

GO HIGHER

West Yorkshire

Annual Report
2021-22

Foreword: Tracey Lancaster, Chair of Go Higher West Yorkshire	3
What is Go Higher West Yorkshire?	4
Updates on past GHWY projects	
National Networks for Collaborative Outreach (NNCO)	5
National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP)	5
Degree Apprenticeships Development Fund Phase 2 (DADF2)	5
Let's Talk Real Skills	5
Collaborating to support informed choices	
Cross-partnership work for estranged students	6
Country's first collaborative Stand Alone Pledge launched	6
Care to Go Higher CPD	7
Working with adult learners	8
Early years taster session	8
Developing oracy skills	8
Industry-focused trips for young people	9
Hands-on learning for Year 10 students	9
Virtual Work Experience (VWEX) resources for learners with SEND	9
Collaborating to respond to need	
Developing digital skills	10
Successful tender for Graduate Skills programme	10
Developing our staff	10
Supporting under-represented groups	11
Keynote speech at Race, Equity and Social Justice Conference	11
Pilot e-learning for HE staff	11
Evidence based practice	
Developing collaborative approaches to activity design based on evidence	12
Good Practice Programme: Co-creation in education	12
HE opportunities for Gypsy, Roma & Traveller young people in West Yorkshire	12
Understanding and meeting the needs of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic learners in West Yorkshire	13
Supporting white boys from working-class backgrounds in West Yorkshire	13
Communications	
Social media strategic planning	14
Beyond Care newsletter	14
Care Leaver Covenant refreshed	14
Capturing strategic impact in blogs	14
Final thoughts: Helen Sykes, Head of Go Higher West Yorkshire	15
Coming up in 2022-23	16

Foreword

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



Go Higher West Yorkshire (GHWY) is a partnership of 13 diverse Higher Education (HE) Providers in our local area, working together to reduce inequalities in higher education access, success and progression for people from groups who are under-represented in further and higher education.

The 2021-22 academic year was once again affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the GHWY teams have continued to respond to need and to ensure maintenance of delivery.

GHWY's commitment to racial equality remains strong, including through the member-led Decolonising the Curriculum network that we convene. New for this year has also been a network that brings together staff from across our member institutions, focusing on addressing the inequalities in access to, success in and progression from HE for students from Black, Asian and Minoritised Ethnicities. GHWY also collaborated with Leeds Trinity University in support of their excellent third Race, Equity and Social Justice conference, including a keynote speech on the importance of collaboration in this area.

We wrapped up our involvement in West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges' Let's Talk Real Skills project, as the operating and funding period ended in December 2021. Whilst the project was hampered by an extremely challenging delivery environment, working with SMEs who were dealing with the mammoth twin challenges of the repeated Covid-19 lockdowns and changes relating to Brexit, our participation reinvigorated our skills strand of work and provided useful insight and intelligence into employer engagement with HE. More recently, GHWY's Higher Level Skills Manager supported a successful collaborative bid led by Leeds Trinity University for the West Yorkshire Combined Authority-funded Grad Skills project. This provides sector-specific skills training for new and recent graduates,

connecting them with employers in support of our local economy.

Enabled by our new Care to Go Higher Delivery Officer, we were delighted to see the most recent cohort graduate from our CPD programme aimed at foster carers, children's home staff, and personal advisers. This programme helps to equip them with information on the full range of HE options available locally for their young people. Our Collaborative Outreach Officer also launched a pilot CPD programme for staff in FE and HE that will increase understanding of the experience of students from the care system and those estranged from their families. The intention is to improve the support available to these learners to increase their chances of successful outcomes.

Our Office for Students-funded Uni Connect project continues to make a significant positive difference in the lives of young people. Our Progression Officers on the ground in our partner schools and colleges directly support young people to make informed choices about their educational journey. Our Outreach Officers collaborate on innovative delivery, and our Data, Evaluation and Impact and Digital Communications staff evidence and disseminate the impact of the work. Our central team ensures that everything runs smoothly.

