



**Next Steps
South West**

**END OF
PHASE 2
REPORT
2017-21**

Overview [4]

The NSSW Partnership [5]

UniConnect [6]

NSWW Outreach Hub [8]

NSSW Practitioners [10]

Student Ambassadors [11]

Targeting Young People [12]

The Next Steps South West Programme [13]

Evaluating Our Impact [16]

Barriers to Higher Education [18-19]

Phase 2 Progression Framework [20]

Theory of Change [21]

NSSW Outputs and Impact Evaluation [23]

Careerpilot Sessions [24]

KS5 / Level 3 HE Subject-Specific Masterclasses [25]

KS5 / Level 3 HE Workshops [26]

Y10 - Y11 Level 3 Options Workshops [27]

Articulatory Programmes [28]

MADE Training [29]

Case Study - G7 Reporters Challenge [30]

Communications [32]

NSSW Showcase [33]

External Evaluation [35]

OfS Report Highlights [36]

Ipsos Mori and I-M CPP Case Study [37]

ISC Survey [38]

HEAT Tracking and Strobe [39]

Where next? [40]

Welcome to our End of Phase 2 Report



As Chair of Next Steps South West I am delighted that we have the opportunity to reflect on the first two phases of the project. Whilst the latter part of Phase 2 has presented some unexpected challenges for delivering outreach in schools and colleges, our commitment to widening participation has clearly remained strong. It is evident that, through perseverance and innovation, continued support has been provided where it is most needed, and that higher education continues to be a viable, inclusive destination of choice for under-represented students in our region.

Prof Julian Chaudhuri
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
University of Plymouth (NSSW Lead Institution)
NSSW Chair Nov 2019 - Nov 2021



The NSSW partnership brings together fourteen regional providers of higher education, and is testament to what can be achieved through diversity of approach, enthusiastic collaboration and goodwill. Next Steps South West supports and complements the University of Exeter’s widening participation strategy and aligns with and informs national policy, guidance, current research and best practice. As Chair during the pre-Covid academic year, I was proud to support the project whilst it was becoming fully embedded and inspired by the learner stories personally told at the Next Steps South West Showcase. The partnership has made measurable differences for the students with whom we have worked: raising aspirations and expectations for the future; and, increasing both awareness of and entry into higher education.

Prof Timothy Quine
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
University of Exeter
NSSW Chair May 2018 - Oct 2019

OVERVIEW



I am delighted to share this report and reflect on the successes and highlights of Next Steps South West since its early beginnings, it feels like we have come a long way!

The consortium continues its now well-established commitment to collaboration, and has strengthened the foundations established in the first phase. We have welcomed Yeovil College as an additional member and our presence in partner institutions has contributed to raising the profile of widening participation across the region. The creation and upskilling of a workforce in this field is testament to the influence of NSSW.

Phase 2 also saw the creation of the Outreach Hub and NSSW has extended the reach of collaborative, partnership working to include a number of regional stakeholder who jointly share some of the Uni Connect goals. We have been particularly successfully in working closely with the LEP Careers Hubs for Heart of the South West and Cornwall & Isles of Scilly.

We have engaged with a truly impressive number of students and our evaluation shows conclusive evidence of the impact of our interventions. The NSSW Outputs & Impact Evaluation chapter provides a snapshot of the difference that we are making to our target audience. This is complemented by evidence of increased progression to higher education from this sector, as highlighted in the External Evaluation chapter which includes excerpts from the Office for Students national evaluation, as well as analysis of NSSW HESA data, UCAS data and our Ipsos-Mori research findings.

Young people, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, have had supremely difficult time over the past couple of years. We would like to think that our continued virtual presence and exceptional communications provision have gone some way to supporting them.

I believe I speak on behalf of the whole team, past and present, in expressing how proud we are of our achievements. I would like to thank all stakeholders for your continued support and commitment to NSSW.

Charlotte True
Manager, Next Steps South West

THE NSSW PARTNERSHIP

UniConnect



Uni Connect (formerly NCOP, the National collaborative Outreach programme) is funded by the Office for Students, and brings together 29 partnerships of universities, colleges and other local partners to offer activities, advice and information on the benefits and realities of going to university or college.

Phase 2 aims were to:

- Reduce the gap in higher education participation between the most and least represented groups
- Support young people to make well-informed decisions about their future education
- Support effective and impactful local collaboration by higher education providers working together with schools, colleges, employers and other partners
- Contribute to a stronger evidence base around 'what works' in higher education outreach and strengthen evaluation practice in the sector.



Truro & Penwith College Silversmithing workshop

NSSW

Next Steps South West is the regional delivery partnership, covering Cornwall, Devon and Somerset, with the University of Plymouth as the lead institution. As one of the larger partnerships, we have fourteen HE and FE partners:



Our Partners



**NSSW
Outreach Hub**

The Office for Students launched the Outreach Hub element in Phase 2, outlining an expectation that partnerships would build upon models of strategic collaborative activity through understanding the landscape of educational disadvantage, careers advice provision and higher level skills needs in the area.

