



Championing Diversity in Higher Education: Teachers' and Advisers' Conference

Friday, 10 July, 9.15am to 2.45pm, Leeds College
of Building (South Bank campus)

A collaborative conference by Go Higher West Yorkshire



About Go Higher West Yorkshire

Go Higher West Yorkshire (GHWY) is a consortium of 13 Higher Education (HE) providers in West Yorkshire working collaboratively on access and success to HE. We aim to reduce inequity for under-represented groups and take an evidence-based approach to our work. You can find out about us and the work we do in this area by [visiting the GHWY website](#).

Welcome

We are pleased that you will be joining us for GHWY's Teachers' and Advisers' Conference, which is aimed at anyone supporting informed choices in young people. This conference has been organised in collaboration with our 13 HE partners. Now in its third year, the conference brings together a diverse range of speakers; a marketplace of partner stalls; and commuter students on a student panel to champion the diversity of HE in West Yorkshire.

Front cover image: Matt Elliott, Education Outreach Lead Officer (Yorkshire and the Humber and UK Nations), University of Leeds, pictured at GHWY's Teachers' and Advisers' Conference 2025

Getting here by public transport, bike, walking or by car

By public transport

The nearest train station is Leeds train station. It is quicker/easier to exit at the Southern Concourse exit rather than the main exit. This concourse exit can be found by the sign for platform 14-15 but instead of going down to the stairs to the platform continue straight onto the barriers. After the barriers, you can use the stairs or lift to exit at the ground level. You can then use maps for directions to Leeds College of Building that is about a 15 minute walk.

There are buses in Leeds that go to South Bank or get one of the many buses to City Centre and walk from there. Plan your journey by bus using West Yorkshire Metro journey planner.

By foot or bike

The Leeds College of Building South Bank Campus is approximately a 20 minute walk or a 7 minute cycle from Leeds city centre. There are cycle lanes available in some areas of Leeds.

Parking information

There is limited parking available at the venue and it is first come first serve. You may want to use Park and Ride if you are coming by car with regular Park and Ride to the city centre.

Buildings

The conference will take place across South Bank 1 (day will start and end here so please report to building below on arrival) and South Bank 2 (attendee feed in session and lunch).



Leeds College of Building, South Bank Campus

Where to report on the day

Attendees, marketplace and morning speakers

Please report to South Bank 1 Main Reception on arrival. Any partners doing a marketplace should arrive by 8.30am. For any attendees and speakers, arrival and registration is from 9.15am to 9.45am. There will be refreshments (tea/coffee and pastries) provided in the morning (lunch is also provided).

Afternoon speakers and commuter student panel

The location you report to will depend on the time you arrive. All speakers should arrive by 12.30pm and report to South Bank 2 – if the first building you come to is South Bank 1 then you can ask for directions at reception. If you are on the student panel, then please arrive between 1 to 1.15pm and report to South Bank 1. All students are welcome to join lunch from 12pm and head to South Bank 2 for this. If you are speaking in the afternoon, you are welcome to join us all day from the morning.

Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi will be available on the day. If your organisation uses eduroam then you will be able to connect to eduroam on the day. Guest access to Wi-Fi is available on the day for those that do not have access to eduroam, please pick up a code from the registration desk on the day. Note we are not able to share this code in advance as it is for use/available on the day itself.

Photography

We will be taking photographs on the day of the conference. If you do not wish to have your photo taken, please make yourself known to the organiser upon arrival at the conference.

Accessibility, including quiet room

Accessible parking: there are accessible parking spaces available next to South Bank 1 / main reception. We are not able to reserve these. If you have indicated you need accessible parking at the point of registration, then the organiser will be in touch with more information.

Quiet room: we understand conferences can be overwhelming. If you need a quiet room, this is located within the Resource Centre on Floor 2 of South Bank 1 building. This quiet room is not for meetings or phone calls; if you need a space for meetings/calls, just ask at reception.

Lifts: lifts are available in both South Bank 1 and 2. It is important priority is given to those with accessibility requirements that need to use lift (for everyone else stairs are available).

Accessible toilets: accessible toilets are available on every floor in South Bank 1 and South Bank 2. For South Bank 2, we are based on the ground floor only so no need to use the lift.



