2023 Gold Action plan

Our 2023 Gold Action Plan is intersectional by design and links to our REC, Concordat, Disability, P&C-SDP and School/Faculty action plans. Intersection with these is highlighted. The 14 actions follow the employment journey from recruitment to departure, including actions to ensure we have qualitative student- and staff-centred ways of assessing the impact of the activity, to supplement our quantitative data analysis (AG11) and that functionality of Digital Core, our new HR IT system, supports the actions within this plan (AG14).

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	Α	ctions in this area address pri	ority 1: R	ecruitment		
AG01: Re	ecruitment					
	University including job-share, part-time, career-break, protected characteristics, all ages and cross section of job families and staff to break gendered stereotypes. 22 Enhanced use of diverse social media platforms to disseminate brand/vacancies to reach underrepresented applicants. Intersectional link to: REC Action A1.4.4a	impacted by COVID.	Jul 24	Associate Director o HR Digital, Systems and Services (Jamie Tennant)	published and access statistics collated	Website access data and interactions with social media posts indicate external visits and engagement with case studies and advert material. Resultant data around applications through to appointments show increase in: % F to increase from 30 to 40% BAME F% applications for AHSSBL and BAME %M for P&S roles in line with applications for STEMM roles. >50%

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1		To be more inclusive in our recruitment, we will publish guidelines/expectations/ videos/podcasts as support for those applying. We will provide engaging tools that guide applicants in how to showcase their skills and abilities in line with the job criteria. Intersectional links to REC Action: A4.11.4	As above. HR is developing UoN Branding. This will underpin the development of recruitment materials. We seek to ensure that our recruitment process does not exclude or disadvantage those who do not have the 'cultural currency' of the institution. In particular, we will seek to ensure that inappropriate weighting is not given to factors such as educational or family background, language style and vocabulary, physical characteristics, behaviours, wealth and other factors creating 'cultural currency', which may serve as proxies for a person's status and hence lead to an advantage that stems from factors unrelated to their potential to do the job that is being advertised.		and Services	on the website and linked to job specifications.	% F to increase from 40 to 50% BAME F% applications for AHSSBL and BAME %M for P&S roles in line with applications for STEMM roles. >50%
1	AG01.03.02		criteria are not actually essential to carry out the role. Women less likely to apply for 'stretch'	Aug 25 – Jul 26 Aug 23 – Jul 24	HR Digital, Systems and Services (Jamie Tennant) OR		% F to increase from 30 to 50% BAME F% applications for AHSSBL and BAME %M for P&S roles in line with applications for STEMM roles. >50%

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			commitment to the Positive About				
1	AG01.04.02	Improve inclusion and transparency in the interview process. Make panellist interview process training mandatory to ensure reduction in bias at interview stage; only allow access to interview panels once engaged with material.	Disability Standards. This action aims to standardise elements of the process that are currently open to unconscious bias e.g., presentations and associated questions, feedback to panel chair. Panellist training is mandatory, however there is variation in process across UoN. In addition, there is substantial variation in interview	Dec 24	and Services (Jamie Tennant)	and added to training. Refresher training for existing panellists completed.	100% of panellists have completed 'interview process' training. Panellists' feedback on refresher training is positive (mean Likert score >4/5 for training in 2024 June 2025)
		Capture uptake and evaluate training via pulse survey or user feedback form.	processes which can undermine the fairness / equity of the decision-making process by introducing unconscious bias.				training in 2024-June 2025)
		Conduct a review of interview and shortlisting practice and compliance with best-practice approaches and mandated recruitment panel training, including the prevalence and use of other tools such as presentations.					
		Variances from best-practice to inform the development of additional tools and training, guidance (for panel members and candidates) to improve inclusion.					
1		and ethnic diversity of panels; Capture protected characteristics of panellists and evaluate data. Enable reporting which supports Faculties to		Aug 24	and Services (Jamie Tennant)	set up and capturing data on all trained panellists and their activity across recruitment.	All panels to have gender- balance with a minimum of 1M, 1F and ethnic representation with a minimum of 1 BAME and 1 white member. For larger panels non-binary, other
			In addition, there is pressure on minority		Faculty and School		gender identities and disabled staff representation included where feasible.
		panellists, providing a pool of panellists from		Aug 24 – July 25	Heads of Operations	Data analysed and areas with low diversity of trained	

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	AG01.05.03	external support via mentoring and sharing of good practice across UoN. Embed Faculty of Social Science practice around extending job level eligibility to be a panellist to increase diversity and Faculty of Science database of trained panellists to reduce burden on female staff.	range of staff levels and job families to increase pool trained panellists.	Jan 24 – Dec 24		to improve their	All panels for level 6 and 7 roles have a Chair external to the School or Department.
	AG01.06.02	applied. Salary and part-time/job-share discussions to occur after offer so as not to influence decision making.	Currently some applicants negotiate their salary, whilst others shy away from this. In general male, white and those applicants not declaring a disability are more likely to negotiate than female, BAME and those declaring a disability. This can increase the corresponding pay- gaps. A survey carried out by the Fawcett			recruitment materials completed. Wording around salary range and starting salary is clear in recruitment materials.	EIAs completed. Recruitment materials updated and standardised as appropriate. An HR representative is present for all discussions. Discussions are open, transparent and focus on the criteria. All discussions around
	AG01.06.04	advertised roles incorporated into recruitment materials. Links to AG07 Pay and Reward Re-evaluate our approach to job-share to understand whether the current process is working. Develop modified process if appropriate.	Society suggests that 39% of those asked about their previous salary admitted to lying! In addition, 61% women who have been asked about salary history say it damaged their confidence to negotiate for better pay, and 58% of women said it made them feel as though a low past salary was 'coming back to haunt them'. Our review of job-share numbers suggest job sharing is not used frequently. This may be due to a lack of awareness or some other factor.	Aug 24 – July 25	Employment Shared Services (ESS)	Panel chairs are trained in these new aspects of recruitment. Process around part- time/job-share discussion and options in place. Overall impact on	salary happen after job offer as confirmed by Panel Chair and HR panel representative. 100% panel Chairs have completed additional training around salary negotiation process and part-time and job- share discussion. Gender and ethnicity median pay-gaps reduced by 0.5% per year from 13.7% and 11.2% respectively.

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1	AG01.07.02	recruitment guidelines and training to build in best-practice advice on mitigating bias in for anonymised shortlisting and to ensure consistency of practice around shortlisting/scoring of essential criteria. Following roll out of anonymous/criteria- based recruitment for P&S roles, consult and pilot anonymous recruitment for Academic roles and fellowships to remove barriers/mitigate for career-breaks/parental leave. Intersectional links to: REC Action 04.11.07	been carried out across UoN for vacancies in P&S roles. This followed a successful pilot in the Faculty of Engineering (AS Gold 2019). The process was developed in conjunction with Diversity-by-Design for recruitment for academic roles. Other Schools have also piloted anonymised shortlisting for academic roles, however, there remains	Aug 25 Sept 24 – Sept 25	and Services (Jamie Tennant) AND Researcher Academy Fellowships Manager (Connie Wan)	including representatives from each Faculty. Tools in place to enable effective anonymous shortlisting for academic roles: e.g. mechanism to assess publications. Guidance around mitigation for career- breaks produced.	All panellists complete shortlisting independently via anonymised process, demonstrated by shortlisting data capture. Positive impact on diversity of appointments shows continued narrowing of the pipeline, including: Mean of 50% F academic staff in post (FoA from 55.2% to 50.2%; FoE +5% from 28.6%; FMHS -5% from 61.9%; FoS +5% from 41.4% and FoSS – 3.7% from 53.7%) Increase in BAME staff across all job families +3% from 17%, % BME F R&T >10%
		Acti	ons in this area address prior	ity 2: Arri	ival/Induction		
		ival and Induction					
2	AG02.01.02	information for newly appointed staff, including personal preferences for self- declaration of protected characteristics. Delivery of corporate face to face induction to	regarding the usefulness of the University Induction. Lowest values of satisfaction for respondents identifying as non-binary or prefer not to disclose	Feb 26	Associate Director of Learning and Development (L&D): (Mark Wright)	place.	Satisfaction with induction increased for non-binary and PNTS staff from 24% to 75% with those strongly disagreeing from all groups reduced to 0%
		promote collaboration across our people and to set out the behaviours and expectations for our people. Link to Concordat actions E1: Development of research staff induction strategy and E10:	gender (PNTS)				