“Working strategically under the NSSW Outreach Hub remit has enabled us to work with an additional 4 local schools in North Devon.”

Christine Ridgeon, IO Petroc
NSSW ISC

Through the creation of the Outreach Hub and governing steering group, NSSW worked collaboratively with these additional regional stakeholders in Phase 2:

- Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Careers Hub and Enterprise Advisor Network (CEC and LEP)
- Heart of the South West Careers Hub and Enterprise Advisor Network (CEC and LEP)
- The National Citizen Service
- West Somerset Opportunity Area
- Cornwall County Council, Devon County Council and Somerset County Council
- Plymouth City Council
- Exeter City Council
- Cornwall Education Business Partnership



THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY



Cornwall Education Business Partnership



SOMERSETworks
Developing skills • Improving futures



University Centre Somerset Media Makeup workshop

NSSW Practitioners

There is wide-spread evidence of sector growth and expansion of the widening participation culture due to the Uni Connect programme and also the Next Steps South West staffing model. Niche expertise has been developed within the Management, Evaluation and Communications Teams.

The network of Institutional Officers, hosted at our FE and HE partners and supported by the County Teams, has also thrived, with many moving into permanent positions to support institutional HE outreach work.

"Being able to embed a NSSW Institutional Officer within Yeovil College University Centre has allowed us to increase WP capacity, and supported us to make well-informed and evidence-based decisions around how to most effectively implement a staffing model to achieve our APP targets. "

Sian Deasy, HE Manager,
Yeovil College University Centre

"As an outreach officer I gained experience of managing collaborative projects and building productive relationships with schools, FE colleges and Universities in the South-West. This prepared me for the additional responsibility of becoming the Cornwall Team Leader for NSSW."

Nick Worley, Cornwall Team Leader,
former Cornwall College IO

"Aligning with NSSW enabled us to add value to our Easter Revision outreach programme, through extra staffing and funding. This collaboration resulted in valuable experience and sharing of best practice across the teams."

Dr Roger Pitt, Head of Student Recruitment,
Plymouth Marjon University

In-School Coordinators

Similarly, our In-School Coordinator provision has contributed to an expanding workforce of key influencers, upskilled in their knowledge and practical experience of HE outreach and widening participation.

"I have negotiated an aspirations role and redirected my career. It has enabled me to work with staff at different educational providers and develop a good support network."

NSSW ISC

Student Ambassadors

Students Ambassador provision has gone from strength to strength through the NSSW partnership, with new schemes successfully established at partner colleges. Student Ambassadors from across the partnership contribute to our blended outreach offer through online chat on the NSSW Unibuddy platform.

Students are able to connect with our target audience as relatable role models:

"Many of our students think that people like them 'do not do uni' and meeting people like them who are doing it has been amazing for them".

NSSW ISC



Not only have they provided an excellent opportunity for collaboration, they have also brought extra capacity to delivery teams, whilst developing their own transferable skills, boosting their CVs and enhancing their own capabilities:

"Working for NSSW as a Student Ambassador for the last 3 years has helped me develop and enhance an array of skills in a variety of areas. Most notably, I have developed more confidence in myself and my work, especially public speaking, presenting and communication. This has helped me to secure two placements relevant to my degree last academic year and to gain work experience within the NSSW Communications Team this year."

Caroline Millan,
NSSW Student Ambassador

Targeting young people

In Phases 1 & 2, we targeted our work towards students, based on their postcodes. Schools and colleges were also required to identify mid-high achievers from this cohort. We would like to thank our target schools and colleges for their high level of cooperation in providing this data.

This approach to targeting has received a mixed response. It requires extensive data processing and it is often logistically difficult to work exclusively with target students.

"Being able to select target students who are disadvantaged has enabled me to provide more cultural capital in their lives."

NSSW ISC

Marine Academy Plymouth is one of a number of schools and colleges with a high target student profile, and has been a key beneficiary of NSSW engagement in Phases 1 & 2:

Number of contact hours

72

Total number of activities

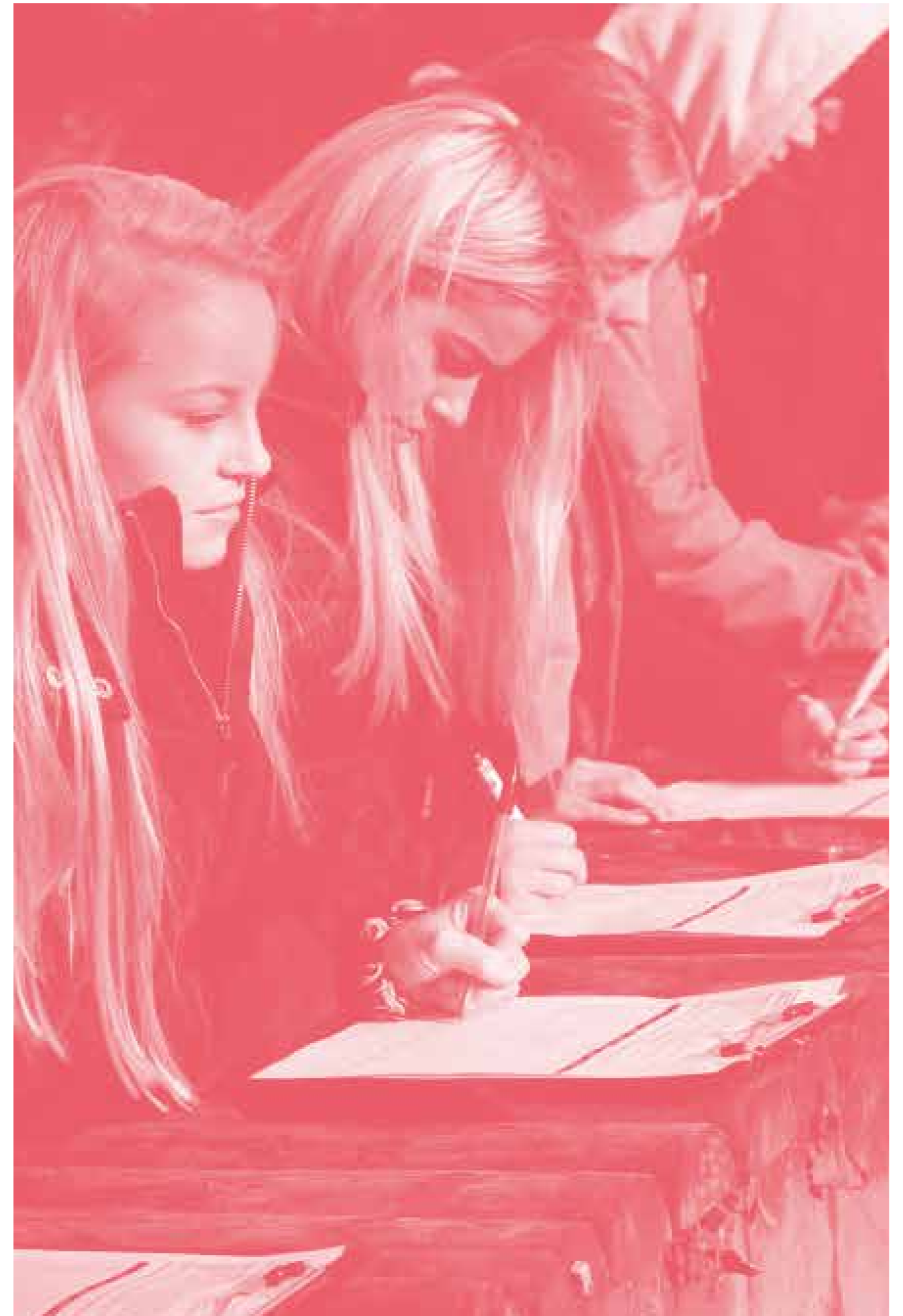
265

Total number of students that have attended NSSW activities

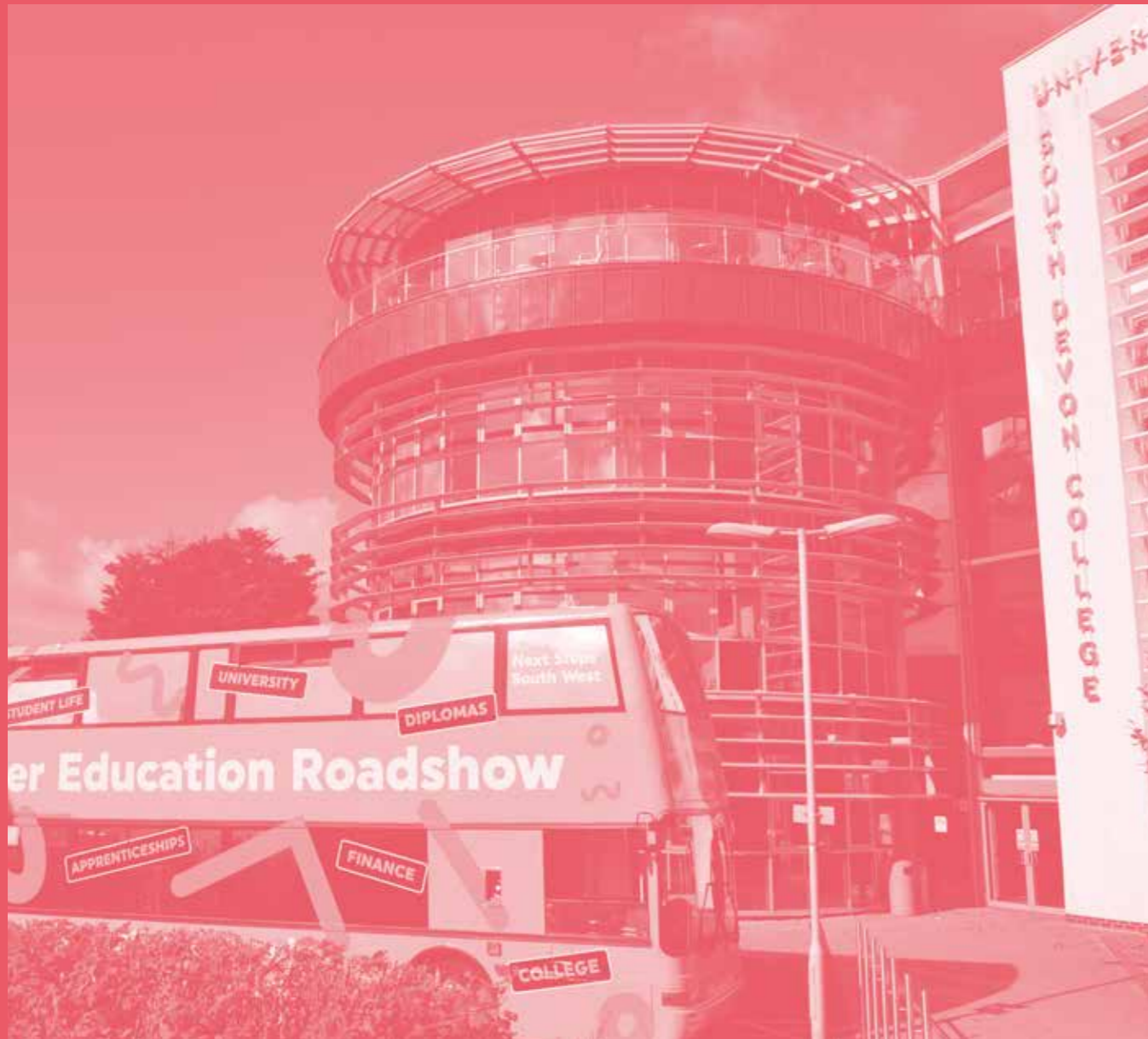
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"We have worked closely with NSSW to achieve our ambition of ensuring every child has the opportunity to attend university when they leave. NSSW experiences enable our students to believe that university could be for them and not just for more financially advantaged children. Our partnership with NSSW is highly valued and crucial for the school to ensure that our children get the same opportunities. 78% of our Year 13s have progressed into HE in September 2021."

