

GO HIGHER

West Yorkshire

**Annual Report
2018/2019**

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FOREWORD

Foreword by Tracey Lancaster, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Leeds Beckett University and Chair of Go Higher West Yorkshire



The 2018/19 academic year has been Go Higher West Yorkshire's most ambitious and successful to date, and we were delighted to welcome Leeds College of Music as a new member of our consortium at the start of 2019. Our membership now spans many different types of Higher Education, with HE-in-FE delivery, representatives from most university mission groups, small and specialist institutions and, now, a conservatoire.

Our broad membership is our strength, bringing a breath of perspective to the opportunities and challenges of a changing HE sector.

During this past year our partnership has delivered new degree apprenticeship programmes, as well as investigating the social mobility potential of this route into higher education. Our Collaborative Care Leaver Covenant – which was given its annual refresh in October 2018 following focus groups with looked-after children, care leavers and their key influencers – has been used as an example of best practice in national arenas such as the Centre for Social Justice report '12by24'.

We have secured a further two years of National Collaborative Outreach Programme funding from the Office for Students (OfS) to continue and expand the excellent work of this outreach initiative, which supports young people and their key influencers to make informed choices about their future. We have continued our successful programme of Foster Family Fun Days, introducing young people and their foster families to Higher Education in a relaxed and informal environment.

Our extremely well-received series of Good Practice Programme events continues, bringing together staff from our institutions to share learning. This has included an event in December to help partners prepare for the evaluation requirement of the new Access and Participation Plans – with guest speaker Joanne Moore of the Aimhigher Research & Consultancy Network introducing the new OfS evaluation tool – and a training session in June for members who work with Estranged Students – supported by Susan Mueller from the charity Stand Alone.

We look forward to continuing to work together.



WHAT IS GO HIGHER WEST YORKSHIRE?

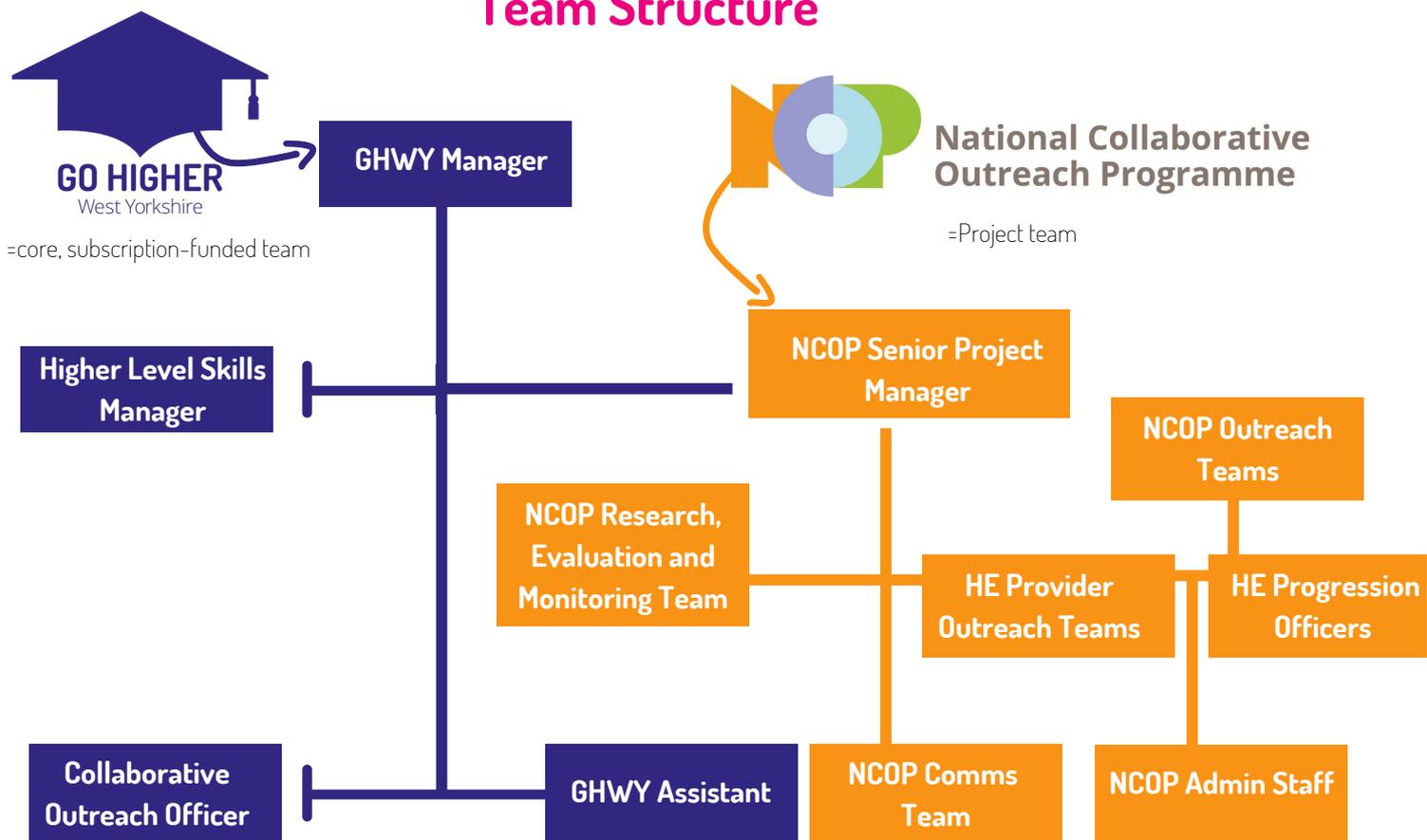
Go Higher West Yorkshire is a consortium of HE providers in our local area, working together to ensure that higher education in all its forms is open to all who can benefit, regardless of background. The core aim of the partnership is to connect partners to improve access to, success in and progression from higher education, for those from under-represented groups.

