



Working Together for Access and Success in Higher Education: Teachers' and Advisers' Conference

Tuesday, 8 July 2025, 9.30am to 3.30pm, University of Bradford



Programme (morning)

Time	Location	Session
09:30 to 09:55	Richmond atrium arrive, registration and networking in Horton D Wing	Registration and networking (tea/coffee/pastries)
09:55 to 10:00	n/a	Time to move between rooms/buildings
10:00 to 10:10	Horton Barn Lecture Theatre	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">Kirsty Lunn (Outreach and Recruitment Manager, University of Bradford) to cover the housekeeping and intro speakers for this partHelen Sykes (Head of GHWY, Go Higher West Yorkshire), to cover about GHWY for 5 minutes
10:10 to 10:30	Horton Barn Lecture Theatre	Keynote – Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture <p>Rhiannon Hannon (Director of Creative Engagement and Participation, Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture) and Andra Chelcea (Cultural Learning Manager, Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture)</p>
10:30 to 10:35	n/a	Time to move between rooms/buildings
10:35 to 11:10	Breakout rooms, Horton	Breakout session 1: Getting into Higher Education (HE) – a choice of:
	Horton D0.23	A – Thinking outside the HE timeline: Clearing and direct applications – how students can enter HE <p>Chelsea Redshaw (Outreach and Recruitment Officer, University of Bradford) and Felicity Crowley-Atkinson (Admissions Officer, University of Bradford)</p>
	Horton D0.24	B – Going Higher in West Yorkshire: Studying at an HE in Further Education or specialist institution <p>Sam Higgs (Uni Connect Outreach Officer, University Centre Leeds)</p>
	Horton D0.26	C – From free flow to structure: Changes to UCAS Personal Statements and guidance on use of AI <p>Helen Linyard (Deputy Head of Admissions, University of Leeds)</p>

11:10 to 11:25	Horton D Wing	Break
11:25 to 11:30	n/a	Time to move between rooms/buildings
11:30 to 12:10	Breakout rooms, Horton	Attendee feed in – your chance to input into questions related to HE access and success <p>(You will be allocated to a group/room on the day)</p>
	Horton D0.23	Group A Facilitator: Matt Elliott (Education Outreach Lead Officer (Yorkshire and the Humber and UK Nations), University of Leeds)
	Horton D0.26	Group B Facilitator: James Rew (Access and Participation Manager, Leeds Conservatoire)
12:10 to 12:15	n/a	Time to move between rooms/buildings
12:15 to 12:55	Horton Barn Lecture Theatre	Student Panel: what I wish I'd known about HE <p>Session where students present and audience Q&A</p> <p>Chair: Ammarah Pandor (Access and Participation Lead, Leeds Trinity University)</p>
12:55 to 13:00	n/a	Time to move between rooms/buildings
13:00 to 14:00	Student Central	Lunch, marketplace and networking
14:00 to 14:05	n/a	Time to move between rooms/buildings

Programme (afternoon)

14:05 to 14:35	Horton Barn Lecture Theatre	Spotlight session on GHWY Race Equity Network Dr Shames Maskeen (Senior Lecturer in Psychology, Leeds Trinity University)
14:35 to 14:40	n/a	Time to move between rooms/buildings
14:40 to 15:15	Breakout rooms, Horton	Breakout session 2: Access to and Support in HE for under-represented groups – a choice of:
	Horton D0.23	A – From Education Health Care Plans to Disabled Students Allowance? Supporting Disabled Students Rob Caswell (Disability Service Manager, University of Bradford) and Charlotte Graves (Preparation for Adulthood Coach, Kirklees College)
	Horton D0.24	B – Support at all stages of HE: Supporting Care-Experienced and Estranged Students Rob Scott (Training Delivery Officer, Go Higher West Yorkshire) and Susan Darlington (Partnership Assistant, Go Higher West Yorkshire)
	Horton D0.26	C – From a Network to West Yorkshire Boys’ Impact Hub: Supporting Males on Free School Meals James Rew (Access and Participation Manager, Leeds Conservatoire)
15:15 to 15:20	n/a	Time to move between rooms
15:20 to 15:30	Horton Barn Lecture Theatre	Closing remarks Sarah Thomas (Access & Widening Participation Manager, Leeds Beckett University and Chair of the GHWY Access and Participation Strategy Group)

Go Higher West Yorkshire - a partnership of 13 HE providers

Speaker bios and photos

Welcome and about Go Higher West Yorkshire



Helen Sykes is Head of Go Higher West Yorkshire (GHWY) - a collaborative partnership of 13 Higher Education (HE) providers. Helen is also Co-Chair of the GHWY Care-Experienced

and Estranged Students Network, and an Independent Visitor in her own time. She is passionate about supporting people in West Yorkshire to be equipped to make informed decisions about HE.

Keynote Speakers: UK Bradford City of Culture



Rhiannon Hannon is the Director of Creative Engagement and Participation for Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture and is leading the participation programme with communities, our

Cultural Learning Programme and young people and has responsibility for Our Patch, our Cultural City of Sanctuary work and our widening access programme for people with Serious Mental Illness. She is passionate about widening participation to the arts and previous experience includes 13 years at Theatre Royal Wakefield as Associate Director: Participation, Theatre Director at Mind the Gap. Rhiannon is also a Theatre Director, Facilitator and Winston Churchill Fellow.

