in the lowest 20% SIMD.

Table 3a

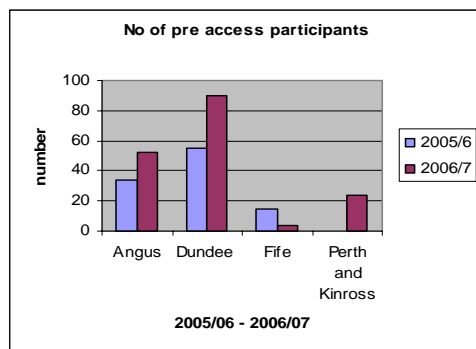


Table 3b

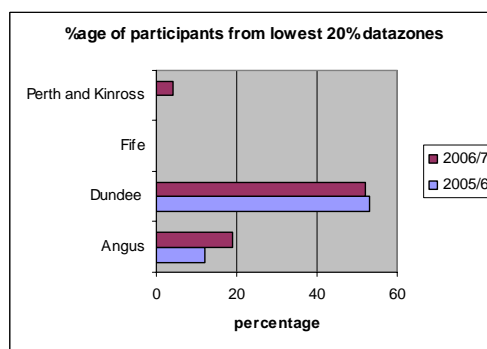


Table 4 shows the number of evaluation forms completed by students in each area. These are figures used to calculate the percentages in tables 4a and 4b

Table 4 – Number of evaluation forms completed

| Area | 2005/06 | 2006/07 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|
| Angus | 30 | 39 |
| Dundee | 17 | 45 |
| Fife | 13 | 0 |
| Perth and Kinross | 0 | 11 |

The figures in Tables 4a and 4b, taken from the number of evaluation forms completed, give an indication of the number of those completing courses who have indicated a desire to continue learning and also those who have expressed a specific wish to progress to further or higher education level study.

Table 4a

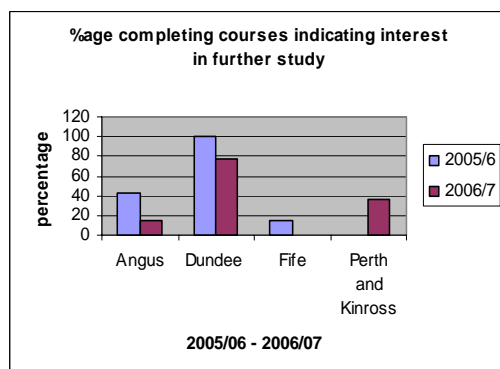
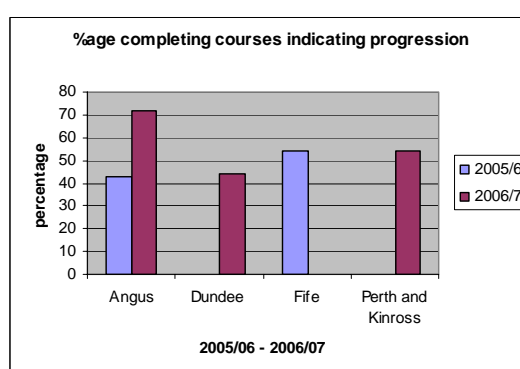