We do this by:

- Directly delivering and coordinating collaborative activity with those from under-represented groups and/or their key influencers to improve access, success and progression, and seeking funding to deliver this activity.
- Facilitating the sharing of learning and good practice across the partnership, relating to access, success and progression.
- Undertaking research into and evaluating our work, and supporting partners to evaluate their own access, success and progression work.
- Bringing partners together for useful meetings and events, and connecting them with relevant external stakeholders.
- Underpinning our work with a communications plan.

We are also delivering the **National Collaborative Outreach Programme** (NCOP) in West Yorkshire. NCOP is focused on local areas where higher education participation is lower than might be expected given the GCSE results of the young people who live there.

Team Structure



DADF2: DRIVING SOCIAL MOBILITY THROUGH DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

Following a successful GHWY bid to HEFCE's Degree Apprenticeships Development Fund Phase 2 (DADF2) our partners – with Leeds Trinity University as the lead institution – delivered an ambitious project to facilitate the delivery and take-up of degree apprenticeships in West Yorkshire.

The five strands of the project were:

1

Awareness raising with under-represented groups: working alongside GHWY's NCOP, the strand promoted understanding of this route to HE level qualifications, including to key influencers with CPD sessions delivered to teachers and advisers, and a lecture delivered to Career Guidance and Development MA students.

2

Employer engagement and market building: partners worked with employers through bespoke events aimed at those in specific sector areas, and a web resource continues to be used, pulling together the higher and degree apprenticeship offer across the partnership. See www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/employers/ for details.

3

Programme development: members formed curriculum working groups to engage with employers, professional bodies and each other, leading to the development of curricula for seven degree apprenticeship standards.

4

Institutional readiness: eight workshops were delivered on topics to support staff across a variety of institutional functions to build knowledge and mechanisms in order to be prepared to deliver a quality experience for apprentices and employers.

5

Evaluation: capturing and disseminating learning from the project.

Delivery:

- GHWY partners have reported 296 degree apprenticeship starts on programmes associated with DADF2 in 2018/19.

Legacy:

- For the academic year 2019/20, partners anticipate taking on over 1,000 new degree apprentices.
- GHWY's Apprenticeship Mentoring Network continues. 100% of attendees from the most recent workshop reported the presentation content as relevant and said they would like to attend more information sessions related to degree apprenticeships. They all also stated they would like to be involved in a working group to share good practice and continue to learn together.