You can read more about all the above – and more – throughout our annual report.

Finally, at the end of June the GHWY Board had its first in-person meeting for two and a half years. It was good to see colleagues and it provided a forum to discuss key sector challenges as they relate to West Yorkshire, as well as opportunities to devise initiatives to benefit learners from across our region. We look forward to continuing to work together.

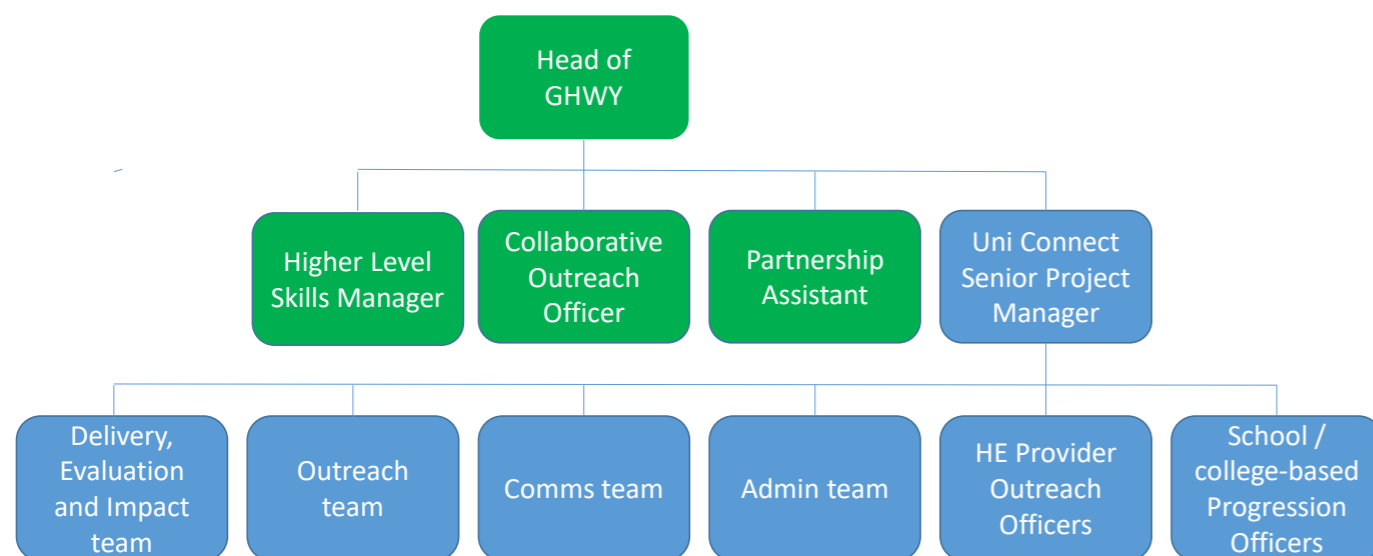
Go Higher West Yorkshire (GHWY) is a partnership of Higher Education (HE) providers in our local area, working to reduce inequalities in HE access, success and progression.

Our mission is to achieve common goals relating to those from under-represented groups in HE, by connecting our unique range of HE provider members with each other and with external stakeholders.

We do this by:

- Collaborating to support informed HE choices for those from under-represented groups
- Collaborating to respond to the needs of our target audiences and our 13 member institutions

Team structure



This is through:

- The work of the Access and Participation Strategy Group and the Go Higher Skills Group, plus associated sub-groups such as the Decolonising the Curriculum network, which bring together senior and strategic representatives from across the partnership
- Delivering the Office for Students-funded Uni Connect in West Yorkshire. This is focused on local areas where HE participation is lower than might be expected given the GCSE results of the young people who live there

Our priorities are:

- Under-represented groups
- Informed choices
- Evidence-based practice
- West Yorkshire

Read examples of our successful collaborative funding bids and activity. Get in touch for support with future collaborative funding bids relevant to our partnership mission!

