

IDEAS
START
HERE

PEER-LED TRANSITION

Training and
Orientation

Proposed
strategy:
COVID-19
Response

ABOUT THE PROJECT

3Set is a collaborative strategy consisting of three work packages designed to address the increasing demand for mental health supports in Irish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), overseen by Dr Deirdre Flynn (Trinity Counselling, Learning Development and Student 2 Student Services). The strategy aims to increase student retention and engagement by gaining meaningful data on support needs, collating and developing shared resources for counselling service providers and developing a peer-led transition programme for students.

Work Package 3's original aim was to pilot a model for peer-led transition that focused on emotional, social and academic needs. Due to the impact of the pandemic and the demands placed on peer-led transition programmes nationally, the team will now build on research into best practice conducted nationally and internationally to redesign peer-led orientation online. The redesign process and/or the resulting resources will be available to any HEI and will include:

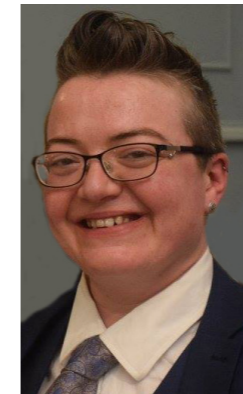
- Student volunteers being facilitated through a theory of change model to redesign peer-led orientation (July – September 2020)
- Development of resources for student volunteers to deliver peer-led orientation online (Aug-Sept 2020)
- Evaluation of volunteers' experience (July-Dec 2020)
- Evaluation of 1st year student experience, sense of belonging and programme impact (Sept-Dec 2020)
- "Live" (or as close as possible) reporting of student feedback for consideration and, where possible, response/change

Any peer-led transition/support programme is welcome to take all or any element of the programme as suits them and openly invited to support national feedback collection with the aim of:

- Improving online engagement and connection between students
- Identifying peer-led practices that could/should remain online into the future
- Capturing and analysing comprehensive data about student experience nationally

WHO WE ARE

The core team of Work Package 3 are:



Ralph Armstrong-Astley

S2S Co-ordinator and Project Manager on Work Package 3

Ralph is responsible for the project delivery of WP3 and ensures alignment with the overall 3Set project. She has worked in 3rd level Mentoring and Peer Support since 2011 and specialises in models of student leadership and volunteer care.



Clair Battle

Training Officer (S2S)

Clair is leading the development of a cohesive social, emotional and academic transition training programme for Work Package 3, including online training and participant pace modules on a VLE. She will be basing these programmes on the research conducted to date and the recommendations of the student groups' theory of change model. Clair will publish draft materials through the community of practice (Flock channel) and co-ordinate software/licensing and training requirements for peer-led transition staff engaging in the project.



Edel O'Reilly

Student Learning Development Advisor (SLD)

Edel has been interviewing HEIs nationally and within the UK to explore current models of peer assisted learning and peer mentoring. She has also completed a literature review on this topic, and this dual approach to information gathering will inform recommendations for the online orientation model. She will also be gathering and evaluating data from the programme and sharing the findings on our online community of practice (Flock channel).

Proposed scope of 2020 pivot

Following the town hall meeting on 7th July 2020, the agreed scope of the project pivot for the summer of 2020 is to attempt the following:



Adaptable model, tools and resources for delivery of volunteer training online that:

- Supports ongoing student engagement, belonging and connectedness
- Helps volunteers to build relationships with staff and with each other
 - Icebreakers
 - Team building skills
 - Interactive polls
- Is engaging, fun and interactive
- Is fully accessible
- Enhances digital literacy
- Includes full guidelines for boundaries and online etiquette
- Includes handbooks for facilitators and/or volunteers



Adaptable model, tools and resources for delivery of peer-led orientation online that:

- Supports ongoing student engagement, belonging and connectedness
- Is safe for volunteers and new entrants
- Is based on user-friendly platforms that help to spark student interest
- Facilitates structured and unstructured interactions
- Is fully accessible
- Is ready to go by September
- Considers screen burnout and how to counteract it
- Considers information overload and how to counteract it
- Builds excitement for new students, despite the restrictions
- Enhances digital literacy
- Supports the adjustment to 3rd level learning



Using an advisory group of students who will be guided, through a Theory of Change model, to:

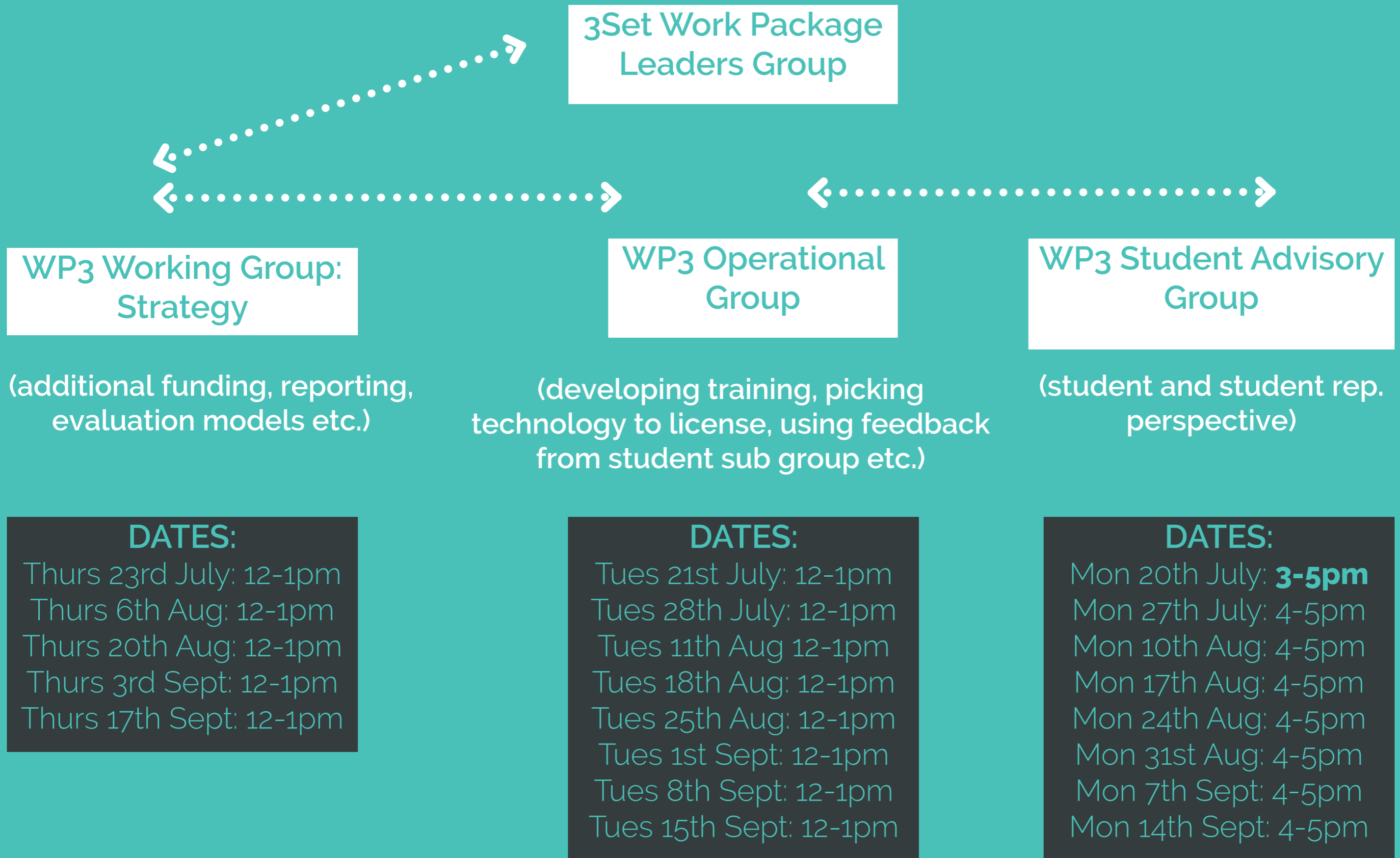
- Help us assess what works online for training and orientation
- Consider how to support ongoing online engagement
- Give insight into blended approaches for orientation
- Inform our outreach strategy



Managed by Strategic & Operational Working Groups who will:

- Resource peer-led transition/support staff to prepare despite ongoing changes
- Develop models for supporting and debriefing students online
- Support the generation of a wider evidence base for peer-led transition and support
- Sustain the Flock community of practice, and promote best practice within it
- Use the evaluation data to assess and inform responses to challenges post-orientation, and any evolving concerns, including mental health concerns
- Support participants to get buy-in from senior management
- Resource licensing/tools etc. wherever possible

STRUCTURE



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