'Driving Social Mobility through Degree Apprenticeships' has been an excellent example of GHWY members working in partnership to share good practice and learn from each other.

WORK WITH AND FOR CARE EXPERIENCED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Care Leaver Covenant

GHWY's work to ensure the collaborative commitment of the Care Leaver Covenant is enhanced and realised includes:

- Partner offers now map support across the student lifecycle.
- Accompaniment of pathway information and advice to guide and inspire its users.
- A new physical resource, developed in consultation with care-experienced young people, for distribution across the region.
- Plans to expand and evaluate the use of the Covenant as an outreach resource.
- Foundations for a collaborative approach to measuring and evaluating partner offers.

Our collaborative approach has received national recognition and attention, including from:

- Centre for Social Justice (Highlighted as 'gold standard' in their 12by24 report).
- Spectra First (Case study produced for the national launch of the Care Leaver Covenant).
- Become Charity (Good practice article published for Care Day 2018).
- NEON (Papers presented at 2018 and 2019 Summer Symposiums).

Outreach activity

- Foster Family Fun Days continue to inspire young people and their carers. At recent events, 86% agreed that their confidence in what they could achieve in the future had increased.
- For the second time in two years, we hosted the Children in Care Councils' regional conference. Several young people fed back that they want to pursue education as a direct result of the event at Wakefield College.
- We supported bespoke care leaver events in collaboration with Bradford, Calderdale and Leeds Local Authorities.
- Visit www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/care-leavers for details of our other care leaver activities.

Other highlights

- Professional Mentoring: Nine care leaver students have so far been matched with a mentor at Leeds City Council to support their graduate outcomes.
- HE delivery: Leeds Virtual School delivered a guest lecture to PGCE students and we ran a 'Care to Go Higher' introductory seminar to students at Leeds Trinity University on their L5 apprenticeship in Children's Home Management.
- OfS consultation: As part of research being conducted to develop a new online resource for students, the OfS has been consulting with us to better understand the challenges faced by care leavers and the support they need to enter/succeed in HE.



"Thank you so much ... due to you and your talented team we had a truly inspiring experience".

QUOTE FROM CARER



STATISTICAL OUTPUTS

86%

CONFIDENCE INCREASE FOR FUTURE OUTCOMES

GOOD PRACTICE PROGRAMME

As part of our mission to support students from under-represented backgrounds into and through higher education (HE), Go Higher West Yorkshire runs a programme of good practice sharing events exclusively for staff working at our HE provider partners. The events are tailored to provide actionable advice and training applicable to HE providers of all sizes and resource levels.

Addressing Barriers to Student Success

The first event in the series was held in April 2018 and consisted of three seminars delivered by HEFCE Catalyst Project leaders at the Universities of Bradford, Huddersfield and Leeds. They respectively introduced delegates to Team-Based Learning, workshopped solutions for an inclusive start for young people entering HE, and discussed the use of virtual (computer generated) landscapes to teach geoscience field skills.



“This kind of event is a good way of sharing good /best practice.” - Delegate

Evaluation for All: Developing Evidence of Widening Participation

The second event was held in December 2018 and drew on expertise within the University of Leeds and GHWY's National Collaborative Outreach Programme. Delegates were introduced to innovative yet simple evaluation methods and tools, spanning institutional and collaborative settings, with real life examples. Additionally, a member of the team commissioned by the Office for Students to develop a new tool to assist HE providers with their evaluation approach to widening participation activities joined the event to provide a brief introduction to, and overview of, this tool.



“The most useful parts were the chances to actually speak with the other practitioners in the room... facilitating [the] sharing of best practice is really important.” - Delegate

With Estranged Students

The third and most recent event welcomed the Project Director of [Stand Alone](#) as keynote speaker to deliver training on estrangement, and led discussions to help our partners to sign on to the [Stand Alone Pledge](#). Delegates were encouraged to share ideas of best practice using case studies and to workshop avenues for collaboration in the delivery of the Pledge.