National Networks for Collaborative Outreach (NNCO)

Under GHWY's previous guise – HEART (Higher Education Access Rewarding Transforming) – we secured Higher Education Funding Council for England's (HEFCE) 'NNCO' funding to support the development of local networks in our area and enable greater access to HE.

The work laid the ground for our collaborative outreach, and kickstarted our skills strand of work, supporting greater connectivity with West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Read more: <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20170712131017/http://www.hefce.ac.uk/news/Events/2016/Name,110352.en.html>

National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP)

The precursor to Uni Connect, NCOP focused on collaborative HE outreach activity in particular areas of West Yorkshire.

NCOP enabled us to more directly engage with local schools and colleges, and to significantly scale up our ambition to support local young people to make informed decisions about their own futures by broadening horizons to a wide



range of options.

Find out more: www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/ncop-two-years-on

Degree Apprenticeships Development Fund Phase 2 (DADF2)

In a bid led by Leeds Trinity University, our partnership was awarded funding through HEFCE's highly competitive DADF2 programme.

The project aim was to stimulate the development and delivery of Degree Apprenticeships (DAs) in West Yorkshire. Outputs included new DA curricula, new systems and processes for the recruitment of apprentices, and over 150 apprenticeship starts during the short time-span of the project.

Read more: www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/7cd79cd8-536f-49e5-a55f-ebd83b344b16/dadfevaluation.pdf

Let's Talk Real Skills (LTRS)

West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges (WYCC) contracted GHWY as a delivery partner for LTRS. The programme invested in new, employer-focused skills training.

Members used the programme's labour market insight to develop their training offers for SMEs and we used it to inform our employer-focused materials, aiming to support greater access to HE across a wider range of people.

LTRS also strengthened partnership working across our members, WYCC and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, bringing benefits to collaborative responses to regional skills priorities.

Find out more: www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/lets-talk-real-skills

Would you like to discuss a collaborative funding bid with us? Please contact us at ghwy@leeds.ac.uk marking it F.A.O Head of GHWY

Collaborating to support informed choices

GHWY values the full range of HE provision available across our member institutions and our priority is ensuring that all HE qualifications are showcased equally alongside each other in our activity, to support informed choices.

Cross-partnership work for estranged students

We have joined the Kinship and Stand Alone working group, which built a Theory of Change model to guide its work on under-represented students, namely, those in kinship care and estranged students.

We are involved in the sub-group developing CPD for Further Education (FE) staff to better support these students. Another planned outcome is the Stand Alone promise (name TBC) - a variation of the Stand Alone pledge tailored to FE providers who, for example, do not have student accommodation.

The group also includes representatives from Humber Outreach Programme (HOP), Southern Universities Network, Future U, Higher Education Progression Partnership, Sussex Learning Network, and Stand Alone.



Country's first collaborative Stand Alone Pledge launched

In November 2021 we launched the country's very first collaborative Stand Alone pledge, which is aimed at students studying without family support.

The document raises awareness about what support is available for estranged young people across our 13 member institutions. This includes whether they have named contacts, dedicated web-pages, and additional financial support.

It also provides a definition of estrangement so that more young people may self-identify and access the additional support that is available. The wording was agreed with the national charity Stand Alone.

The document will be refreshed, with additional information provided online, in 2022-23.

Read more: www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/news/ghwy-launches-collaborative-stand-alone-pledge-for-estranged-students

Care to Go Higher CPD

Our innovative Care to Go Higher programme, which offers CPD for key influencers of care-experienced young people, has successfully run for a third year and was held from March to July 2022 with 11 participants graduating from the programme.

Focused on helping care-experienced individuals make informed decisions about HE, it covers application, support, finance, the benefits of HE for care-leavers and much more. It also features guest speakers on a variety of topics relating to care-leavers in HE.

The programme has received excellent quantitative and qualitative feedback. Initial survey results taken before and after each session show an average increase from 4.91/10 to 7.8/10, with multiple categories experiencing an increase of over 4 points.

We will continue to review the data to see how we can continue to improve and deliver the programme effectively in future years.