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) pictured at GHWY's Teachers' and Advisers' Conference 2025

Programme (morning)

Time	Location	Session
09:15 to 09:45	South Bank 1 Atrium	Registration, networking and marketplace - visit our partners at stalls (tea/coffee/pastries)
09:45 to 09:50	South Bank 1 Atrium	Welcome and housekeeping Rob Smith (Head of Partnerships & Skills, Leeds College of Building)
09:50 to 09:55	South Bank 1 Atrium	About Go Higher West Yorkshire (GHWY) Helen Sykes (Head of GHWY)
09:55 to 10:15	South Bank 1 Atrium	Keynote speaker Samantha Vickers, Chief Executive Officer, Batley Multi Academy Trust
10:15 to 10:20	n/a	Time to move to breakout rooms
10:20 to 10:55	South Bank 1 classrooms	Breakout session 1: Championing diversity through supporting HE access
	Room 3, Floor 1	A - Clearing and how to support learner with it Natasha Parker-Wood (Schools and Colleges Liaison Officer, University of Huddersfield)
	Room 4, Floor 1	B - Recent changes to UCAS personal statements Chelsea Redshaw (Outreach and Recruitment Officer, University of Bradford)
	Room 17, Floor 2	C - Supporting learners to apply for the Disabled Students Allowance and access HE Carly Miller (Disability Co-ordinator, University of Leeds)
	Room 18, Floor 2	D - Insight into an HE-in-FE institution Chris Tunningley (Assistant Principal - Apprenticeships and HE, Leeds College of Building)
10:55 to 11:10	South Bank 1 Atrium	Break (tea/coffee) and marketplace - come chat to our HE partners at their stalls
11:10 to 11:15	n/a	Time to move between buildings
11:15 to 11:50	South Bank 2, ground floor classroom, room split into 3	Attendee feed in - your chance to input into questions related to HE access and success (Attendees will be allocated to a group on the day)
	tbc	Group A facilitator: Maria O'Sullivan (Senior Project Manager, GHWY)
	tbc	Group B facilitator: tbc
	tbc	Group C facilitator: tbc

Programme (afternoon)

Time	Location	Session
11:50 to 12:50	South Bank 2	Lunch and networking
12:50 to 12:55	n/a	Time to move between buildings
12:55 to 13:30	South Bank 1 classrooms	Breakout session 2: Championing diversity by showcasing specific under-represented groups
	Room 3, Floor 1	A - Black, Asian and Minoritised Ethnic Students Shames Maskeen (Associate Director of The Race Institute and Senior Lecturer in Psychology, Leeds Trinity University)
	Room 4, Floor 1	B - Care-experienced and estranged students Susan Darlington (Partnership Assistant, GHWY) Rob Scott (Training Delivery Officer, GHWY)
	Room 17, Floor 2	C - Males on Free School Meals / Lads at the Back Nathan Martin (Lead Youth Worker, The Youth Association) Jody Poole (Youth Project Co-ordinator, The Youth Association and Vice-Chair of the West Yorkshire Boys' Impact Hub)
	Room 18, Floor 2	D - Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showmen, Boater Louise Crabtree (Educational Engagement Lead Officer - STEM, University of Leeds) Sarah Finnigan (Education Outreach Lead Officer - North West and Isle of Man, University of Leeds) Charlotte James (Leeds Team Leader, Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Exchange (Leeds GATE)) Rachel Trafford (Communications Team Leader, Leeds GATE)
13:30 to 13:35	n/a	Move to atrium from breakout rooms
13:35 to 14:35	South Bank 1 Atrium	Student panel - championing diversity of commuter students studying HE in West Yorkshire Chair of panel - Chelsea Redshaw (Outreach and Recruitment Officer, University of Bradford)
14:35 to 14:45	South Bank 1 Atrium	Closing remarks Helen Sykes (Head of GHWY)

[Go Higher West Yorkshire - a partnership of 13 HE providers](#)

Speaker bios and photos

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 Speaker: title tbc



Samantha Vickers is Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Batley Multi Academy Trust. She is driven by a singular conviction: that a high-quality education is the ultimate lever for social mobility. She believes that regardless of a child's background or starting point, school should be the place where doors are unlocked and futures are forged. To Sam, schools are more than academic institutions; they are the "social glue" that binds and strengthens our communities. As CEO, Sam defines her role as Chief Enabling Officer. Her mission is to eradicate barriers and catalyse excellence across every school within the Trust. She champions a "one

big school" philosophy—viewing the Trust's various locations not as separate entities, but as a single family of classrooms connected by a shared vision.