“Feedback from the panel [of current estranged students] will enable us to provide targeted support to estranged students.” - Delegate

NCOP COLLABORATIVE OUTREACH ACTIVITY

Collaborative working is an essential element of Go Higher West Yorkshire's events and activities. This remains the case for our NCOP, where we have worked on collaborative activities with a wide range of diverse partners including employers, HE Partners, sporting organisations and local government. Some examples are given below.

GHWY Collaborative Taster events (January – June 2019)

Seven collaborative taster events were delivered to key schools/colleges focusing on key subject areas such as construction, policing, healthcare and performing arts. These events brought together a range of options for over 300 young people interested in these areas, to showcase the varied offer available in our region.

Quotes from the project:

"All brilliant, students were very engaged and gained lots of great advice, interaction and knowledge."
- Teacher

"I had no idea what a uni was like beforehand or what they would offer. This has given me an insight into other options after leaving college." - Student



Read more about these events:



[From Broadway to Yorkshire](#)

[Construct your Future](#)

ENGIE Housing Project

A collaborative project bringing together education establishments and employers, it was delivered across schools in Wakefield to promote careers and higher education opportunities in the construction and built environment sector.

Following the formal evaluation of the project, there was:

90%

increase in students' knowledge of construction careers

68%

increase in students' awareness of construction related higher education opportunities

"I've learned how to market things a lot better, and why it's so important to work with a range of skills. My highlight of this project was when we went to the actual site because we got to see everything in action." - De Lacy Academy student



Read more about the project and watch the project video



[ENGIE Housing Project](#)

CONTINUED...

Roving Reporters

This collaborative project aimed to engage Year 10 students from Featherstone Academy with their local community, Featherstone Rovers Rugby League club and explore attitudes to HE progression.

The project produced a booklet called 'Roving Reporters, Featherstone: The Past, The Present and The Future'. It successfully developed students' confidence and research skills as well as raising the profile of the local community.

One of the Roving Reporters commented:



"I've found the project very fun and there have been lots activities where we can get involved with the history of Featherstone, and like, getting around the community and finding out information that I certainly didn't know myself. It's been good learning about history."



Read more about this project:



[Roving Reporters](#)



Other collaborative project and event highlights

Access All Areas 2019

Working with Production Park, Backstage Academy and Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partners.

HE Roadshow, Ridings Centre Wakefield

Universities and colleges from across West Yorkshire, along HMRC Apprenticeships, HSBC and Children's University, joined together in Wakefield to raise the profile of higher education.



STUDENTS LEADING OUR ACTIVITY...

Work experience sports camps at Mount Saint Mary's Catholic High School, Leeds

Twenty students in Year 10 were tasked with planning, organising and delivering a full taster day for Year 4 and 5 students at neighbouring primary schools: Holy Family, and Saint Joseph's Hunslet. With guidance from Leeds Sports Academy, the students ran football games and played mini-games.

Not only did the primary students have a brilliant experience but the work experience project helped the Year 10 students develop leadership skills; planning and time-keeping; health and safety knowledge; teamwork; discipline; and confidence. Shauni Hetherington, the Higher Education Progression Officer noted: "The Year 10 students made us extremely proud and were an absolute smash with the Year 4 and 5 students!"

The project did not end on the last day of the camp: the students volunteered their own time to support camps with Leeds Sports Academy over their school holidays. They went on to showcase their amazing work with the primary school children at Go Higher West Yorkshire's Learner Voice Live in November 2018. In front of the cameras the students explained to a captive audience the processes they went through to get the sports camp from an idea to a successful event, thereby further developing their self-belief and presentation skills.

The following year the students offered their expertise to successfully guide the new cohort of students in this excellent work experience project.



INFLUENCERS

Course helps young people make informed HE choices

Over 180 key influencers have benefited from a course that Go Higher West Yorkshire's NCOP developed to support young people make informed choices.

The bespoke 'Train the Trainer' course, which was launched in July 2018, provides participants with up to date, accurate information and an understanding of the routes to higher education. Attendees are encouraged to cascade the training to colleagues who work with young people, thereby increasing its impact.