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		New staff member checklist for Pls/managers of researchers					
2		Carry out consultation around the introduction of a 'new starter' period as a positive step protecting time for role set-up and to create protected time for training and support for new staff. Protected time allocated /captured in workload for first year of post. Pilot process, modify as required and roll-out.		Feb 24 – Feb 26			If pilot project indicated as being valuable, roll out scheme and all new staff successfully complete.
2		Report and Support, Dignity network, informal and formal staff networks, and wellbeing resources to be included at Induction, including information around reasonable work-based adjustments e.g. around IT, office equipment, timetabling, caring commitments- including for children and adults and flexible-working options. See also actions around Parental leave/Career-break AG12 and Bullying and Harassment AG09.	5		OPD:		100% of staff of all genders agree they are aware of staff networks. >75% of all staff and students report awareness of Report and Support and agree they would feel comfortable to use it if needed. 100% of staff declaring a disability or with caring- responsibilities agree that their personal circumstances have been accommodated.

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			binary respondents are much lower 20% and 24% respectively).				
	AG02.04.02	Provide regular opportunities for all staff to refresh their knowledge of policies, resources, including support networks (see above), promotion/regrading processes, ADC expectations and ways to report inappropriate behaviour. Provide prompts and opportunity for Re- induction/refresher as line-management responsibilities evolve, and as staff return from a period of leave.	To ensure the best possible support for		Associate Director of L&D (Mark Wright)	opportunities are linked to ADC.	As above for network awareness. 80% staff of all genders confirm they know where to find resources needed for their role. 100% of staff returning from leave have received a refresher.
	AG02.05.02	students in the first week of arrival at the University Evaluate student feedback and amend as necessary. Additional content for future training directed by the content of the Report and Support reports	Support system are students, with the most frequently reported issues sexually and racially motivated. Following online delivery to all undergraduate mobile phones (and mirrored for parents and carers) feedback illustrated the need for	Sept-23 – Oct 25	Report and Support team (Claire Thompson)	and delivered in induction week. Evaluation complete and changes made if required.	All first-year students receive training. Positive evaluation of training received, >4/5 Likert scale, for all genders and ethnicities, for 23/24 and 24/25 intakes.

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			either on placements or work experience.				
			Actions in this area address p	riority 3:	Workload		
A	G03: Wo	orkload					
3	AG03.01.02 AG03.01.03 AG03.01.04	Evaluate impact of WLM from gender perspective. Obtain feedback and identify success/failures in the prospective workload model piloting in School of Life Sciences and current model in School of Politics. Roll out prospective workload model modified as appropriate based on pilots' feedback. Evaluating impact from a gender perspective. Develop support/guidance and clear expectations to help staff with prioritising their workload.	retrospectively. 2021 qualitative survey responses on workload indicate dissatisfaction with current high workload. Responses highlight underestimation of time allocation for tasks, many comments about hidden work, disproportionate and increase in time spent on teaching preparation (M, W; R&T), pastoral care (W; R&T), and admin (W; R&T). 27% respondents to 2021 survey do not feel in control of their workload and the prioritisation of	Sept 23 – Dec 24 Apr 24 – Aug 24 Sept 24 – Sept 25 Sept 24 – Sept 25	HR Project Manager (Vincent Bryce) Director of OPD (Helen McNamara)	Feedback obtained model modified if needed.	Gendered impact of workload is removed measured by mean workload and survey responses. Mean workload of staff of all genders the same. Survey responses indicate women feel in control of their workload and task prioritisation and that their department allocates it transparently and fairly, >80% agree with no gender/ethnicity differences. Reduction in staff working more than contracted hours to <10%. >75% contracted hours, 15% a few more <10% many more
	AG03.02.01	Identify mechanisms to implement widespread introduction of reading/study weeks and other teaching free time, with a view to rolling out alongside curriculum level	their contracted hours. Currently some parts of UoN have	Sept 27	PVC Education and Student Experience (ESE) (Sarah Speight)	impact of research	Staff and students confirm the benefits of the week clear of teaching for catching up on study/coursework and reduction in stress and

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	AG03.02.03	Ensure process and equality of access to Research sabbaticals is shared with staff in ADC. Carry out evaluation of research sabbatical impact.	2021: Respondents are not spending enough time on research, especially when working full-time. This disproportionally affects women, in particular academic level 5 and 6. Workload data suggests women have less time allocated for research than	Jan 24 Jan 26 – Jan 27		ADC materials updated to link to research sabbatical process.	overload. Evidence captured via Student Evaluation of Modules (SEM) and in Learning Community Forums (students) e.g. by addition of a specific question in SEM and via survey responses agreeing that >80% of staff of all genders spend an
		Consult on rollout of team-teaching approach in order to protect time for academics to focus on research/scholarship with a view to incorporate it into revised curricula as they are created.	men. Anecdotally women tend to take on more pastoral roles. Qualitative responses to the 2021 survey regarding impact of COVID from Women Academic staff noted increase in workload, increase in administration burden, diversion of significant time to teaching from research, lack of access to research and finance, that will have a long-lasting impact on grants,	Apr 24 – Sep 27		Consultation complete and recommendations incorporated into curriculum design. Teaching teams as standard for all teaching.	appropriate amount of time on research and teaching preparation. Increase in number of female staff taking research sabbaticals (baseline to be established)
			publications, and promotion. The first schools to implement curriculum level review of teaching have incorporated shared responsibility for delivery of teaching. This has the potential to allow protected time for individuals by rotating teaching responsibility within the teams.				
3		EDI-related workload, workload of EDI directors and EDI responsibilities to be included in updated job descriptions for senior roles.	Survey responses show agreement that management of workload reflects citizenship activities increase from 23% in 2017 to 38% in 2021 but remains low.	Aug 23 – Sep 24	Linehan)	role descriptions as standard.	Clear recognition of EDI and senior buy-in. % Staff agreeing that workload
		AS Challenge & Support team to have formal role descriptions and workload allocation.	2021 quantitative and qualitative survey responses indicate low agreement with respondents able to spend the amount				reflects outreach and civic duties >80% for all genders.

