

CETL-MSOR Conference 2015

David Bowers, Noel-Ann Bradshaw, Emma Cliffe, Ruth Fairclough, Andrew Fox, Chetna Patel and Abdel Salhi: The sigma Network – planning a sustainable future for mathematics and statistics support..

sigma started out between 2005-10 as a CETL (Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning). Based on the acknowledged good practice at Loughborough and Coventry universities, **sigma** championed the cause of cross-university mathematics and statistics support and created resources and guides to help practitioners across the higher education sector to embed maths support in their own institutions.

sigma subsequently received funding from the National HE STEM Programme and from HEFCE to further consolidate its work. The **sigma** Network of six regional hubs across England and Wales was created, forming the basis of a co-ordinated network of maths and statistics support practitioners who could come together to share experiences, arrange and provide professional development, create new resources and promote the strategic importance of maths support in HE.

This presentation will showcase examples of activities carried out by the **sigma** Network over the past two years and how this has impacted on the work of a great many maths support centres, their staff and students.

But more importantly, this presentation will want to look to the future. How can we further develop the **sigma** Network and ensure the long term sustainability of our provision for the maths support community? We have our own ideas – which we will tell you – but we want to hear from you too. We want you to become involved, and we can offer you ways to do that.

The aim of this session – and of the **sigma** Network more widely - is to ensure that everyone involved in cross-university mathematics and statistics support is aware of, and takes up, the opportunities to enhance the growing community of professional practice that the **sigma** Network provides.

STRUCTURE (40 minute Plenary session):

- 5 mins - Introduction to the **sigma** Network (DB)
- 18 mins - Each Hub highlights its recent work and activities (NAB, EC, RF, AF, CP, AS)
- 5 mins - **sigma** Network's plans for the future (DB)
- 12 mins - Open to floor: what do you want from a maths support community? How can you become involved?