Leigh Withers
Principal, Marine Academy Plymouth



Students attending a masterclass in Zoology with Cornwall College at Newquay Zoo



University Centre South Devon, South Devon College



Animal Management at University Centre Somerset, Bridgwater and Taunton College

THE NEXT STEPS SOUTH WEST PROGRAMME

Evaluating our impact

The overarching aims of the NCOP/ Uni Connect programme in Phase 2 was to reduce the gap in higher education participation between the most and least represented groups.

It is not yet possible to evaluate the success of the programme, and the Office for Students has commented that: "It is still too soon to analyse the applications to higher education of learners who had the opportunity to engage with the Uni Connect programme in a sustained and progressive way from year 9 to year 13 as the programme intends". (OfS, May 2021, see also p35.)

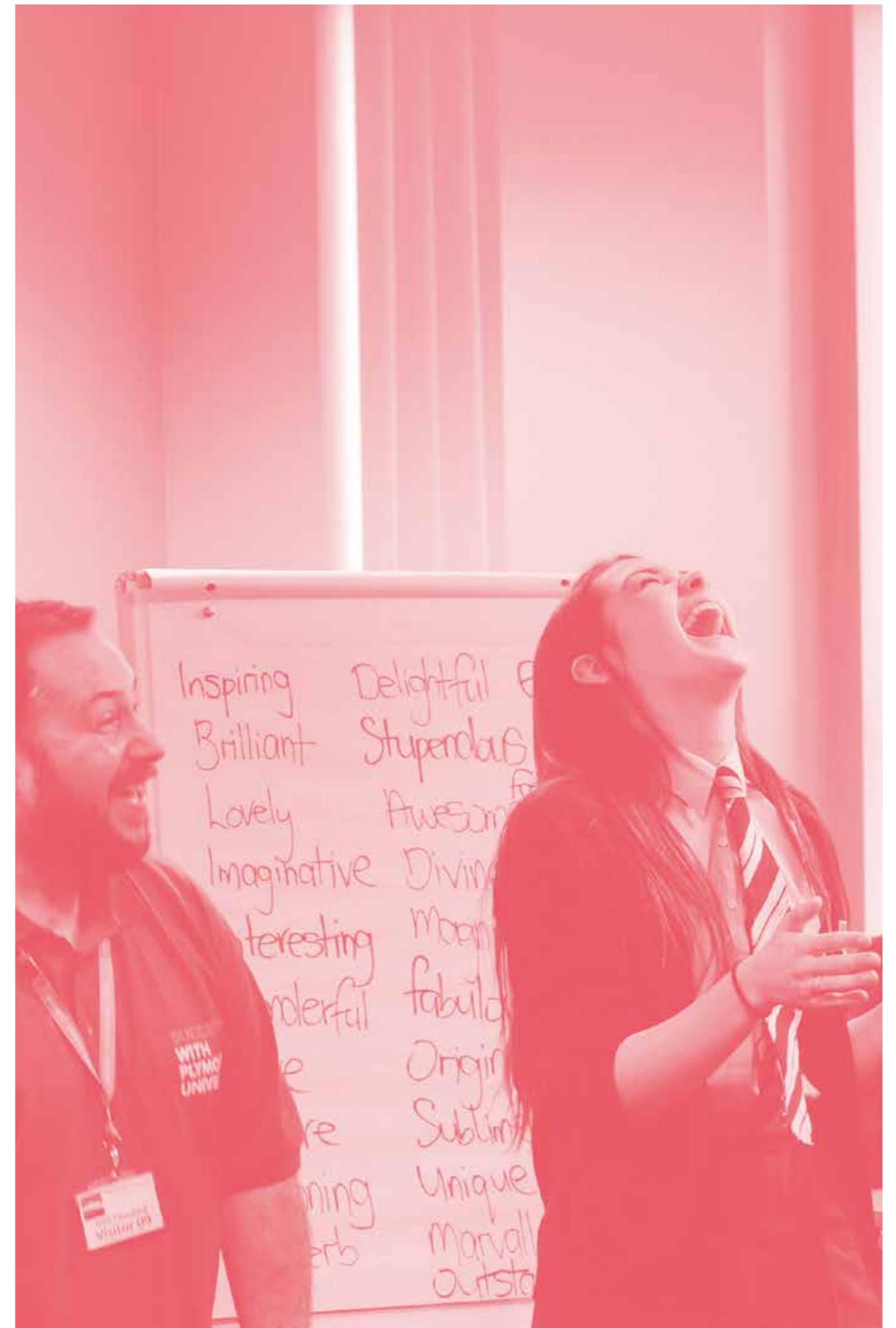
Tracking of NSSW students into HE demonstrates longer term success (see p39 for interim results).