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	AG03.04.01	allocation for outreach in all Faculties. See also AG03 prospective workload model above Workload for P&S staff: create opportunity for discussion around career-progression, including internal recruitment, secondment and re-grading (all P&S staff) and regarding workload (especially APM) in ADC. See also AG04. As above ensure outreach activities are recognised in workload/task allocation for all	outreach/civic and external citizenship activities.	Apr 27	Director of OPD (Helen McNamara)	assessing and modifying P&S staff workload in place.	P&S staff confirm their contributions are recognised and rewarded in qualitative responses. Reduction in P&S staff disagreeing that work they do more than their contracted hours is noticed and appreciated by their line- manager to <10%. Reduction in % P&S staff working more than their contracted hours from 48% to < 10%.
3		line-manager regarding requests for teaching- free days/late starts for caring- responsibilities, term-time load.	Workload survey responses indicate high workload, too little time spent on research, and too much time on teaching preparation especially for women in Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences. Whilst plans for restructuring of degrees and associated teaching may reduce the teaching overload pressure, this will take time and new courses will require additional preparation.	Aug 24	(HoSs) and Directors of Teaching and	Standardised process in place for all academic / teaching staff.	As above

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		Actions i	n this area address priority 4	Support	and Developm	ent						
AC	AG04: Career-development/training needs											
	AG04.01.02	workload is often cited as a reason not to. Where training is essential/central to development of the University's values and supporting the embedding of EDI and lived- experience, completion to be incorporated into ADC as mandatory. Where beneficial but not as crucial, ADC discussions should flag it and encourage participation. Link to AG03 and AG06.	Workload responses 2021: Respondents are not spending enough time on career- development, with women more impacted than men. Lowest agreement scores are for Academic staff job family, job levels 5 and 6 women. Qualitative responses highlight line-manager support for training and development but little protected time to engage with it. Qualitative responses indicated the need for more training and development targeted for colleagues at later career stages.	Aug 25	Associate Director of L&D (Mark Wright)		All staff complete all mandatory training as confirmed via ADC forms. Survey responses indicate that ADC supports career- development. Increase for L5 and L6 academic to bring %F agreeing in-line with %M and >60% with <10% disagreeing across all genders and job families. Workload responses indicate staff agreeing they spend the right amount of time on career-development >60% with <10% disagreeing across all genders and job families.					
	AG04.02.02	and changes in culture. Increase awareness of/data capture/evaluation of training opportunities- All staff to have a training portfolio and the collection of training and development link to ADC AG05 and Intersectional link to REC Action 4.12.05	needs.		L&D (Mark Wright)	place and linked with ADC.	Survey respondents selecting less favourable treatment and impact on career-progression due to gender reduced from ~19% to <5%.					
		Embed timely identification and awareness of training/development opportunities– i.e.	13-19% respondents to AS 2021 survey note that people are treated less									

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		awareness) as part of organisational and cultural development. Links with AG03	favourably and their career progress limited because of their gender, age, ethnicity, sexual-orientation (non-binary 15% others <=4%), pregnancy/having taken maternity leave (higher for women) and whether they have caring- responsibilities. This action aims to ensure links with protected time and workload management to facilitate engagement with training/development opportunities.				
	AG04.03.02	carried out to inform local Faculty, School and Service Team needs and linked with Faculty and Service plans. Intersectional links to REC Action 4.12.02 Data and evaluations used to inform new training/development requirements.	We currently capture data on training uptake (Tables A2.54-A2.74. However, there is limited evaluation of these data and whilst there is some consideration this does not routinely feed into/inform Faculty, School and Service area considerations of their needs. In addition, there is no informed gap analysis or mechanism to identify shared needs across Schools.	•		training uptake	As above improved survey responses re training and development.
	G04.04.02	senior and junior colleagues (for example more senior colleagues buddy-up with junior colleagues to support their research applications, but that income KPI is shared) Intersectional links to: REC Action 4.05.4.1		Aug 26.	(Helen McNamara) Alumni and Emeritus networks	colleagues, emeriti and alumni created.	Evaluation of publication data show women have produced equivalent numbers/quality of papers to male colleagues at the same level.

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	$\langle \rangle \otimes$	Intersectional links to: REC Action 1.5.2. Update central mentoring resources to include details/links to information about School and faculty level schemes and options for mentoring and coaching. Links with career-development AG04. Intersectional links to: REC Action 1.04.04b Links with research sabbaticals and workload management (AG03) and improved promotion support (AG07).					
A	605: AD	C					
	AG05.01.02 AG05.01.03	recommendations. Improved process run and feedback and evaluation sought from different staff groups. Additional improvements made as required.	since 2017 for most genders, however, approximately 20-50% of respondents do not agree with the ADC statements. The proportion disagreeing tends to be higher for PNTS. Qualitative responses are negative, so overall some room for further improvement.	Aug 26 Oct 24 Sep 25 – Aug 26	(Helen McNamara)	paperwork and links to staff record in place. EIA complete and adjustments made as appropriate. Interim evaluation completed and any changes to process of materials made.	Proportion of staff agreeing with ADC statements regarding useful discussion of career- progression aspirations, development needs, workload and promotion options increase to >75% for all genders from ~20% (PNTS) / ~45% (man, woman, non- binary)
4		Training and associated guidance to include	As with recruitment, there may be gendered barriers to asking about promotion or re-grading at ADC (women postdocs are less likely to ask about development opportunities and career- development), hence these conversations need to be guided by the	May 25		associated guidance materials developed.	Data on training uptake confirm all reviewers and all reviewees have completed training. Increase in proportion of female staff successfully

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		Intersectional links to: REC Action 1.06.02a As appropriate, training incorporates EDI considerations, including for gender, ethnicity and disability. Training ensures reviewers understand mitigations for career-breaks, part-time working and other factors so that reviewers are aware of what it is to be promotion ready and/or requirements for role-regrading so they can support reviewees. Intersectional links to: REC Action 1.06.02b	potentially indicates that some colleagues are not getting support, leading to a longer time to apply and a				applying for promotion from X to Y Improved survey responses as AG06.01 above.
4	AG05.03.02	Ensure effective discussion and identification of training needs, workload, promotion plans, and creation of personal development plans. Role-specific training needs identified, especially if role evolving. Links to: Concordat action E7 and AG03 around promotion/sabbaticals for academics research/teaching).	less positive outcome when they do. Quantitative data from 2021 survey illustrates an improvement from 45% to 58% that career and progression is discussed at ADC, 48% respondents stated training needs discussed and 42% promotion-readiness discussed. Survey of fixed-term postdoctoral research staff in SoLS in 2021 highlighted the dependency on reviewer with respect to ADC experience with the ADC conversation leaning towards appraisal (past performance), rather than personal and professional development, with a reviewer/reviewee dynamic not conducive to discussing developmental needs especially if reviewer was PI of grant the reviewee was employed on.				Improvement in survey responses as AG06.01 above Responses to CEDARS and AS survey show positive satisfaction in the quality of discussion and positive impact on time spent on career- development from 42% to > 90% (ref measure in E7)
4	\bigotimes	Embedding best-practice from local activities and pilots on embedding values and behaviours at ADC as part of the broader Operational Delivery Programme.	To ensure values and behaviours underpin conversations at ADC following AS 2021 quantitative survey data that highlighted 10% respondents have		Director of OPD (Helen McNamara)	-	Clear, inclusive meeting guidance in place for all University-led events.