Find out more: www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/resources/teachers-carers-advisors/care-leavers/care-to-go-higher



Programme feedback

"An excellent course, with the subject information and useful resources being an invaluable addition to our foster carer 'tool belt'."

"Brilliantly delivered. I now feel more confident about all the options available to care leavers to access higher education. It's really encouraging to know there are so many options and support available to them."

"I feel I'm now more able to give advice and information to my young person about higher education. To help them make informed decisions about their future."

"I have now an understanding of higher education to which I feel I can pass on to the young people within my care and hopefully be able help plan their access to education and future careers."

Collaborating to support informed choices

Our Uni Connect project delivered a wide range of activities to help young people make informed choices about their educational journey and future career options.

Working with adult learners

In 2021-22 Uni Connect increased its engagement with adult learners in FE colleges across three main activity strands:

GHWY web pages were developed to support adult learners to access information about routes into and through HE.

A MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) was created to provide information and support to adult learners on a variety of HE pathways. It was produced in collaboration with HOP and Inspiring Choices.

We conducted a survey with 174 adult learners in six local FE colleges to collect some 'big picture' data around how well supported and prepared for education progression they felt. The findings will enable us to better tailor support and engagement for their specific needs.

Early years taster session

Students from Trinity Academy and Leeds West Academy were given the opportunity to find out more about different career paths and options that surround teaching early years learners during a Taster Session at Bradley Wood Activity Centre.

Staff from our member institutions University Centre Calderdale College and University of Huddersfield, with support from Go Wild Outdoors, focused on the hands-on and interactive aspect that can come with working with early learners. They challenged the students to build shelters, learn basic survival skills, and light small fires.

The activities helped to develop team-building, communication, and leadership skills. These

transferable skills are hugely beneficial when continuing into HE.

The session helped one of the attendees to realise, "how many different options and careers there are." Another one commented that, "I can do anything if I put my mind to it."

Find out more: www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/blog/early-years-taster-session

Developing oracy skills

The Covid-19 pandemic and virtual learning resulted in many students missing out on developing key communication skills.

The Progression Officer at New College Pontefract identified this problem and invited More Oracy to deliver three sessions. These were targeted at disadvantaged students who had low aspirations and low confidence in regards to HE.

The sessions gave attendees the chance to develop their oracy skills in a safe learning environment, with time to reflect on their experiences, and learn new skills.

One student said the session, "really challenged my confidence levels in a good way." Another one enthused, "I can't believe I did a presentation with no notes!"

Find out more: www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/blog/new-college-pontefract-expressing-oneself-fluently-and-grammatically-in-speech



Collaborative working is an essential element of our events and resources. This includes forging links with key businesses in the region.

Industry-focused trips for young people

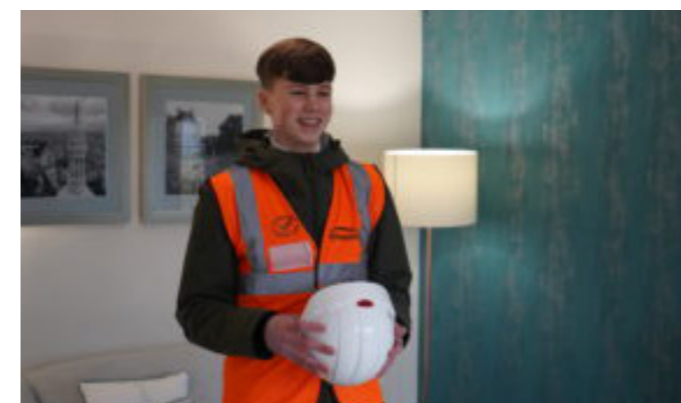
Our Uni Connect Outreach Officers organised industry-focused trips that gave young people insight into different routes into work.

Capitalising on Engie's mentoring project with Castleford Academy, students visited the company's Waterton Green housing development site in February 2022. The young people walked around the construction site and got to look at architect plans and talk to sales agents.

