



Sussex Learning Network: National Collaborative Outreach Programme (SLN:COP) Innovation Funds

SLN:COP created an Innovation Fund in 2017 as a new approach to developing partnerships between educational and community organisations to create innovative ways of engaging with our target wards across Sussex. Eight projects were funded of up to a maximum of £8000 per project. The projects started in February 2018 and run until September 2018.

Beyond the school gates

The project supports students who have been excluded from or refuse to attend secondary education and their parents by drawing on the lived experiences of former students and their parents who experienced similar issues but successfully re-engaged their education. This project does not replace home schooling or provide alternative provision. Instead, following DfE (2016) recommendations, the project recognises the central role that parents play in students' educational engagement by working closely within family and community systems - providing mentoring using a capabilities approach that works at the interface between family, schools and organisations.

University of Portsmouth – Dr Simon Edwards

University of Sussex – Dr Yusef Bakkali

West Sussex Parent Carer Forum – Grainne Saunders

Care Leavers reaching university

The project aims to identify strategies that can be implemented by Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC) and its partners to increase the number of Brighton and Hove care leavers attending and remaining at university for the duration of their course. The project will inform practice with Children in Care and Care Leavers.

University of Brighton – Dr Carol Robinson

Brighton and Hove Leaving Care Team – Bob Uden

The Bridge - Dr Alison Kelly

Graffiti, Comics and Outsider art for Humanities

This project aims to raise aspirations among learners at Year 12 by engaging them with a range of non-traditional (and specifically popular) visual cultural sources. Its core activity is to introduce young people to the world of popular visual culture as studied in Higher Education today, namely, graffiti, comics and untrained art. The project team want to test whether using non-traditional visual sources motivates and captures the imagination of the participants and therefore supports application to tertiary level study.

University of Chichester – Professor Hugo Frey

Outside In - Marc Steene

Growing STEM

The project aims to give young parents the skills and tools to facilitate learning outside and at home with their children focusing on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) and the fundamentals around growing your own food and healthy eating. Working across five centres in West Sussex the project will engage parents and their toddlers over two workshops where the families will have the chance to take part in practical activities both in the centres and in the green space around the centres.

University of Chichester – Charlene Simms and Ali Khan

West Sussex County Council – Laura Pett Richards and Gaby Sartin



LGBTQ Youth and access to HE

This project seeks to gain a youth perspective on the challenges young LGBTQ people face in accessing HE in the UK. Working in collaboration, three organisations will deliver a project that foregrounds the young people's voice and empowers young LGBTQ individuals via a set of advocacy films produced by young people aimed at peer audiences to be published online and a research report based on the workshop materials which explore young people's experiences and perceptions, interviews with current HE students, and interviews with stakeholders that influence young people's career choices and education.

University of Brighton – Dr Olu Jenzen

University of Sussex- Professor Kate O'Riordan

Allsorts Youth Project – Katie Vincent

Moving through HE - aspirations and expectations of refugee background students (RBS)

The aims of the project are to: Foreground the experiences of RBS and their families in order to identify new ideas and new approaches for supporting progression to HE. The project will work with peer researchers providing role models to RBS in schools. The peer researchers will recruit and interview RBS on their experiences of arriving in, and moving through the education system; the research will seek to identify their aspirations, how these are being met and their perceptions of the interventions and challenges faced in moving through the system.

University of Sussex – Dr Linda Morrice

Sanctuary on Sea – Angie Lynn

Hummingbird Project – Elaine Ortiz

Raising Educational Aspirations Participatory Action Research Project

This project aims to provide a bridging opportunity linking non-formal with formal education. Young people from the target demographic will write and record an EP. Using 'Identity' as a theme the participants will work with AudioActive's tutors to explore lyric writing and beat making using a range of production equipment. Embedded into the project will be information sessions on education pathways and HE IAG. Following the weeklong intervention, participants will be offered follow-up one-to-one mentoring from GB MET's Widening Participation team to support individuals to access suitable FE/HE courses and other progression opportunities. This will form part of an Action Research project to identify attitudinal shifts to education and tracking the participants to monitor and evaluate the impact of the interventions.

GBMET – Joanna Tolley and Dr Dan Tully

AudioActive – Michael Sells

Sussex Writes

This project connects the University of Sussex School of English with local schools via an undergraduate and postgraduate student-led creative writing workshop in local classrooms to provide support and development for students in Years 9-11 who are working towards the writing assessment in GCSE examinations. Sussex Writes and Little Green Pig (LGP) have established a joint mission: to provide fun, creative and excellent learning experiences.

University of Sussex – Dr Emma Newport

Little Green Pig – Ella Burns

Beacon Academy – Dr Mark Fairbanks