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

Clearing and how to support learners with it



Natasha Parker-Wood has worked in education since graduating in 2015 and has, since then, gained a MA in Education. In her current role at the University of Huddersfield, she works in the team responsible for organising and facilitating the Clearing Helpline - supporting 1000s of students on/after results day. She is responsible for regularly presenting sessions to Year 12, Year 13 and their parents detailing the UCAS process and is a Clearing Supervisor for the universities' Helpline, where she supports 100s of university staff members on in-depth clearing enquiries.

Recent changes to UCAS Personal Statements including guidance on use of AI



Chelsea Redshaw has worked at the University of Bradford for nearly 5 years. Within her role she supports potential students through the UCAS cycle as well as oversees pre entry support for care leavers and estranged students. In past projects, she has taken the lead on managing all student ambassador recruitment and training as well as monitoring of these students.

Supporting learners to apply for Disabled Students Allowance and access Higher Education



Carly Miller has been a disability practitioner since 2021. Carly is also disabled but did not know how to access support when she was at university so is keen to help future generations.

Insight into an HE-in-FE institution



With 37 years of experience in the Construction and Engineering sector, **Chris Tunningley** began his career in 1989 as an apprentice at British Gas. From there, he progressed through a series of technical and leadership roles, including Technical Engineer, Quality Engineer, and Technical Support Manager. In 2008, he joined Leeds College of Building as a Lecturer in Building Services Engineering within the HE Faculty. Since then, he has developed through a variety of academic and leadership positions, ultimately progressing to Assistant Principal.

Alongside his professional journey, Chris has completed both a Degree and a Masters, reinforcing his commitment to ongoing personal and professional development. He is a strong advocate for apprenticeships and lifelong learning, firmly believing in their power to create opportunity, build capability, and shape successful careers.

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

Black Asian and Minoritised Ethnic Students



Dr Shames Maskeen is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology specialising in widening participation, intersectionality and cultural change. He was the driving force in Leeds Trinity University becoming the first University in Yorkshire to achieve the Race Equality Charter award. His research focusses on tackling racial inequities and the intersections of class, culture, religion and gender experienced by racialised minorities in Higher Education and beyond.

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 the Training Delivery Officer for GHWY. His remit involves the delivery of the Care To Go Higher CPD programme.

Males on Free School Meals / Lads at the Back project



Nathan Martin is a lead youth worker from The Youth Association. They're a South and West Yorkshire based charity, who deliver a range of programmes. Nathan's roles include being lead worker for the Future SELPH mental health through youth work programme, delivering on the Future Man (positive masculinity) programme in colleges across Leeds, Wakefield and Barnsley, and leading on the Lads at the Back peer research project alongside GHWY and Luminare Education.



Jody Poole: The Youth Association have been delivering gender-based work since their formation in 1904 and now deliver initiatives around positive masculinity and empowerment of women and girls. Future Man helps men to have a healthy sense of masculinity, experiencing increased life satisfaction and reducing chauvinism and misogyny. Their young women's empowerment work seeks to increase gender consciousness and ability to challenge societal norms.

Gypsy Traveller Roma Showmen and Boater (GTRSB)

Louise Crabtree's role in access and outreach at the University of Leeds primarily focusses on supporting young people to explore pathways and careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). She is also one of the project leads for the GTRSB into HE pledge, an initiative to ensure staff and students from the Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, Showmen and Boater communities are welcomed, recognised and supported at their institution.



Sarah Finnigan oversees the University of Leeds Access and Outreach work in the North West of the UK. As part of her role, Sarah also manages their partnership with the charity IntoUniversity and work on the University of Leeds commitment to the GTRSB into HE Pledge.

Charlotte James is Leeds Team Leader at Leeds GATE and also part of the Gypsy Traveller community. Charlotte has a passion to help build opportunities for young members within the community.

Rachel Trafford Leeds Gypsy and Traveller Exchange, known as Leeds GATE, is a brave and creative members organisation here for Gypsies and Travellers and improving quality of life across West Yorkshire.

Always guided by our values, they support families and individuals at all stages in their lives. Leeds GATE are a member led organisation, where their members take pride in contributing as equals at all levels, making decisions together and empowering each other. We challenge racism and take action on inequality.



GO HIGHER

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BRADFORD

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CENTRE
Calderdale College

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Huddersfield
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Centre Leeds

 Leeds Trinity
University

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