Five students from Immanuel College also visited Parker Filtration's factory, near Dewsbury, to get an insight into some of the behind-the-scenes processes that go into different types of engineering.

The trips made the students more aware of apprenticeships, which are a common route for the construction and engineering sector. They gained insight into the types of challenges and experiences they would face, as well as learning hands-on skills.

Read more: www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/blog/the-importance-of-external-trips



Hands-on learning for Year 10 students

Year 10 students at Featherstone Academy were given an immersive learning experience when Medical Mavericks brought a selection of medical equipment on site.

The company, which provides hands-on learning experiences relating to healthcare, sought to inspire the next generation of medics and scientists. It also showcased lesser known careers including bio-informatics and medical engineering.

During the session students were able to handle pieces of medical equipment, including vision goggles and ultrasound. This helped to bring to life school science lessons and create career-shaping experiences.

Read more: www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/blog/medical-mavericks-featherstone-academy

Virtual Work Experience (VWEX) resources for learners with SEND

Our partnership work with the LEP has continued with the development of Virtual Work Experience (VWEX) resources for learners with special educational needs and disability (SEND).

The resources, which will launch in Autumn 2022, will feature inspirational employers and role models with SEND and/or that employ staff with SEND. They will provide learners with SEND a vital insight into the world of work, key industry sectors and HE. In addition, they will promote the message that having SEND should not be a barrier to accessing the workplace or HE.

The work follows the success of the VWEX resources that were launched in 2021. These were used by 142 schools in the region, with a potential reach of 74,000 students.

Collaborating to respond to need

As a partnership bringing together networks of staff, we can help those across our member institutions learn together and respond to new challenges and opportunities. We can also collaboratively support the needs of our school and college partners and future skills needs of the region

Developing digital skills

In response to the Government's Digital Skills Framework, we have collaborated with the LEP to create resources that help to develop confidence and knowledge on the five 'essential' digital skills.

The resources will cover handling Information and Content; Problem Solving; Communication; Transacting; and Being Safe and Legal Online.

Each topic will include an animated introductory video, a 10-20 minute activity that allows the learner to explore and use that digital skill, and a user guide for teachers and practitioners. Three of the five topics will also include an employer led video. Each activity will be linked to themes on progression and employability to align with Gatsby Benchmarks 4 or 5.

Resources will be distributed among Uni Connect schools in September 2022.



Successful tender for Graduate Skills Programme

We were delighted to support the successful partnership bid for the West Yorkshire Graduate Skills Programme, which will benefit recent graduates - particularly those from under-represented groups - facing unemployment or underemployment.

Part of West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) and LEP's Skills Connect programme, the tender was submitted under the leadership of Leeds Trinity University with support from across GHWY.

It will, among other things, offer free short programmes to raise career management and workplace confidence. Its first programme was Navigate: Digital Marketing for Graduates, with further courses in planned throughout 2022-23.

Read more: www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/free-digital-marketing-course-for-graduates

Developing our staff

Our CPD programme offers opportunities for teachers and advisors who work with and support young people across secondary schools, FE colleges, and additional careers provisions.

The sessions align with the academic year and have covered wide ranging topics including support with reviewing personal statements, and student finance. They are also offered in personal and professional development, such as mentoring and presentation skills.

In 2023 we aim to have a designated web-page where external stakeholders can register to attend and view recordings from previous CPD sessions. We will also continue to evaluate the programme as we seek to improve our range of opportunities.

We have engaged with activities and developed resources for several under-represented groups in order to improve their access, success and progression.

Supporting under-represented groups

In order to support the access, continuation and progression rates of key under-represented groups (URGs), we have established networks to work towards collaborative outputs and share experiences.

The networks, which include representatives from across our 13 members, cover disabled students; Black Asian and Minoritised Ethnic students; care experienced and estranged students; and white working-class males.

Meeting twice a year, the networks provide a supportive space to share best practice, learn from each other and work towards collaborative outcomes. These include a transition pack that will support disabled students with the transition from FE to HE. The resource will be piloted with a focus group before being launched on our website in August.