Table 4b



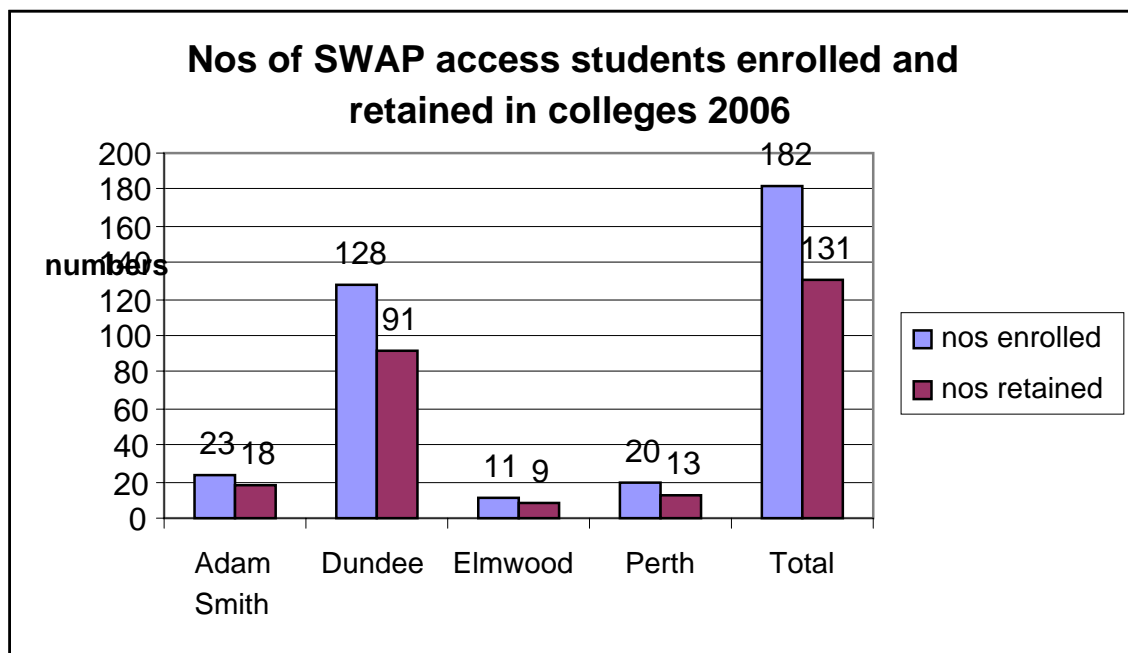
SWAP

SWAP- East produces an annual report that provides an update on its progress. The information included in this report is drawn from the 2006 report and provides an indication of participation and progression rates.

SWAP Access students

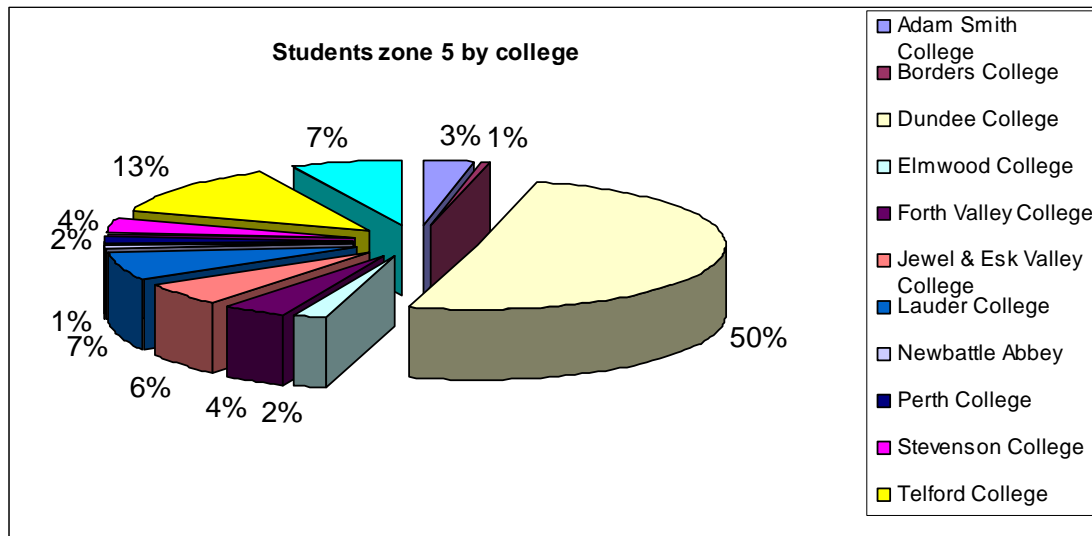
Table 5 is taken from figures in the SWAP-East 2006 report and shows numbers of SWAP access students enrolled and retained in colleges in Fife and Tayside. The overall retention rate is 72%. Figure 6 below shows how many of these came from communities in the lowest 20% SIMD.

Table 5



Source (data in SWAP East 2006 report)

