

Briefing Document

Overview

Inspiring Choices is a Higher Education Outreach Partnership and is part of the [Office for Students Uni Connect Programme](#).

By promoting equal opportunities for young people in Year 7 and above who live in York and North Yorkshire the partnership aims to support young people to make an informed choice about their options in relation to the full range of routes into and through higher education and to minimise the barriers they may face when choosing the option that will unlock their potential, including barriers relating to academic attainment.

Objectives and Goals

The main aim of the Inspiring Choices partnership is to reduce the gap in higher education participation between the most and least represented groups. Our work is split into three areas.



**HIGHER EDUCATION
OUTREACH
WORKSHOPS**



**ATTAINMENT
RAISING PROJECTS**



**STRATEGIC
OUTREACH PROJECTS**

Higher Education Outreach Projects: Workshops on a range of HE and employability topics delivered either in school or on an HE campus. Delivered primarily to schools and colleges in geographic areas in York and North Yorkshire where participation in higher education is low or lower than expected given local GCSE attainment.

Example: HE Study Skills workshops to equip learners with the skills they need to succeed academically in Higher Education, and provide an insight into learning in a Higher Education environment

Attainment Raising Projects: Projects which focus on developing academic skills and subject knowledge so that attainment of young people is not a barrier to HE progression. Delivered primarily to schools and colleges with

low attainment-8 and progress-8 scores, or in geographical areas where KS2 and KS3 educational outcomes are low.

Example: A literacy project for Year 7 Working Class Boys in Scarborough to help to address the gap in KS2 attainment between boys and girls in North Yorkshire.

Strategic Outreach Projects: Projects for discrete groups of young people in York and North Yorkshire whose lived experiences may cause additional barriers to educational and career progression. This includes young People with SEND, Care Experienced young people, military service children, and young carers.

Example: A one night residential trip to London for Young People in North Yorkshire who are leaving care. Supported by John Lewis Partnership, Kings College London and the Financial Ombudsman Service.

Our Partners

Operating as a local infrastructure of universities, colleges and other partners based in York and North Yorkshire, the programme supports the strategic goal of the Office for Students that students' access to higher education is not limited by their background, location or characteristics. **The team are based at York St John University.**

The partnership in York and North Yorkshire consists of:

York Cares	Scarborough TEC
NYBEP	York College
York and North Yorkshire LEP	North Yorkshire Council
Askham Bryan College	City of York Council
Craven College	University of York
Harrogate College	York St John University
Selby College	CU Scarborough

Inspiring Choices

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