Read more: www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/blog/under-represented-groups-from-acronyms-to-outputs

Keynote speech at Race, Equity and Social Justice Conference

The Decolonising the Curriculum Network, which is led by GHWY, delivered a collaborative keynote speech at Leeds Trinity University's Race, Equity and Social Justice Conference in March 2022.

'Gearing institutional journeys to de-coloniality through the benefits of collaboration' focused on the principles behind collaboration through GHWY, as well as outlining the different stages where member institutions are on their journey towards decolonising their curricula, and the benefits to them of working collaboratively.

Founded in 2021, the Network helps us to draw diverse voices into our conversations, to challenge assumptions, and to start to address unequal power relationships. It is an important strand of activity in our work to reduce inequalities in access to, success in and progression from HE.

Read more: www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/news/ghwy-to-deliver-keynote-speech-at-race-equity-and-social-justice-conference

Pilot e-learning for HE staff

We have launched a pilot e-learning programme to help student-facing staff in HE better support care experienced and estranged students who want to go to HE or are already studying at HE.

It covers three broad aspects: introduction and key words; understanding and supporting care experienced students; and understanding and supporting estranged students.

Thanks to the support of key contacts, it is being piloted with around 30 staff from Leeds Beckett University and University Centre Leeds. They will provide feedback to inform future iterations of the programme.

Read more: www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/blog/e-learning-pilot-for-care-experienced-and-estranged-students-behind-the-scenes-view



Our work is underpinned by a strong evidence and research base to ensure it is having an impact.

Developing collaborative approaches to activity design based on evidence

Uni Connect has piloted a new 'co-design' approach to activity planning that is based on evidence. It brings together expertise from our Data, Evaluation & Insight (DEI) team with strategic and operational knowledge from the oversight and delivery teams.

Good Practice Programme: Co-creation in education

Our popular Good Practice Programme (GPP) series continued in June 2022 with an event on co-creation in education. The theme was important as the Office for Students (OfS) encourages student voice, which is where co-creation helps.

The online event introduced the concept of co-creation and looked at how it works in practice. There were guest speakers, including from the Humber Outreach Programme and the University of Leeds, and a panel discussion.

It is hoped the event will help delegates capitalise on co-creation as some may have already been doing it without realising. Feedback from the participants mentioned: insightful speakers, excellent facilitation, and learning about opportunity for and potential of co-creation.

The GPP is a series of events that involves sharing good practice and supports practical learning for delegates from across our membership.

Read more: www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/blog/learning-about-co-creation-at-ghwys-good-practice-programme

HE opportunities for Gypsy, Roma & Traveller young people in West Yorkshire

Our research into the educational experiences and attitudes towards HE progression for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) young people was published in May 2022.

During GRT History Month in June 2022, we hosted a series of events and CPD training that were extremely well attended by both internal and external stakeholders. Separate briefings have also been held for individual organisations, including GuildHE and the University of Hertfordshire.

In addition, GHWY – together with Leeds GATE (the leading local Gypsy & Traveller advocacy charity) - contributed important findings to the Parliamentary Call for Evidence on GRT experiences of education in January 2022.

We have also led on the establishment of a regional forum for supporting GRT learners, which has met three times in 2021-22 for fruitful discussion and relationship building. Dates for further meetings will be announced at the start of the next academic year.

Read the research report: www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Higher-Education-Opportunities-for-Gypsy-Roma-Traveller-Young-People-in-West-Yorkshire-A-Go-Higher-West-Yorkshire-Research-Report.pdf



Understanding and meeting the needs of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic learners in West Yorkshire

2021-22 saw the publication of our in-depth research into the experiences of learners from Black, Asian and Minoritised Ethnicities.

Considering the limitations of using Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic as an overarching category, which risks making invisible the experiences of and inequalities between different ethnic groups, the research examines the experiences of young people from five distinct ethnicities: Black African, Black Caribbean, Mixed Heritage, Polish and South Asian. It then presents the findings accordingly.