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	AG05.04.02	Intersectional links to: REC Action 01.06.06 As part of broader cultural development consult with organisers and participants of University and sector events. Consider incorporating meeting/conference guidance similar to the Physics code of conduct in all UoN events.	experienced bullying and harassment in the previous 12 months of the survey. Values higher for respondents identifying as BME, non-binary, PNTS, or have a disability. AS 2021 quantitative survey indicates low agreement with satisfaction of how bullying and harassment is addressed for non-binary and those respondents PNTS. Finance & Infrastructure have carried out a pilot on embedding values and behaviours at ADC. Physics created a code of conduct for their PGWiP Conference. This was based on similar codes of conduct being used across the Astronomy field. It focuses on inclusivity, dignity and respect for all participants, by all participants.			Feedback from participants and organisers captured and analysed	Feedback from attendees via post-event survey/feedback forms confirms they are able to be their authentic selves and that they have not experienced any discrimination or witnessed any inappropriate behaviour during the event. >90% satisfaction.
5	AG05.05.02 AG05.05.03	Promotions criteria modified to include clear recognition of EDI activity and leadership at different levels. NRS examples created to illustrate how different EDI activities are recognised. Promotions, ADC and NRS guidance and training for panels and reviewers updated to ensure all are aware.	2021 AS survey: 30% agreement with statement that EDI is recognised and rewarded	promotions policy Aug 24 – July 25	Deputy Director of HR (Helen Dunn) Learning and Development Team	application forms and guidance rolled out. NRS examples available and shared with staff	Successful promotions of staff that include recognition of EDI in their activities. NRS rewards demonstrate recipients are recognised for EDI work. Survey responses indicate >80% staff of all genders and all roles agree that EDI is recognised and rewarded.

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A	G06: Research staff on Fixed term contracts										
4		Reviewing use of fixed term contracts to support teaching Intersectional links to: REC Action 4.10.3 Links to AG04 Wellcome REC-HURDLEs application	A large number of short-term contracts are used in particular parts of UoN (e.g. languages). In addition, where Unitemps has been used for some fixed-term contracts staff report issues with payment process. In many cases there is clear justification for short-term roles, but this is not always the case. These contracts disproportionately affect BAME women (DATA). Women have disproportionately (~10%) more fixed- term, part-time contracts than men in APM and TS roles.		Deputy Director of HR (Helen Dunn)	place around justification of fixed- term posts.	Reduction in fixed term contracts to <10% Reduction in BAME F proportion of Unitemps fixed- term contracts to X% Fixed-term, part-time roles to be in line with gender/ethnicity proportions of the relevant staff group.				
4	AG06.02.02	Create process for formal acknowledgement, recognition/accreditation of teaching, assessment and student supervision carried out by post-doctoral research staff, via a Researcher Record. Transparent and improved mechanisms for recognising the role researchers play in doctoral supervision through increased awareness and appointment to 'Assistant Supervisor' role. To include guidance and standardised template for HoS to appoint researchers to the role. Links to: Concordat Actions EC15 and PCD9	The current guidance for the WLM states that all level 4 staff who deliver teaching should have this captured in a workload allocation. However, Faculties vary in their application of this and it tends to only include Teaching Associates/Assistants who are on T&CL contracts, not R staff / postdocs who often supervise UG and PG students in the lab. Our previous action around this issue (AS23) was not completed, in part due to a lack of mechanism to capture and recognise this activity.	Dec 24	Researcher Academy- APVC for the Researcher Academy and Head of Researcher Development (Victoria Sedman).	research staff have a	All Research staff confirm via survey that any teaching they do is recognised.				
4		Support REC-HURDLEs Wellcome project around fixed-term research contracts and precarity of contract and support goals as a University project if funding application unsuccessful.	The precarity of fixed-term employment has negative impact on the mental- health and personal circumstances particularly of ECRs. Data show that between 50% of FTC and 75% PWUF	Dec 25	APVC for the Researcher Academy (Lucy Donaldson)	completed and changes rolled out as	Reduction in FTCs and PWUF contracts. No difference in proportion of FTCs/PWUF contracts for				

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	$\langle \rangle$		contracts were extended, suggesting alternative employment models could be justified. This particularly impacts on BAME researchers who are significantly more likely to be on a FTC/PWUF contract.		Deputy Director of HR (Helen Dunn)		different gender/ethnicity intersectional groups.
4	AG06.04.02		Quantitative responses from AS 2021 survey indicate while 66% respondents say the University is an enjoyable place to work, 36% respondents say the		Research Culture Project Manager and APVC Researcher Academy and researcher Career- Development. (Harry Moriarty and Lucy Donaldson)	analysis complete, issues identified	Survey responses show reduction in those finding research culture aggressive to <5% of all genders/ethnicities and an increase in those indicating that the University is an enjoyable place to work to >90% % of all genders/ethnicities. Fixed-term contracts are in proportion to staff gender make-up.
		Actions	in this area address priority	5: Promo	tion/Progression	on	
A	G07: Pro	motion/Progression					
5	AG07.01.02	associated guidance and increase the transparency and fairness around the process. Ensure clarity of promotion documents around pro-rata promotion criteria. Share case studies and clarity of documents especially for part-time staff (majority of whom are women, although there has been some increase in the proportion of male part-	Despite positive improvement in receiving support and encouragement to apply for promotion, only 24% women agree with the statement that the promotion process is fair and transparent, just 1% increase from 2017. 27% disagreement with the statement, up 4% from 2017. Women and non-binary respondents in lower agreement with the statement that the University has achieved gender equality with respect to: promotion,		Deputy Director of HR (Helen Dunn)	Paperwork and guidance created and in use.	Survey responses demonstrate improvement in staff experience: Proportion of staff agreeing that promotion is transparent and fair increases from between 14% (PNTS) and 36% (Men) to >60% for all genders. Those disagreeing reduced from 27% to <10% for all genders and in all Faculties.

Priority	Reference	Planned Action / Objective	Rationale/Key Issue to be Addressed (i.e. what evidence is there that prompted this action/objective)	Timeframe	Person/team responsible	Key outputs and milestones	Success criteria and outcome
		mitigations on career-breaks. See AG05.04 below.	access to career-development opportunities and access to additional support to undertake your role. Quarter of respondents think it takes longer to progress if working part-time or flexibly, although improved values from 2017. More part-time academic and research staff are women (62.1%F, Fig. A2.16, conversely more male staff and a higher proportion of male staff are full-time Figs.A2.15 and A2.36-38. Some increase in part-time over period.			and shared with staff.	Increase in staff agreeing they have access to career- development opportunities and additional support to undertake their roles from <50% to > 80% for all genders
5/ 7	AG07.02.02	working contracts, including understanding agile/hybrid/flexible, informal and formal working. Training for managers around flexible-	Our 2021 survey contained some positive qualitative comments relating to maintaining flexible-working as a legacy of COVID to enable flexibility and manage stress.	Feb 26	Associate Director of	Training available and completed by all	Survey responses indicate in increase in staff feeling supported to work flexibly from 59% to 80% for all genders and job families where applicable.
		line-managers can give if asked about flexible- working arrangements in post/at recruitment.				managers with responsibility for dealing with flexible- working requests.	
		possible Link to AG01 and explicit advertising of flexible-working possibilities.	However, it is clear not all staff are aware of the flexible-working options. In addition, job-share role numbers are static and 2021 qualitative responses from women indicate pressure to work			Case studies created and shared	
		Roll out Agile working framework.	full-time, especially for promotion.			Agile-working framework rolled out.	
5		Strengthen ADC discussion of promotion, to be a point raised by the reviewer, to alleviate any barriers of the reviewee asking.		Sept 25	HR Business Partners FPVCs/HoOs	forms to require	Analysis of ADC forms indicates all staff for who promotion is relevant (R, R&T

