RIG Report 2025-26: Post 16 Education Leadership and Management

Overview:

The Post 16 Education Leadership and Management (PELM) RIG has continued to reestablish itself and has consolidated for much of the year with plans in place to expand its activities and impact in 2026-2027. During 2025-2026 the three Co-Convenors met on 6 occasions to discuss key issues around events, RIG promotion, membership activities and the publication of the book.

It was intended to have two events during the year plus a RIG event at the Conference. Unfortunately, due to the availability of key speakers the second event needed to be postponed and has now been scheduled for October 2026. Key speakers have been confirmed. In 2026-2027 it is also intended to host an event which coincides with ECR month and International HE Day which is 19th June. In 2027, this falls on a Saturday, so it is intended to host an event on either Friday 18th or Monday 21st (preferred date) June.

The event that did run (which incidentally coincided with the announced merger between the merger of the Universities of Kent and Greenwich) was titled. *'What can Higher Education Leadership learn from the Further Education sector?'* Dr Steve Lambert, Associate Professor at the University of Chester and Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Further and Higher Education, reflected on mergers and restructures within the FE Sector and what the HE Sector could learn. The event was delivered online and was well attended by 14 attendees from a range of institutions.

The RIG Co-Convenors are also keen to contribute to the BELMAS Book Series and put out a call for interest and abstracts. Decisions on abstracts received are due in September 2026, with a view from submitting the full proposal by November 2026 with a plan for the book to be published in Autumn 2027.

The conference RIG event, was delivered hybrid, centred on the book and was attended by three members (plus two co-convenors) and one online (plus the third co-convenor). Unfortunately connection was lost during the presentation. The meeting, however, was very encouraging as ideas were shared with all attendees contributing and ideas presented on things to do moving forward.

A key challenge has been around identity as the concept of Post 16 is not necessarily transferrable in international arenas. The Co-Convenors have discussed name changes and will seek to confirm a name change with the BELMAS Executive during the coming year.

Events Hosted

Date	*Where*	*Format*	*Title*	*Speakers*
20/10/25	*Online*	*Presentation*	*'What can Higher Education Leadership learn from the Further Education sector?'*	*Steve Lambert (University of Chester)*

5/7/26	*Cardiff / Hybrid*	*Presentation and Discussion*	*Conference RIG event – Book Proposal*	*Alan Johnston, Abdulla Sodiq*

Feedback

Really interesting event the time worked really well for me and the length was excellent. I was looking to connect with others researching HE and this was a big help

On this particular topic I would have liked longer for discussion

Great presentation. Valued getting the context of the RIG and having the opportunity to feed into what might happen next.

So sorry I lost connection for about 20 mins, issue on my side, so missed some Q and A. Looking forward to connecting in Cardiff.

Good to meet leads and have a conversation. Good conversation and pace.

Planning Meetings and Activities

11th September 2025 First meeting of the year. Discussion around plans for the year and ways to engage the RIG membership. Co-Convenors to look at ways to create a series of activities to promote RIG
6th October 2025 Planning meeting for event taking place on 20th October
15th October 2025 Final check up and planning for event.
13th January 2026 Review of event on 20th October. Discussion of next event
19th May 2026 Planning session for the conference RIG event Discussion on Book proposal
30th July 2026 Book proposal, October event, plans for coming year, use of social media, marketing of RIG to potential members Discussion regarding RIG name

Aims and Objectives for next year (2026/27):

1. Confirm the new proposed name for RIG and request change / approval with BELMAS executive
2. Publish book as part of the BELMAS series titled "*Current trends in Post Compulsory Education Leadership and management: policy and practice amid a changing landscape".*
3. Deliver event in October 2026
4. Deliver second event in ECR month

5. Deliver an event to coincide with International HE Day
6. Deliver RIG event at conference (Newcastle)
7. Actively engage in Social Media activities
8. Encourage members to contribute Blogs and Podcasts