In January and February 2022, the DEI team hosted a series of research briefings and CPD training to share the findings with stakeholders. These were attended by over 50 people in total. We have also used the research findings to inform activity design and delivery for learners.

Read the full report: www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/GHWY-BAME-Report.pdf

Supporting white boys from working-class backgrounds in West Yorkshire

Our research report Supporting White Boys from Working Class Backgrounds in West Yorkshire was published in early 2022. It gives insight into the attitudes and experiences of education of these learners locally.

Our series of research briefings and CPD training to support the dissemination of this research were extremely popular. Over 150 people attended one or more events in February and March 2022. We have also used the research findings to inform our work with this cohort of learners.

Read the full report: www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Supporting-white-boys-from-working-class-backgrounds-GHWY-report.pdf

If you are interested in booking a briefing on any of these research reports for your team, please contact us at ghwy@leeds.ac.uk marking it F.A.O DEI Manager



Social media strategic planning

We are excited to be working with the latest tools from Hootsuite to learn and progress our social media to meet current trends and standards.

Adopting a more strategic approach, our social media can more easily be monitored, planned and scheduled across multiple platforms with the limited resources available to achieve maximum impact.

In a similar fashion, we are currently using technology to monitor trends and conversations across websites and social media to ensure latest news within the sector is communicated both internally and externally across the partnerships. This will ensure key and accurate messages within the sector are communicated.

Beyond Care newsletter

There has been strong demand for our monthly Beyond Care newsletter, which connects those working with care experienced young people across the region with HE.

Launched in May 2021, the number of subscribers has steadily increased. These are drawn from a wide range of care services across the region, including foster carers and virtual school staff.

The spotlight feature, which showcases the support our members offer to care experienced young people, has been particularly well-received. We will continue to run it, along with some fresh content ideas, in upcoming issues.

Register to receive copies of the newsletter to your inbox: www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/what-we-do/teachers-advisors-carers/supporting-care-leavers/beyond-care-newsletter



Care Leaver Covenant refreshed

Our collaborative Care Leaver Covenant, which is aimed at care experienced young people, has become a valuable resource since being launched in 2019.

The document has been updated every year and for 2021-22 we are introducing some new features to ensure young people can continue access the latest support, information and top tips offered by our 13 members in one, easy to navigate document.

As well as including new categories of support offered by our members, we will be providing additional information about the UCAS tick box and flagging our e-learning pilot on Understanding and Supporting Care Experienced and Estranged Students.

Read the latest Care Leaver Covenant: www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/care-leaver-covenant

Capturing strategic impact in blogs

We have developed an exciting bank of blogs that capture the key assets of both Uni Connect and GHWY's core team work. This area of work has become a key focus of our Communications Group to ensure a range of evidence and impact is captured from a strategic perspective.

In order to embed Outreach Officers from member institutions, staff from HEPs now attend school / college related activities. They observe the events and create blog / vlog content. This has enhanced both our consistency in terms of blog content, but also enhanced relationships between HEI / Outreach Officers and our partner schools / colleges.

Read examples of our blogs: www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/blog

Final thoughts

Helen Sykes, Head of GHWY



Yet another year has drawn to a close that has been both challenging and rewarding in equal measures. I would like to pay tribute to and give sincere thanks to all staff – including those directly employed by GHWY and those working in member and partner organisations who support us – for the continued hard work, commitment and dedication. We couldn't do it without you.

Changes continue apace across both Access and Participation activity and the Uni Connect project, in particular the inclusion across these work-streams of a greater focus on supporting pre-16 attainment in schools for those who are in groups more likely to see differentials in outcomes. The strong partnership across the GHWY members has seen us consider our responses to these changes together, and the input that we have received across a variety of perspectives has very much benefitted our thinking. We are excited about trialling the programme of pre-16 attainment that the Uni Connect team has worked so hard to develop.