In the shorter term, we evaluate proxy measures of the distance travelled against the known barriers to HE progression, detailed in this chapter. Much of the expected impact of our programmes will be associated with changes in the

perceptions of our target students. This may reflect attitudinal changes, for example improvements in self-confidence, self-belief and determination, or improvements in soft skills such as performance at interview or the development of transferable skills.

The NSSW Theory of Change (p21) demonstrates how we aim to make incremental changes through sustained and progressive outreach with target students from Year 9 through to Year 13. This conceptual framework demonstrates how we cumulatively address the 'problem of under-representation of disadvantaged groups in HE' to culminate in achieving the long term desired outcome of 'an increase in the number of disadvantaged students in HE'.

Evidence of impact for our core offer is presented as infographics in the Impact Evaluation section.



SKILLS

LACK OF SOFT OR TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

KNOWLEDGE

LACK OF KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING OF THE BENEFITS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

SOCIO-ECONOMICS

E.G. NO FAMILY TRADITION OR ROLE MODELS

FINANCE AND COST

LACK OF UNDERSTANDING FEES AND FINANCE STRUCTURES

INFLUENCERS

NEGATIVE PERCEPTIONS OF PARENTS, CARERS AND PEERS

GEOGRAPHY

PERCEIVED OR REAL GEOGRAPHICAL BARRIERS

Phase 2 Progression Framework

The NSSW core offer provides a framework of sustained and progressive HE outreach:

Introduction Stage (Yr 9) presents HE themes, and students are encouraged to explore how HE may link to future careers.

Development Stage (Yrs 10&11) aims to increase HE knowledge and familiarisation with HE

Consolidation Stage (Yrs 12&13, FE L3) helps students consider and prepare for HE as a personal option