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	AG07.03.02	Intersectional links to: REC Action 1.06.04 Following the introduction of ADC, a 'Promotion Journey' to be developed which can be triggered by the employee / recommended by the line-manager to provide further information on the promotion process and support available. ADC forms indicating an interest in promotion trigger direct response with details relevant to the Promotion Journey e.g. details about promotion workshops, criteria and mentors/coaches who might support. Learning and Development team provide support where appropriate re. career- development and pathways. Intersectional links to: REC Action 04.08.05	promotion. This was highest for women and PNTS, with only a small increase in respondents receiving support and encouragement to apply. There are various mentoring/coaching schemes across UoN, however there is no systematic mechanism for making staff aware of support that might be appropriate for them. This results in a varied experience, dependent largely on who they know or their line-manager and the knowledge of those contacts. Female re-grading success-rate lower than for men (Table A2.48-50))		Faculty EDI Data Champions	promotion in place. Central resource that links the various School/Faculty level mentoring and coaching schemes	and T&CL) have discussed their options. Survey responses for all staff indicate 100% receiving support/ encouragement (requires a proportionally larger improvement for women and PNTS staff).
5		Introduce technical specialist promotion pathway (see Technician Commitment commission document) including job level 7 descriptors/criteria for TS job family.	Led by UoN, the TALENT project was a commission-based approach to investigate the technical skills and talent needed to support future research and teaching in the UK. One of the 16 recommendations concerned technical pathways for progression. This included a specific route for technical specialists based on the skills of the person involved as opposed to the role description (which currently underpins our re-grading process).	Sep 23 – Aug 25	Director of Technical Strategy (Kelly Vere) Director of OPD (Helen McNamara)	Level descriptors and promotion criteria available and shared with all TS Panel in place to assess applications	First level 6 and 7 TS promotions by 2024/25

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			Data show a leak in Technical Services pipeline for women at levels 4 and 5 from 51%F at level 3 to 30%F (L4) and 27%F (L5)(Figure A2.40).				
5	AG07.05.02	EDI and personal tutor role/responsibilities. See also AG03 workload and AG09 Wellbeing. Review promotion criteria to ensure that promotion recognises excellence in delivering on the University values as well as excellence in teaching and research (the former addressing the gender bias that currently exists in the promotion process).	considered 'pastoral' or which have a cultural or wellbeing focus are vital to our success as a University and central to delivering our values. Both in terms of supporting our staff and students to achieve their very best and in ensuring all can bring their authentic selves to work and study without fear of disadvantage or discrimination. Visibility of EDI roles / personal tutor roles / other	Aug 26 New criteria go live 2024/25	PVC-EDIP (Katherine Linehan)	promotions materials	First promotions for staff where EDI /Senior Tutor and/or pastoral skills form part of their successful application by 2026.
5	AG07.06.02 AG07.06.03	opportunities for development activities and secondment roles to help P&S staff develop. ADC conversations capture aspirations for career progression and identify appropriate opportunities. Analyse reasons for unsuccessful regrading applications to understand the differences in	P&S staff progression happens via	May 24 – Aug 28		staff. Regrading standardisation	Improvement in ADC responses with 75% agreeing that their career progression and aspirations are usefully discussed at ADC (up from 59% APM, 48% TS and 46% O&F). Regrading success increases.

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5	AG07.07.01	Extend review to investigate intersectional disparity in graduation attendance, identifying causes and possible solutions. Provide financial support for free Graduation to estranged and care-experienced students. Introduce a Relaxed Graduation for neurodiverse students.	redeployment applications. This links with concerns regarding (primarily research) staff on fixed-term contracts. For both P&S staff and fixed- term staff AG06/07 aims to address the issues around limited career-progression and insecure contracts. A review of graduation attendance led		PVC ESE (Sarah Speight)	Review completed additional causes noted and solutions in place. Relaxed and free graduation options in	Regrading success for women increases to be in-line with male and >90% All students who wish to are able/comfortable to attend graduation, as confirmed by post-graduation feedback >4/5 on Likert scale with no difference in mean scores for students identifying as neurodiverse.
	AG07.08.02	learnings from FMHS ESE Research Assistants shared with all teaching staff. Following curriculum transformation role out in pilot Schools, assess impact of changes to awarding-gaps.	Degree-awarding analysis identifies multiple awarding-gaps, including a 6.6% gender-gap in favour of women. Interestingly gaps tended to close during COVID. This may provide insights into elements of assessment processes differentially affecting particular groups, as changes in assessment type were	Oct 24	PVC ESE (Sarah Speight) Faculty ESE Leads Degree Leads	reports from ESE Ras shared.	Gender awarding-gaps eliminated. Reduction >2% year-on-year between 2024 and 2026.

Refe	rence Planned Action / Objective	Rationale/Key Issue to be Addressed (i.e. what evidence is there that prompted this action/objective)	Timeframe	Person/team responsible	Key outputs and milestones	Success criteria and outcome
	Create a community of Practice to share learnings and insights. School teaching leads to assess their own awarding gaps (focus on gender for AS and ethnicity for REC) and feed into Community o Practice discussions. Intersectional links with REC A.1.7.3	Work in the FMHS has included the creation of an Inclusive Curriculum			Community of Practice in place.	
	Actions in Pay and reward 0.01.01 Review Nottingham Reward Scheme:	this area address priority 6: I Review of current NRS scheme				Analysis of NRS recipients
	The outcome of the review is to ensure equit across job families/levels/gender; consistency across Schools, Faculties, and job families.	/ illustrated low applications in support of fixed term research staff and academic staff nominations. For staff at lower levels, feedback indicates that staff are		Pay and Reward	and widely available on SharePoint and in training materials.	indicates recipients are proportional for gender, ethnicity, disability across all job families and levels.
	 Continue of the promotes arange of the studies which help improve understanding of the types of performance and behaviours which demonstrate exceptional "above and beyond contribution across job families and levels. Contoa As part of the pay framework review, evaluat the impact on removing the <i>in-scale</i> 	beyond. "When the NRS was launched, access to additional in-scale increments was removed. Staff instead are eligible to be				

Priority	Reference	Planned Action / Objective	Rationale/Key Issue to be Addressed (i.e. what evidence is there that prompted this action/objective)	Timeframe	Person/team responsible	Key outputs and milestones	Success criteria and outcome
		now enabled a greater NRS pot to be achieved which would facilitate more opportunity for exceptional contribution to be recognised Intersectional links to: REC Action 01.06.06	maximum they are then eligible to be nominated for a consolidated increment where exceptional sustained performance is demonstrated (including demonstration of the University values). The intention of the change was to give greater flexibility in the reward budget available which should be able to grow over a number of years due to removal of additional consolidated increments. A review of the impact on available budget is now required to consider if the pot in local areas can be widened to recognise more instances of exceptional performance where they are demonstrated.				
6		Increase awareness of NRS awards to recognise/reward teams. Case studies of team nominations to be developed to help broaden awareness of the range of ways the NRS can be used. Intersectional links to: REC Action 01.06.05	When the NRS was introduced the option to nominate teams was also		Pay and Reward	baseline for R&T team awards.	Increase in the number of team-based NRS nominations received from R&T areas +25% year-on year from 2025 – 2028 or until on a par with P&S teams.
6		professorial banding process, triennial review process and Professorial Level 7 Pay Progression Scheme to establish whether proactive application of this new approach to level 7 pay banding is having a positive impact on the promotion and pay of staff with protected characteristics.			Pay and Reward	in place which enable measurement of initiatives on Gender Pay Gap	Gender Pay Gap reduced year on year. By 2028 the gap has closed to <10% and bonus pay gap (excluding clinical academics) <1%. REC has targets for ethnicity pay gaps.

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		pay-gap to establish if any course corrective action is required. 2 years after launching case studies to support understanding of application of the NRS evaluate impact on bonus pay gaps	numbers of men and women receiving bonuses are almost equal 0.1% difference as a proportion of the staff of the two genders. Our mean gender pay gap has remained the same over the last year, although the median gap has decreased by 45. In contrast the ethnicity pay-gaps have increased by 4.6 and 9.0% respectively due to increased employment of BAME staff in lower paying roles and highest turnover at L4 (median pay level tends to occur here, new staff tend to start at bottom of the level).				
6		the promotion pay-gap still exists. If so, create a mitigation process to close it.		Sep 27		Analysis complete. If required process to address it agreed and implemented.	Promotion pay gap eliminated.