This year has also seen fantastic collaboration across greater diversity of staff from within our member institutions through our member-led networks and actions groups. These offer staff who are interested in and working on a particular area to come together to look at common goals and challenges. In particular we very much look forward to piloting, refining and rolling out for use the Disabled Learners' Transition Pack, which the Uni Connect team has led on with significant support from the GHWY core team and oversight from the Disabled Students Network.

Our Care to Go Higher CPD programme for foster carers, children's home staff and personal advisers saw its third cohort successfully graduate this year. Feedback for the CPD remains excellent, and

during 2022-23 we will be seeking further ways to build on the success of this programme and ensure it continues to reach more of the workforce involved in supporting young people with experience of the care system.

The new academic year will also see the launch of GHWY's new-look website, which will include new online resources for those working with businesses and employers, and adult learners, to showcase the huge range of higher education options available in West Yorkshire.

Across our member institutions in GHWY, we continue to see how much more we can achieve when we work together, and the value of the strength of our collaboration. We look forward to continuing to work together to reduce inequalities in access to, success in and progression from higher education, in all its forms.



Employer guide to HE

We are launching a new resource that will help businesses and employers to understand the opportunities to engage with HE providers in West Yorkshire.

Our 13 members contributed to the document, which will complement information that is available on the skills page of our website. It will include information on higher and degree apprenticeships, sustainability and green skills, and diversity and inclusive recruitment.

Launch of transition pack to support disabled students

We are developing a Disabled Learners Transition Pack to help support students with their transition to HE from FE.

The downloadable resource is currently being processed by the University of Leeds Accessibility Team to ensure content is suitable for all learners. It will be made available on our website in the autumn.

Streamlined website launched

The new version of our website will be officially launched in November 2022.

Stakeholder feedback from internal staff, partner institutions, students and outreach professionals identified the need to streamline the structure of the website in order to create standardised templates to enhance user journey and aesthetic.

The new website has been completely rebuilt to ensure that, where possible, accessibility standards are met and resources are categorised effectively to improve the user experience. Our e-learning platform has been redesigned to meet industry standards with advanced reporting and improved user journeys.

Piloting collaborative marketing campaigns

Our Communications Group has developed a new collaborative campaign process to ensure effective delivery of social media and marketing content in relation to key stages of the academic year. This has been designed to support student educational journeys by raising awareness of key information related to HE progression.

Launch e-learning for staff in HE on care-experienced and estranged students

Following the successful pilot of an e-learning for HE staff on Understanding and supporting care-experienced and estranged students, we will produce a final version. This will implement feedback from the pilot participants; update it with sector changes, such as the UCAS tick box, and share across the partnership.

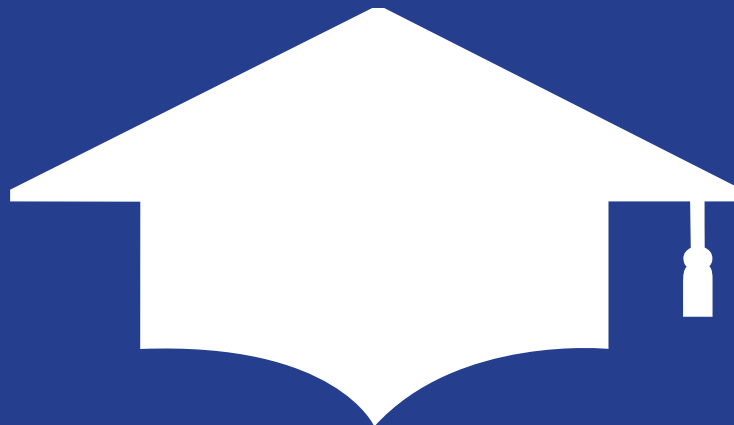
Outputs for four under-represented networks

The four under-represented networks we have established will each produce at least one output. The member-led groups will work towards them collaboratively. As well as launching and evaluation a HE transition pack for disabled students, we hope to undertake a systematic review that synthesises existing research on Black, Asian and Minoritised Ethnic Students.



Find out more about our work: www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk





GO HIGHER

West Yorkshire

Bradford College



University of
Huddersfield
Inspiring global professionals