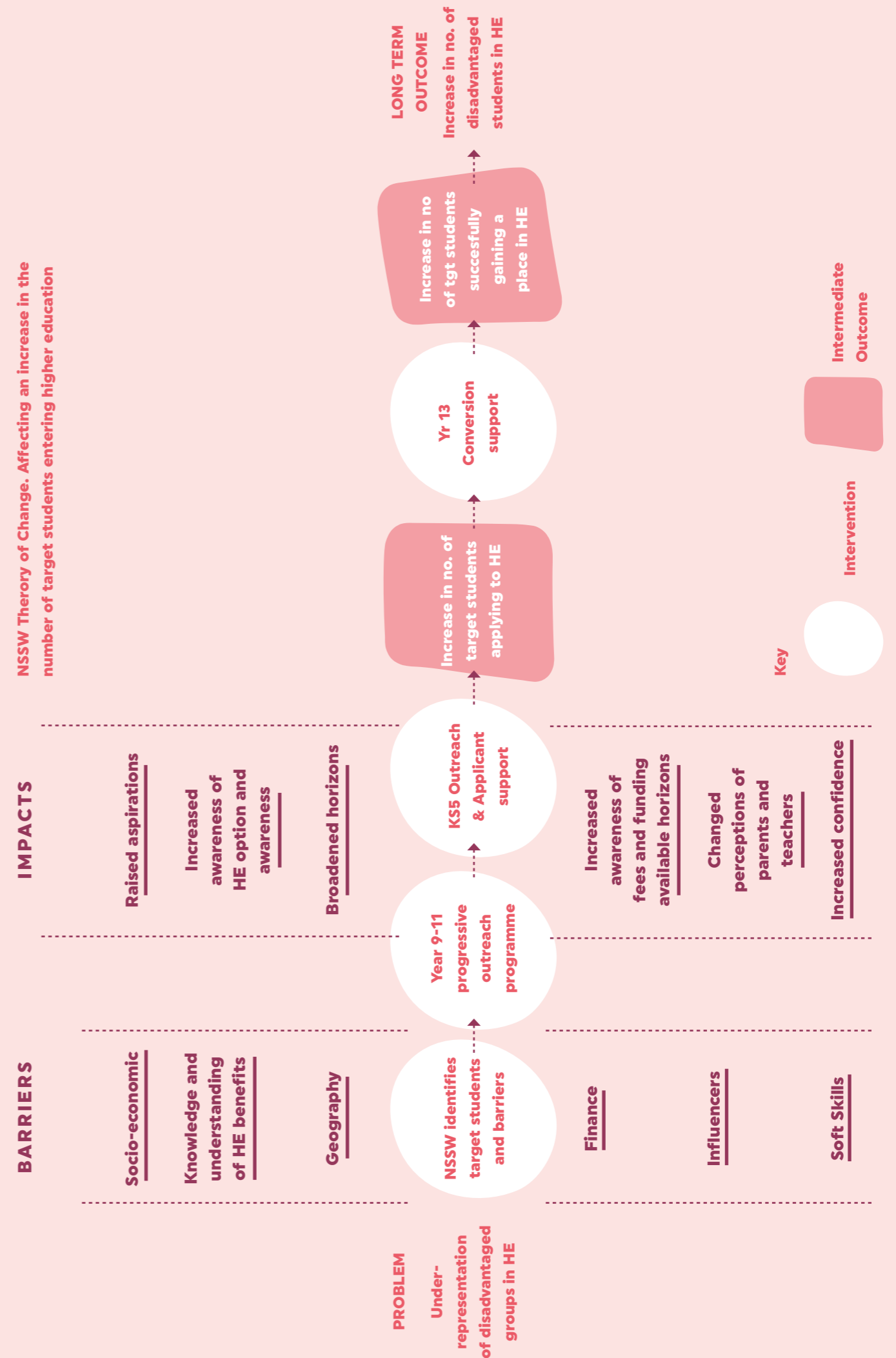
All NSSW interventions aim to address at least one barrier. Phase 2 examples include:

Barrier	Introduction	Development	Consolidation
Skills	Articulate course	Revision Skills	UCAS workshops
Knowledge of HE	Intro to Careerpilot	Choosing L3 options	HE Masterclasses
Finance & Cost	Budgeting workshop	'Why Would You?'	Student fees/funding
Socio-Economic	Articulate course	Careerpilot aspirations	Student Life sessions
Influencers	Parents' Evenings	Revision for parents	CPD for teachers
Geography	Campus visits	Residentials	HE visit travel cards



Exeter College Alumni currently studying Law at University of Exeter

NSSW Theory of Change. Affecting an increase in the number of target students entering higher education



NSSW OUTPUTS & IMPACT EVALUATION

NSSW records data on the Higher Education Access Tracker. Between January 2017 and July 2021, an impressive amount of work has been achieved and recorded:

69,454

...**students (target & non-target)** attend high and low intensity NSSW activities

26,748

...**baseline surveys** completed and submitted to CFE Research

16,206

...**target students**, who gave consent for NSSW to track

8,515 Contact hours

2,628 Activities

All 83 of our target schools and colleges engaged

All 49 of our regional target wards covered

In addition to this:

300 partner-led collaborative projects were designed, delivered and evaluated, including:

Easter Revision School
Come Dine with Me
Graffiti workshops
Summer Residentials
The NSSW HE Roadshow
Media Make-up Masterclasses
Cyber Attack workshop
UCAS Bootcamp
VIVIT live autopsies
Careers event for Nursing, Medicine and the Military
Events supported by 3rd party providers:
The Brilliant Club, Exim Dance, Brightside, Stephen Seki, Flossy & Jim

NSSW Careerpivot Sessions 2019-2020

Students attended NSSW sessions using the Careerpivot website and reported increases in **knowledge of HE** and **development of skills, aspirations and confidence**:

Engagement

No. of students	6500
No. of schools	55
No. of survey responses	2782

“ I learnt about options for the future - **I'm now considering going to university!** ”

Year 9: Careerpivot Job Sectors Workshop



79% increased **understanding** of graduate opportunities



77% increased **knowledge** of the local job market & regional post-16 courses

Year 10: Careerpivot Pre-16 Skills Map Workshop



70% increased **aspirations** towards career choices



95% increased **ability** to identify & evidence transferable skills

Year 12: Careerpivot HE Skills Mapping Workshop



95% increased **ability** to identify own transferable skills & those required for HE



91% increased **confidence** in evidencing their transferable skills as part of their personal statement

Scan here to view the full report



KS5 / Level 3 HE Subject-specific Masterclasses 2019-2020

A hands-on experience, led by academics, for students to be inspired in HE subjects, with insights into study styles, careers and courses.