Over 60 resources have been developed for the course, each with a lesson plan and a clear link to Gatsby Benchmark 2: Learning from career and labour market information and Benchmark 7: Encounters with further and higher education.

Participants and 15 Careers Advisers who work in the West Yorkshire area have received the resource pack, which was praised for its quality, scope and versatility. The materials are also free to download on the [GHWY website](#) and, to date, have had 1,985 views.

The original face-to-face training course ran until October 2018 and consisted of three full day sessions for four cohorts. Participants included 17 school staff, four Careers Advisers (including one assigned to work with the Youth Offending Team), two Youth Workers, three GHWY staff (HEPO's), and six Third Sector/community.

More 'Train the Trainer' courses will be delivered in NCOP Phase 2, which will run between August 2019 and July 2021.

The course and resource pack have been positively received, with one participant commenting that it is a "great training programme which is easy to pass onto colleagues." Another noted they are, "confident it can be used in the school setting and that resources can be adapted."

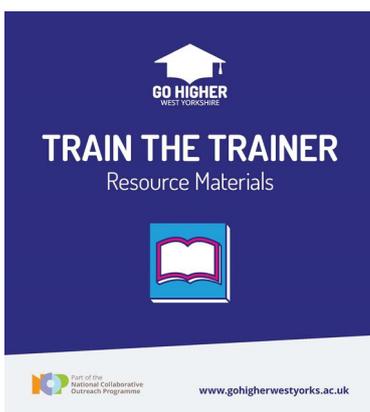
Other feedback includes, "All the [careers] advisers felt they gained a lot from the session and have reflected upon how they can use the materials and support school and your project and the institutions involved," and, "Teachers were receptive to the resources and have passed some of the information on to students in form time."



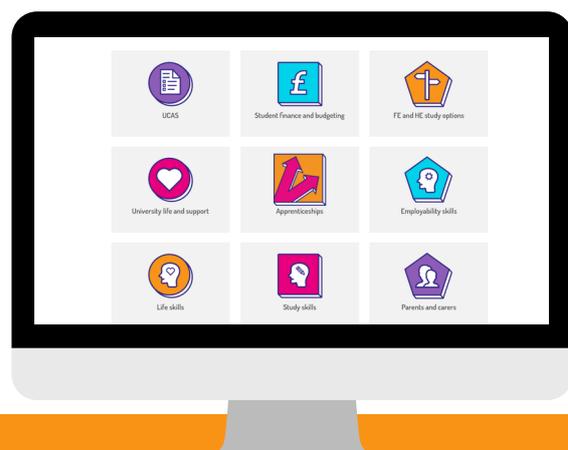
View our free resources



Resources



1,985
views



GO HIGHER WEST YORKSHIRE COMMUNICATIONS

We underpin our activity with a multi-channel communication strategy that ensures we reach those who will benefit.

- Through NCOP, our debut showcase for Leeds TV featured some of our young people and informed the region about our offering, receiving 100,000 views in households across West Yorkshire.
- We are growing our social media following at a sustainable rate by working across GHWY, our partners and external stakeholders to provide compelling and relevant content.
- The NCOP Opportunities bulletin reaches teachers and advisers in West Yorkshire, with events and opportunities for young people from across our partners and other stakeholders.
- Our website contains engaging resources including our 'Inspire to Go Higher' Employability campaign and Degree Apprenticeship preparedness piece 'Headstart'.

In order to encourage uptake of our online resources we have held well-received Train the Trainer sessions, empowering even more key influencers to utilise them with their young people. Furthermore, our recent 'Well-being in education' campaign was piloted with 100 key influencers and young people through a series of focus groups..



"The GHWY wellbeing resource is a timely and essential animation for parents, carers and students that showcases the everyday stressors of education and more importantly how to combat this before it becomes serious. With the backing from Leeds Mind I feel confident that this is a huge step in the right direction in supporting wellbeing in schools and at home." - Parent

The GHWY brand was strengthened with the launch of a Newsletter for HE Providers in October 2018. The monthly e-bulletin updates partners about our work, events, and sector news. Partner blogs have been particularly popular, covering topics including apprenticeship developments and the rise of unconditional university offers. An archive of issues is available on our website.