Reference Briority	Planned Action / Objective	Rationale/Key Issue to be Addressed (i.e. what evidence is there that prompted this action/objective)	Timeframe	Person/team responsible	Key outputs and milestones	Success criteria and outcome
	Action	s in this area address priority	7: Worki	ing Environmer	nt	
AG09: We	ellbeing					
AG09.01.02 AG09.01.03 AG09.01.04 AG09.01.04	understanding of Report and Support to align with staff, comms piece around reporting and consequence, whilst continuing to maintain and increase student confidence in using it. Support for those staff wishing to report. Intersectional links to: REC Action 01.03.05 As for leavers, clear process to protect anonymity/GDPR agreement in place for agreement to share details. Intersectional links to: REC Action 01.03.02 Additional training added to that already available for Dignity Advisors, complaints investigation, for the support team to facilitate mitigation/intervention as appropriate. Enhanced bystander training developed and rolled out. Create central repository of useful/effective internal and external training interventions to shared best-practice across UoN and beyond.	students, low staff usage, suggests perceptions among staff are that it's not for them. 10% of respondents to the 2021 survey have experienced bullying and harassment at this University in the past 12 months. 19% of respondents have witnessed bullying and harassment at this University in the past 12 months. These values are higher for respondents identifying as women, non-binary, BAME, or have a disability. 41% respondents are satisfied with how bullying, and harassment are addressed in their department (faculty data). These values are lower for women and non- binary respondents. Not all those who witness B&H feel able to intervene (when this is appropriate). There have been some very well- received training sessions run at local	June 23 – Sept 24	OPD (Claire Jaggar) Associate Director of HR Business Partnering	in use. Process in place. Additional training/guidance and training repository available and in use. Bystander training included in	Report & Support reports from staff increase in-line with proportions indicating they have witnessed or experienced B&H. 100% of those experiencing bullying feel empowered and supported to report (variation to existing survey question). 100% staff and students have completed bystander training by 2026. 90% survey responses indicate they are satisfied with how B&H are dealt with (higher increase for women and non- binary)
		level across UoN, however other areas are often not aware and spend time recreating or trying to identify trainers.				
	open and supportive conversations, to		Oct 23 – Dec 24	Associate Director of OPD (Claire Jaggar)	Consultation with Staff Networks completed	Numbers of staff agreeing they are confident to ask for mental health and wellbeing support

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		managers in identifying, sharing and providing appropriate support around issues which may include wellbeing, bullying, harassment or other personal or difficult topics. Consult with Staff Networks to gain additional insights and to enhance dissemination of approach.	recognised and supported at this University. 19% of respondents disagree.		Staff Networks	Open and supportive conversations approach developed and rolled-out	>80% of all genders and identities. Staff disagreeing that work- related mental health is recognised and supported reduced to <5%.
7		Professionalisation of Senior/personal tutors, upskilling/taking these roles seriously and to be in promotion criteria. Links with AG05 Promotion.		-	University Senior Tutor (Andrew Fisher)	promotion criteria	First successful promotions including those who are effective tutors

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7		Ensure supervisors are up to date with training for supporting students. Update Researcher Academy Supervisory training on recognition of student mental health- learn from best-practice including learning from BBSRC welfare officers in supporting student wellbeing.	Key to providing timely and relevant student support is that tutors are confident in discussing issues such as wellbeing, mental health, workload and stress and able to signpost students to the appropriate support when required. The Researcher Academy and SoHS, (co- developed with the Mental Health Advisory Service) have created a 'Supervising PGRs from Diverse Backgrounds' Guide which has aligned training focusing on EDI in supervisory practice (now in collaboration with Disability Support team), and Mental Health Awareness Training for PGR Supervisors. This has a focus on boundaries, signposting and other key areas of best-practice.	Sep 24 – Aug 26	Fisher)	Updated training/ guidance produced and shared with all supervisors/ prospective supervisors.	Student survey responses indicate they are well- supported; have someone they are comfortable talking to around mental health and wellbeing and know where to go to get additional support/ adjustments for their studies.
	AG09.05.02 AG09.05.03	how we can harness internal expertise effectively to support the following areas: Awareness and education, line-manager training, policy development, and support and adjustments. Introduction and raising awareness of new	Padlet responses from International Women's Day identified a number of issues/conditions that could be better	Aug 23 – Dec 23 Feb24 – June 24	Theme Leads	Working Group established and operational.	Staff responses indicate there is someone they can talk to about Gynaecological and Reproductive Health.

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	AG09.05.04		miscarriage and greater support around menstruation and menopause. Women's Network support and events		HoOs	Sickness reporting in place	Staff are using the menopause as one of the reasons for absence. Lack of support for
		Griffiths (Section 3, Table 3.1) and are equipped to have conversations with staff around support required.	Industry reviews/reports illustrate 10- 40% women leave, or consider leaving, work due to menopausal symptoms, impacting on recruitment, women	Jan 24 –		Guidance circulated	Gynaecological and Reproductive Health is not a reason any staff give for deciding to leave UoN (Link to
		businesses and universities across Nottinghamshire, building on the beacon work of inclusive recruitment, and Menopause Best-Practice Guide, with a longer-term aim to support women to remain	currently in post, going for promotion to senior levels.	Dec 26		F	AG09).
		in the workplace across the region.					Our practice is informed and updated following interactions with businesses, universities and other bodies across Nottinghamshire.
AC	<mark>Յ10։ Eq</mark> ւ	uality at work					
7			To embed support for our trans staff and		LGBTQIA+ Theme		Feedback from LGBTQIA+ staff
		focus groups to gain insights into areas of	activities, facilities and processes that	Sep 29	Leads		and students confirm that they feel supported and the
		concern/issues. Employ an intern to analyse data.	may be leading to lack of inclusivity. The University has a complex systems		Director of Digital and Technology Services (DTS)	Focus groups held.	systems support reporting of their name in line with their needs.
		DTS to undertake a review of integrations which use name and surname in order to	structure with systems owned locally and centrally. Whilst the new HR system delivered by the Digital Core project will				
			reduce the risk of dead naming for systems that it directly integrates with there are many systems in use which do not have a live integration through which the risk will continue. To mitigate			Review completed.	

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			this risk, a strategic approach to reviewing central and local systems structure and integrations is required to steadily assure ourselves that this risk is being reduced.				
7		Building on Stonewall's provision, identify what professional development needs we have. All student-facing staff to receive trans awareness training. Training to be co-created and co-delivered with LGBTQIA+ students.	•	Sep 23 – Jan 24	LGBTQIA+ Theme Leads	rolled-out.	Pulse survey confirms LGBTQIA+ students, particularly those identifying as Trans), feel comfortable and supported to be their authentic selves at UoN. Student-facing staff confirm they are well-equipped to support LGBTQIA+ students.
7		Policy team to evaluate and further develop the scope, value and infrastructure of the dignity advisors.	Our Dignity Advisors are an important support group. 44% of respondents are aware of the Dignity network. Of those who are aware, majority (90%) of respondents have not spoken to an advisor, but those who had found it useful.	Jan 24 – Sep 24		agreed.	Increase in awareness to >75% responses, proportional for gender, ethnicity, job family and level, Continue high satisfaction rates.
7		Carry out focus groups with staff and students to discuss discrimination/culture/having a voice and being comfortable speaking up. Identify/agree a training approach that is likely to be most effective.	In 2021 AS survey: 54% respondents feel comfortable speaking up, value lower for women, non-binary and PNTS respondents. 33% respondents agree with the		Associate Director of OPD (Claire Jaggar)	completed.	Training data indicate 100% staff and students have completed Bystander Training by Dec 26.
		Roll out bystander training for staff and students. This will link to actions on Open Conversations	statement that they have a voice and can be heard at this University, (with some faculties lower than this average). Overall, 33% of respondents disagree with the statement, with values higher for non-binary and PNTS respondents.	Jan 25 – Dec 26		Insights incorporated into new training	