Engagement

No. of students	429
No. of schools	12
No. of survey responses	127

“ I have found out that there are many courses relating to my interests’

‘Foundation degrees are available in North Devon’

‘HE is more achievable than I thought - it appeals to me more than I thought.’ ”



74% reported they can make a more **informed decision** about whether HE is for them



71% said they are either very likely or fairly likely to **apply to HE**



77% stated they have learnt **skills/knowledge** in their subject that they have not experienced at school/college



78% said they can identify different **national and local course options** in their subject of interest at HE level

The Masterclasses focused on possible barriers to progression for these students, addressing gaps in HE knowledge, perceived geographical barriers and socio-economic factors.

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KS5 / Level 3 HE Workshops 2019-2020

NSSW delivered a suite of one-hour workshops to support students' awareness of HE options, the UCAS application process and student finance.

Engagement

No. of students	3600
No. of schools	19
No. of survey responses	570



85% understand the types of HE Course and qualifications (Choosing an HE Course)



91% have identified at least one activity that will be relevant for their personal statement (UCAS and personal statements)

Evidence of success demonstrates an increased knowledge of HE, improved awareness of student finance and increased understanding of transferable skills, breaking down potential barriers for progression to HE.

" I have learnt about how to structure personal statements - I now understand the ABC rules and can use it confidently when writing my personal statement "



99% understand the role of the personal statement in the application process (UCAS and personal statements)



97% recalled the correct amount they need to be earning before they begin to repay their student loan (Student Finance)

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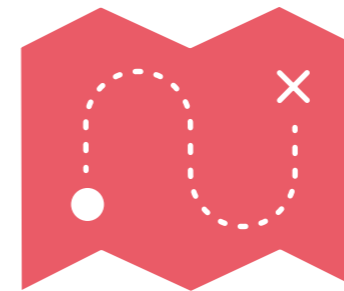


Y10-Y11 Level 3 Options workshops 2019-2020

Level 3 Options is a workshop that covers information about **post-16 options, such as Technical Qualifications, A Levels, International Baccalaureate (IB) and Apprenticeships**, it provides an opportunity for participants to address concerns regarding possible career pathways they would like to take in the future and motivation to work towards career goals.

Engagement

No. of students	2135
No. of schools	24
No. of survey responses	389



88% reported they understand the different pathways available at level 3

'I have learnt how I will be able to get into Level 3 Photography and History and the nearest place to do so!'



60% said they are much more confident or a bit more confident to plan their next steps after Y11

My next steps are... 'Do more revision and work more in lessons to get the grades I need to go to college'

For these students, motivation levels, gaps in HE knowledge and lack of soft skills have been addressed and are now less likely to be barriers to HE progression.

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NSSW Articulary Programmes 2019-2020

Articulary workshops are designed to nurture effective communication skills, build confidence, encourage debate and raise aspirations – whilst introducing higher education.

Engagement

No. of students	255
No. of schools	26
No. of survey responses	230

“It was fun and I learned a lot about **confidence** and definitely opened my eyes of what to do in the **future**.”

Year 9: Articulate week-long programme



61% reported an **increase in their likelihood to consider university** as an option for their future*



100% of students that entered into the English Speaking Board exam gained a pass mark or higher

Year 9: Future Me week-long programme



75% of students reported an **increase in confidence** in decision-making and presenting to an audience, self-confidence*



75% of students reported an **increase in their knowledge about university and HE courses** linked to their career plans*

Year 9: Summer School (online) 4-day workshop



100% of students strongly agreed they had **become more confident** in team working, networking and communicating

Year 12: Articulate your way to HE one-day workshop



90% of students reported an **increase in confidence** attending interviews and communicating well with others

*A t-test showed high statistical significance between pre & post responses, $p < .01$

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NSSW MADE Training 2019 - 2020

MADE Study Skills workshops “Exams MADE Easy” and “Rapid Revision” were delivered to Year 11 students to promote effective, independent revision strategies.

Engagement

No. of students	4000
No. of schools	35
No. of survey responses	606



78% identified one or more study **skill developed** during the workshop



71% reported being more **confident** in achieving the grades for the next stage in their **study/career path**

	"I feel confident in my ability to study independently and revise for my exams."	
	Before workshop	After workshop
Strongly agree	10%	26%*
Agree	44%	55%*

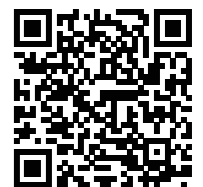
	"I feel confident in being able to achieve the grades I need for my future plans."	
	Before workshop	After workshop
Strongly agree	9%	20%*
Agree	41%	51%*

Also to note: findings are corroborated by MADE Training's independent evaluation.

* A Wilcoxon Signed Rank test showed high statistical significance between before & after responses, $p < .001$

Comparative analysis of T3 and T4 indicates the workshop continues to provide the support needed for students to develop and improve their study and revision skills, demonstrating that students are overcoming the HE Barrier of lack of soft skills.