Numbers of SWAP access students from communities in lowest 20% SIMD
Figure 6

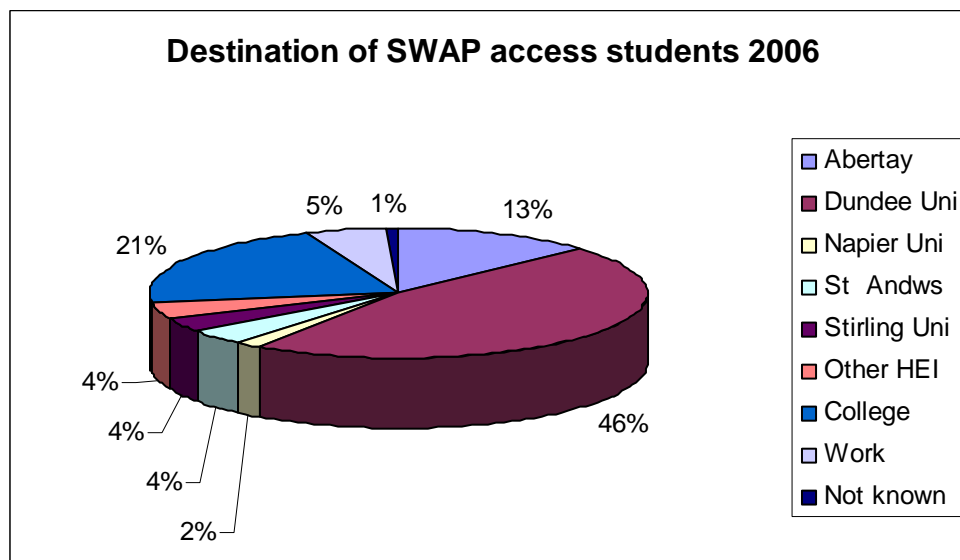


(reproduced from SWAP report 2006)

Destinations of SWAP access students attending colleges in Fife and Tayside

Figure 7 shows the destinations of SWAP Access students from colleges in Fife and Tayside. This shows that Dundee University with 46% of students is the main receiving institution. It also shows that 94% of those completing SWAP access courses in Fife and Tayside progress to higher level provision in colleges and universities.

Figure 7



Source (data in SWAP East 2006 report)

Transitions Access Project

The Transitions Access Project (TAP) is led by SWAP-East and supports the transition between college and degree level study. The first events took place in 2006 and the participation by college and course is shown in Table 8 below.

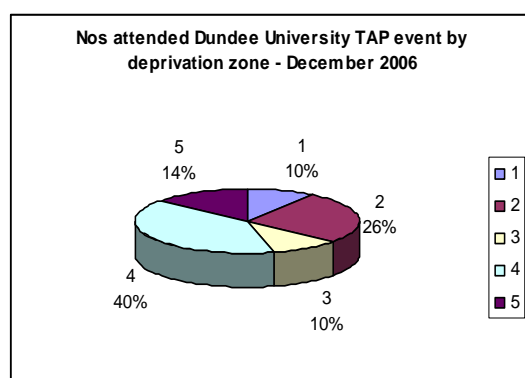
Table 8
TAP numbers participating by college and by course

| Numbers attending | 2 day event | Dundee University |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Adam Smith College | 15 | 19 |
| Angus College | 3 | 7 |
| Dundee College | 27 | 21 |
| Elmwood College | 14 | 0 |
| Lauder College | 4 | 4 |
| Perth College | 20 | 0 |
| Total | 83 | 51 |
| Course | 2 day event | Dundee University |
| Adult Business Course | 10 | |
| Arts & Social Science | 3 | |
| B. Ed | | 29 |
| Business | 13 | |
| Community Education | | 7 |
| Criminology | | |
| Forensic Psychobiology | | 3 |
| Forensic Sciences | 1 | |
| Higher Education | 22 | |
| Humanities | 22 | |
| Medicine | 4 | |
| Sciences | 8 | 4 |
| Social Work | | 6 |
| Town and Regional Planning | | 2 |
| Total | 83 | 51 |

Source – data provided by SWAP East

Tables 8a and 8b show the numbers from each quintile of deprivation zones (5 = lowest 20% SIMD) attending the TAP events in 2006.

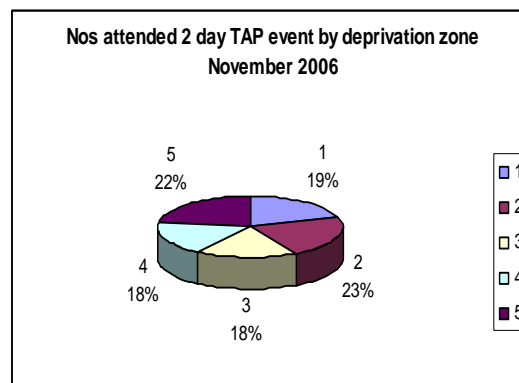
Table 8a



(Based on 67 postcodes)

Source – data provided by SWAP East

Table 8b



(based on 50 postcodes)