Andra Chelcea is Cultural Learning Manager at Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture.

Morning breakout sessions – back of lanyard will indicate your chosen/allocated session:

Thinking outside the Higher Education timeline: Clearing and direct applications – how students can enter HE

Chelsea Redshaw Chelsea Redshaw is Outreach and Recruitment Officer at University of Bradford. She is Co-Chair of GHWY Care-Experienced and Estranged Students Network that brings together staff from across GHWY’s partners to support care-experienced young people.

Felicity Crowley-Atkinson is Admissions Officer at University of Bradford. Having worked in the Higher Education (HE) industry for a number of years, Felicity is a primary source of advice and guidance for complex admissions issues, policies and procedures.

Going Higher in West Yorkshire: Studying at an Higher Education in Further Education or specialist institution

Sam Higgs has been working as an Outreach Officer with Go Higher West Yorkshire for nearly 2 years and before that was working for another Uni Connect partnership in Essex. She has an undergraduate degree in Language Studies and worked in a couple of different job sectors before returning to university to complete my PGCE in Secondary Education. Sam has continued to work in education, in an Education Centre for children and Primary Education, before moving into an Outreach Role in HE.

From free flow to structure: changes to UCAS Personal Statements and guidance on use of AI



Helen Linyard has worked within HE for over 20 years, mainly within student recruitment. Her current responsibilities are in taught admissions for both undergraduate and postgraduate

applicants. She is proud to work for an institution that is committed to widening access to HE to students from a range of backgrounds.

Attendee feed in – your chance to input into/discuss key questions related to Higher Education access and success, back of your lanyard will indicate whether you are Group A or Group B:



Group A Facilitator bio: **Matt Elliott** first started working in the Education Outreach team at the University of Leeds in 2017. He works as an Education Outreach Lead Officer with responsibility

for managing their school relationships within Yorkshire and the Humber and the UK Nations. He is particularly passionate about supporting widening participation into Higher Education and to support students make an informed decision regarding Higher Education through our outreach activity.



Group B Facilitator bio: **James Rew** is the Access and Participation Manager at Leeds Conservatoire. With over 10 years' experience in the education sector, James has worked across all phases, from primary through to HE. James has a particular interest in supporting working-class learners to succeed in HE and is currently the chair of the West Yorkshire Boys' Impact Hub.

GHWY Student Panel



Chair of Student Panel: **Ammarah Pandor** is the Access and Participation Lead at Leeds Trinity University with a background rooted in cross-sector collaboration focused on improving social mobility. As an award-winning school governor and GHWY Board member, she is committed to driving inclusive leadership and ensuring that every student has the support and resources to succeed.

Spotlight session on supporting HE transition for Black Asian and Minoritised Ethnic Students



Dr Shames Maskeen is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology specialising in widening participation, intersectionality and cultural change. His research focusses on tackling racial inequities and the intersections of class, culture, religion and gender experienced by racialised minorities in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Dedicated to anti-racist leadership, Shames focusses on turning theory into action through applied research to create an equitable future for young people.

Afternoon breakout session - back of the lanyard will indicate your chosen/allocated session:

From Education Health Care Plans to Disabled Students Allowance? Supporting Disabled Students

Having worked in Primary, Secondary, Further Education and Higher Education in disability support, **Rob Caswell** has a deep passion for supporting disabled students. It is his aim to ensure every disabled students' journey here at Bradford University is of the highest standard and that they are empowered to reach the positive outcomes and achieve the goals they want to achieve.

Charlotte Glaves is the Preparation for Adulthood Coach at Kirklees College. Charlotte works closely with EHCP learners and their parents/carers to support a smooth transition into adulthood. This includes delivering tailored interventions, travel training, and outreach support.

Support at all stages of HE: Supporting Care-Experienced and Estranged Students

Susan Darlington has worked in various roles across HE for over a decade. She is currently GHWY Partnership Assistant.



Rob Scott is Training Delivery Officer for Go Higher West Yorkshire (GHWY), specialising in delivering the GHWY Care To Go Higher CPD-certified course.

From a Network to West Yorkshire Boys' Impact Hub: Supporting Males on Free School Meals

Please see page 10 for James Rew's bio

Closing remarks

Sarah Thomas is Access and Widening Participation Manager at Leeds Beckett University. She works with schools and colleges across the region to encourage students to aspire to Higher Education and provide support and guidance in their transition to HE. For the academic year 2024-25, she is Chair of the GHWY Access and Participation Strategy Group.





GO HIGHER

WEST YORKSHIRE

Bradford College

 UNIVERSITY of
BRADFORD

 **UNIVERSITY
CENTRE**
Calderdale College

University of
HUDDERSFIELD
Inspiring global professionals

 **KIRKLEES
COLLEGE**

 **LEEDS
CONSERVATOIRE**

 **UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

 **LEEDS
ARTS
UNIVERSITY**
1846

 **LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY**

 **Leeds
College of
Building**

 **University
Centre Leeds**

 **Leeds Trinity
University**

 **University Centre**
at the Heart of Yorkshire Education Group