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			Bystander training is offered as an online course and has been completed by some staff and students. Some areas have also received training from a Bystander Training Company.				
7		action plans as required, disseminating information through the networks on University policy, guidance and opportunities, to improve visibility of these among protected groups.	progress in embedding EDI and supporting all staff-and students, it is clear that information is not reaching all	Aug 28	PVC-EDIP Associate Director of OPD (Claire Jaggar)	for reporting on network actions.	Increase in respondents confirming they know where to find information to >95%. Note this requires a proportionally larger increase for Non-binary and PNTS respondents.
		agement - checking in on progre			1	1	
7		non-completion of surveys and to identify mechanisms to address these.	experience, insight and concerns it is important to gather and analyse staff opinion. However, many staff (and students) do not respond to surveys.	Oct 24	PVC-EDIP Associate Director of OPD (Claire Jaggar)	and insights captured. Survey calendar	Increase survey response rate from 35% to 75% including representative proportions of less represented groups.
		School/Faculty-level surveys to ensure that the number of surveys happening and the timing and targeting of different surveys is		April 24- June 24	Planning, Performance and	populated with staff and students surveys	Positive improvement in agreement scores for NB and PNTS respondents across the survey to be in line with

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	AG11.01.03 AG11.01.04 AG11.01.05	group. Undertake an Institutional AS Survey. Mindful of survey fatigue, and informed by the 'survey calendar' review, institutional surveys will include job-family specific	People & Culture Surveys appear to have had positive impact on completion rates. We made the decision not to run CEDARS this year as many of the questions were mirrored in the AS and People and Culture Surveys.	April 25	Strategic Change (PPSC) Directorate ISAT Co-Chairs	AS survey complied and run. Results analysed and shared with staff groups as appropriate.	responses from men and women.
		survey window to maintain momentum. See also AG11.04.01					
6	AG11.02.02	departmental surveys as AS applications are written. Supporting and rewarding those who lead departmental applications to be highlighted in communications.	different experiences across the University. Whilst EDI activity is recognised via buy-outs, in workload,	Aug 28	Majerus)	are fed into University-level associated actions and developments. Best-practice and success celebrated and shared.	Increased awareness of EDI activity, recognition and support across all staff groups and all areas as evidenced by survey responses: increase in reporting that workload model reflects citizenship activities from 38% to >80% %, and positive qualitative responses received. Positive impact seen in responses from NB and PNTS respondents that University leadership genuinely supports gender equality from 40% to >80%.

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7		Analysis of survey responses from trans and non-binary staff, staff identifying as LGB or other minority sexual orientation or gender identity where data collected can be shared. getting to know trans colleagues and who they are and what they need).	Whilst there are relatively small numbers of staff and students who identify as LGBTQIA+ they often indicate poorer quality experiences than those not identifying as LGBTQIA+. It is vital we understand and address issues leading to these experiential differences.	Mar 24 – Oct 24	Leads	analysed. Insights fed into co- creation of support and changes to lived- experience.	Survey responses from LGBTQIA+ staff and students no longer stand out as more negative than those of other groups, but instead are aligned (or even more positive) than others.
7				Aug 28	Researcher Training and Development Manager Researcher Academy	action plans, all outputs and milestones completed.	Gender and intersectional equality of experience across our student body as indicated by survey responses which do not differ by protected characteristic.
7		Work with SU to perform University wide undergraduate survey to benchmark student experience.	In analysing and writing this application we are aware we needed to involve and consult with the undergraduate and postgraduate student community more.	Sep 27	Researcher Academy SU Liberation officer	run.	Survey analysis provides useful insights for improving student experience
		Results shared with Faculties, Campus Life and ESE Teams	This action seeks to provide more opportunity to listen and respond to student feedback and concerns.				
7	AG11.06.02	Faculties and create links with the University network. School of Psychology to share experience of rainbow office hours for students (UGs and	Some areas of the University have formed LGBTQIA+ networks locally, for example Psychology and Chemistry have a joint one that they are expanding to include the rest of the FoS. School of Psychology offer rainbow office hours for students to talk to staff members who self-identify as members of the LGBTQ+ community.	Jun 25	Gibson). LGBTQIA+ Theme Leads and EDI-	experience captured and shared with other Faculties via	Best practice shared across UoN. Staff/students identifying as LGBTQIA+
		Assess experience of students using rainbow office hours via focus groups.					

Refere Liority	nce Planned Action / Objective	Rationale/Key Issue to be Addressed (i.e. what evidence is there that prompted this action/objective)	Timeframe	Person/team responsible	Key outputs and milestones	Success criteria and outcome
	Actio	ons in this area address priori	ty 8: Leav	vers/Returners	•	
AG12: F	Parental leave/Career-breaks					
8 AG12.03	L.01 Review of parental leave, increase in paid parental leave, support of returners via the development of a Returners to Work Scheme aimed at facilitating returners getting back 'up-to-speed' over a period of 6 months.	Quantitative and qualitative responses in the AS 2021 survey demonstrated increase in major challenges when returning to the University, which has increased for women and reduced for	Sep 23	PVC-EDIP (Katherine Linehan)	Review completed and budget agreed.	Survey responses are positive confirming challenges on return decrease from 37% to <5% for women and from 13% to <5% for men.
AG12.01	L.02 Complete a full review of all family HR policies to ensure they remain sector-leading in terms of paid provision, support to return to work and inclusive language.	men.		Deputy Director of HR (Helen Dunn)	Payments made	
AG12.02	L.03 Consider a new policy on return for new parents returning from Maternity or Adoptior Leave, allowing returners to work 80% of thei contractual hours for 100% pay and benefits for up to 6 months. This would link with ensuring adequate maternity cover for the period surrounding parental leave, as well as the leave itself.				Policy in place.	100% Returners confirm workload manageable.
	 ^{1.04}Should feasibility indicate a formal reduction in hours is not practical revisit AG03 with a view to protecting time via workload. ^{1.05}Ensure access to refresher-training to build 	a 100% + workload, the expectation to return 'hitting the ground running', pressure to work full-time especially for promotion, financial pressure to return from maternity leave earlier than			Training developed.	
	confidence and re-learn skills, coaching on return and the visibility of a range of people who have taken leave, illustrated by case studies and links with the Parents Network, parents in Science and other appropriate groups.	wished, returning to a changed job role and returning to a role at a lower level to the one they left in order to manage workload and balance		Gender Equality Theme Leads (Precious Taylor and Rachel Van Krimpen)		Feedback from training,
AG12.01	1.06					mentoring and other support

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	AG12.01.07	include support from older women with children, and/or sponsorship. Create a programme run collaboratively with	provision via the UoN nursery as well as linking with external providers based on our campus. These providers offer flexibility for part-time care, however this still has a significant cost, adding to the pressure to work longer hours.	Sep 27- Sep 28	Associate Director of OPD (Claire Jaggar)	created. Programme designed and running	rated positively >4/5 on Likert scale in feedback from returnees 6 months after return
	AG12.01.08	Consider increasing commitment to Daphne Jackson Fellowships which support fellows who have taken a career-break.		Sep 25- Sep 26	Researcher Academy Fellowships Manager (Connie Wan)	Fellowships added to NRF/ AMF offering.	>2 DJ Fellows supported per year.
	AG12.02.02 AG12.02.03	Rooms) for those returning from maternity leave. Consult with users on identified options/issues and take action as appropriate. Revise communications around Parenting Rooms to be more inclusive especially of Trans staff and students. Investigate options for ad-hoc use rather than	that some rooms were not fit for purpose in terms of size and content. Other feedback suggests that there may be broader uses of the rooms that would benefit parents, disabled and neurodiverse staff/students. Some users found the booking system inhibitory. Some staff do not identify as 'breastfeeding' (they may be pumping to	Mar 24 – Aug 25		rooms, consulted with users and necessary changes	Feedback from pulse survey shows users are satisfied with rooms and availability options with satisfaction scores >4/5 Likert scale for all users.
		Ensure awareness of AccessAble app showing location of rooms.					