Stakeholder engagement was increased with the addition of employer-facing, apprenticeship-focused webpages to the main GHWY website in February 2019. This was consolidated by the launch of a 'Skills' Twitter account in July 2018 to promote, among other things, examples of successful apprenticeship career routes and partner events.

The central GHWY twitter account has continued to develop and now has nearly 1,800 followers. It has run a number of successful campaigns, including 12 Days of Christmas and Foster Care Fortnight.

GHWY TV AD

100,000+
VIEWS IN HOUSEHOLDS ACROSS
WEST YORKSHIRE



FINAL THOUGHTS



Helen Sykes, GHWY Manager



I am extremely proud of the achievements of the teams at Go Higher West Yorkshire and everything they have delivered on behalf of our partners, and I want to take this opportunity to thank all the staff involved in this work: you do an excellent job. I would also like to recognise the contribution of Tom Senior, NCOP Outreach Officer at Leeds Beckett University, who passed away in February 2019. Tom was a much-valued member of our team and is sorely missed.

As we look to the future, GHWY continues to take the work of the Collaborative Care Leaver Covenant to the next level, developing our offer to include employability considerations for young people in our local authority areas. The covenant document has progressed to include not just the offer available across our partnership, but information that looked-after children, care leavers and their key influencers have told us is vital to support effective decision-making about Higher Education. And we are working to extend the excellent support offered by GHWY partners to other students; this year we have undertaken preparatory work around our partners each developing their own Stand Alone pledge. This will raise awareness of particular issues faced by Estranged Students and ensure that within our institutions, this group will have access to what they need for a successful outcome.

One of the continued benefits of our partnership is the space we provide for our partner members to share and to receive support from each other, particularly when grappling with changes and new requirements. The two groups of staff that GHWY brings together – the Go Higher Skills Group, which focuses on higher level skills needs in our graduates and our region, and the Widening Participation Planning Group, which focuses on responding together to work with under-represented groups to provide access to HE study – have stepped up their sharing of case studies and good practice in their relevant areas of work.

The reach and scope of the NCOP project is even greater than we dared dream possible when starting out on this journey, with new links being forged and strengthened in communities which had traditionally been turned off from higher education. This is a project which is already having a positive impact on the lives of those with whom we are working.

As our activity continues to be embedded, we are looking forward to a new year working towards our goal of connecting partners to improve access to, success in and progression from higher education for those from under-represented groups.

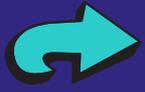
Helen Sykes

Manager, Go Higher West Yorkshire

COMING UP IN 2019/20



Developing a collaborative Stand Alone pledge.



Working together to evaluate outreach activity.



Refreshing the Care Leaver Covenant.



Launching 'Care to Go Higher?', a CPD programme aimed at professionals who work with looked-after children and care leavers, so they can support them to make informed choices about their futures.



NCOP Phase 2.



Launch of the 'Wellbeing in Education Campaign'. A multi-media campaign aimed chiefly at key influencers. Created to raise awareness of the wellbeing difficulties that can be experienced by young people during their education journey and increase understanding of the help and support that is available.

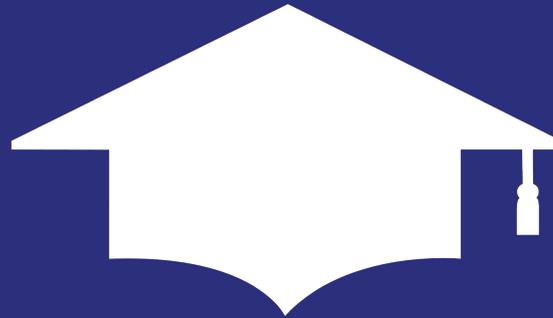


NCOP Outreach Hub (working title): On and offline information and signposting for teachers and advisors about local outreach activity.



Employability e-learning resources for key influencers: Being developed to further enable teachers and advisors to understand and coach young people on the key employability skills. To be housed on the GHWY website.





GO HIGHER
West Yorkshire

Our Partners

University Centre
Bradford College



University of
HUDDERSFIELD



universitycentre
at **wakefield**college