Priority	Reference	Planned Action / Objective	Rationale/Key Issue to be Addressed (i.e. what evidence is there that prompted this action/objective)	Timeframe	Person/team responsible	Key outputs and milestones	Success criteria and outcome
		Clear maps created showing locations of quiet spaces, prayer rooms and other EDI facilities/spaces.					
8		handover for parental leave, to ensure maternity cover includes a period of overlap at both ends of the leave period for all parental leavers. All modified provisions communicated to Schools.	Quantitative and qualitative responses in the AS 2021 survey demonstrated increase in major challenges when returning to the University, which has increased for women and reduced for men. Qualitative responses indicated lack of effective management of maternity cover and handover (W). For academic researchers- loss of technical support while on leave, and time for research on return (W)	Aug 25	Deputy Director of HR (Helen Dunn) HoS/HoO	amended and communicated to School staffing teams	Reduction in women reporting major challenges after returning to work following period of leave from 37% to less than 10 %. Positive reporting of returning to work following period of parental leave (AS qualitative responses)
A	613: Lea	vers					
		roles, is factored into the term of roles, to ensure overlap between incoming/interim and outgoing role holders, and between interim and external appointees, maintaining (not losing) institutional memory, and ensuring continuity.	there had been single points of failure where knowledge and action ownership had not been transferred or communicated. For those returning post maternity	Aug 28	Associate Director HR Business Partnering HoS/HoO	description to	No gaps in continuity for senior leadership roles across AS award period.
	AG13.01.03	Make use of deputy roles as a mechanism for avoiding single points of failure and enhancing institutional memory. Ensure EDI leads are aware of the Advance HE panel recruitment process, highlight calls for panellists and encourage appropriately	leave, qualitative responses from women indicated lack of effective management of maternity cover and handover. Similarly, for women		AS Leads Chair / Challenge & Support Chair (Tamsin Majerus)		AS Challenge and Support team contains colleagues currently active in AS panels.

Priority	Reference	Planned Action / Objective	Rationale/Key Issue to be Addressed (i.e. what evidence is there that prompted this action/objective)	Timeframe	Person/team responsible	Key outputs and milestones	Success criteria and outcome
			research on return with heavy teaching loads. With specific reference to supporting Athena Swan we have a Challenge & Support Group who carry out internal reviews of AS applications prior to submission. These colleagues are all either currently Transformed Charter Chairs or panellists, or have had extensive previous panel experience. This support has been very positive and we aim to continue to maintain this team with colleagues who are actively involved in Advance HE panels.				AS application submissions maintain current success-rate (100%).
8	AG13.02.02	Capture exit interviews and improve granularity of data. Develop and launch an e-exit questionnaire process in Digital Core which is triggered for all leavers in the University. Using appropriate demographic data already held in the system develop anonymised reporting which can be run at a Faculty Level (as well as institutional level) to empower identification of trends and areas for improvement.	The proportion of female academic staff leavers is above the current %F of academic staff in place, indicating that leavers represent a disproportionate loss of female talent from the academic pipeline. In addition, the % BME leavers is higher than the percentage of BME staff and BME staff are more likely to report they have experienced bullying and harassment, BAME women nearly twice as likely as white women, 17% vs 9%).	Feb 25 – Feb 26	Associate Director HR Digital, Systems and Services (Jamie Tennant) Associate Director of	interview process and associated form in place. Annual reporting process in place for all leavers combined and agreed sub- reports. GDPR form in use.	All leavers offered the option to complete an exit questionnaire. Issues identified fed back to UEB, Faculties/ Schools annually. Issues acted on at School/Faculty /Institutional level as appropriate. Identified issues followed up
		Produce clear guidance around anonymity /confirmation of permission to share. Data to be shared and level of sharing as per individual request (University only, Faculty, School, team or group).	Completion of AS31 concerning exit interview capture was impacted by COVID-19 and the delay in roll out of new HR system. Review of current practice shows that leavers data is not currently used to inform/influence any changes in	Feb 26 –	HR Business	Reports shared as appropriate.	by Report & Support team within 3 months of leaving date.

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	AG13.02.05 AG13.02.06	e 1 11	practice, and that data is collected in a way that means it is not possible to identify Faculty.				
	AG14.01.01	facilitate delivery of suitable actions identified in this action plan and to facilitate reporting for proactive assessment of impact	•	August 26	Director of HR Digital, Systems and Services (Carolyn Stanhope)	Core – Go-live – 2024 E-appraisal process in place Induction journey implemented signposting staff to mandatory training and enabling	All new starters and those changing roles (e.g. via redeployment) have an 'Induction Journey'. Reporting confirms all staff have completed all mandatory training. Outcomes to actions above requiring DC are reported and meet targets for individual actions.

Priority	Reference	Planned Action / Objective	Rationale/Key Issue to be Addressed (i.e. what evidence is there that prompted this action/objective)	Timeframe	Person/team responsible	Key outputs and milestones	Success criteria and outcome
						Exit interview	
						outcomes reporting	
						in place	
1 -	AG14.02.01	Develop and implement post Digital Core	Whilst the Digital Core project will	-			Continuous improvement in
8			8 1		• • •	to enable continuous	areas enhanced evidenced by
			many of our HR processes it is not		Services (Carolyn	improvement Dec	lack of issues in system
			possible to consider all processes in the		Stanhope)	24	functionality.
			project implementation. As such, once				
			we have a stable platform in place we				
			will undertake a piece of work to review				
			which processes remain outside of				
			Digital Core which we may be able to				
			improve through using the new				
			platform/review which areas we can				
			further enhance and develop a roadmap				
_	A C 1 4 0 2 0 1		to implement changes.				
/				-			Heads of Operations confirm
		have considered potential impacts, but more meaningful documents, used to identify areas		Aug 25	OPD (Claire Jaggar)	place.	they have completed local- level EIAs, modified as
			needed to ensure best-practice is				appropriate from central EIA.
			embedded and insights shared across		HoOs		appropriate nom central LIA.
			the entire University.		11003		
			A review of Equality Impact Assessments				
			has been submitted.				
	AG14.03.02	Ensuring a centralised process where all				Process for	
			The Researcher Academy has some			submission/ deposit	
		and can be reviewed/shared as best-practice.	•			of all EIAs active	
		-	to provide models for other areas.				
	AG14.03.03	Embedding the concept that Equality Impact					
		Assessments are a living document to be					Review confirms sharing of
		written prior to need and not reactionary.					best-practice and identifies
							evidence of changes, in
		A further review is carried out to confirm					particular those that have
		sharing of best-practice, evidence of changes					subsequently been shared
		when equality issues have been identified.					outside local areas.