Scan here to view the full report



CASE STUDY

G7 REPORTERS CHALLENGE

In June 2021 Carbis Bay, Cornwall hosted the G7 Summit. As part of the G7 Youth Programme Inspire a Generation, Next Steps South West with delivery provider Bauer Media ran workshops in Media journalism & jobs in the green economy sector.

The workshops delivered blended learning in school and online to students in years 10 and 11 at Richard Lander and Fowey River Academy. Students gained virtual work experience as media reporters, including working to a specific brief to interview the Y7, local conservation groups, academics, and professionals.

The student brief included

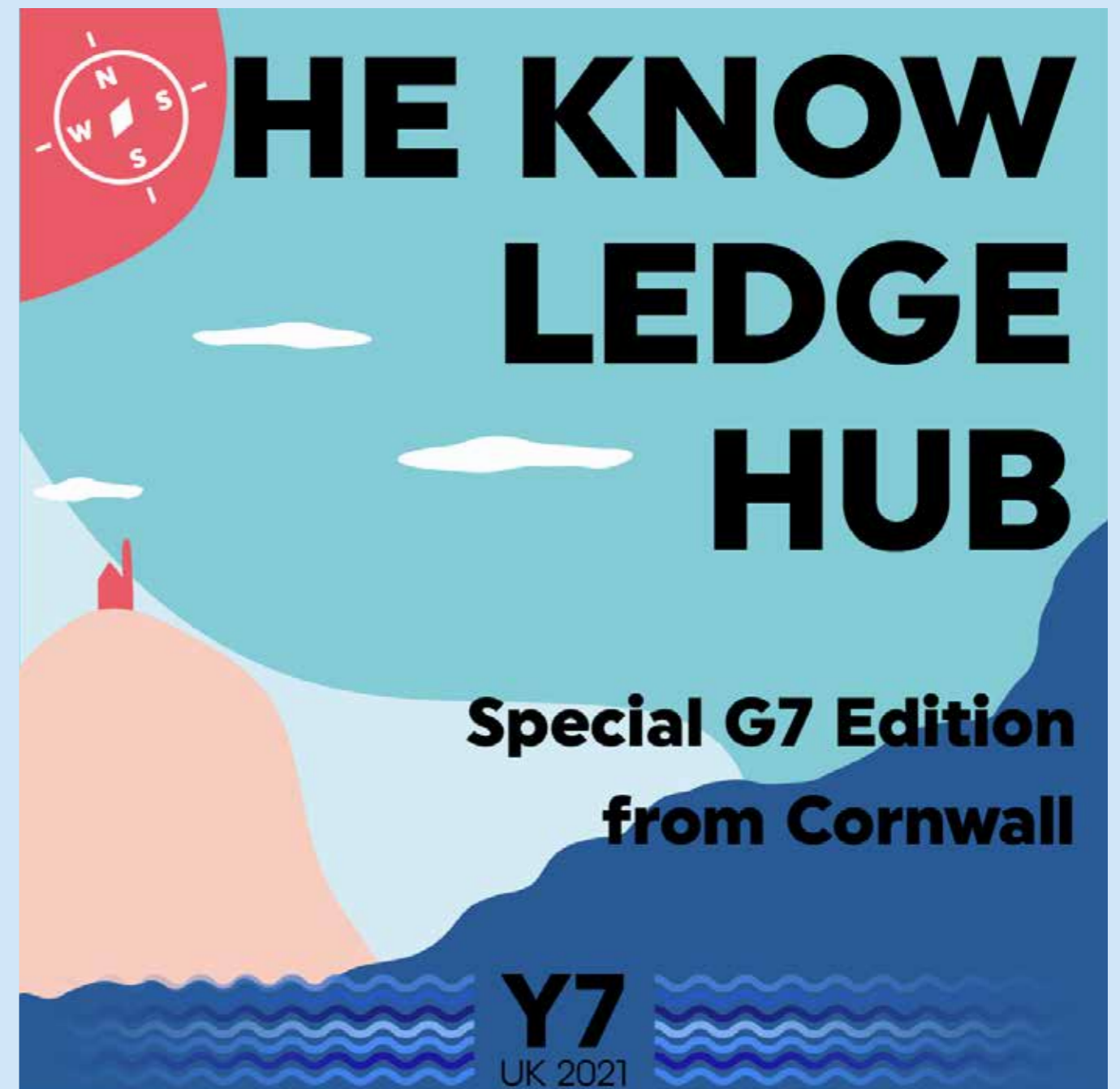
- Understanding the wider world, G7 & Y7 summit and how to use student voice
- Developing transferable skills & team work strategies.
- Understanding Green economy and HE routes to careers in this sector
- Creation of podcast'

The podcast also looked closely at the Y7 and the importance of including youth voice in decision making and concludes with suggested areas of focus for future G7 leadership.

"We learnt a lot from young people. They are sophisticated in their understanding of the environment and they are committed and brave enough to hold leaders and decision makers to account locally, nationally and internationally"

Rachel Delourme,

Senior Officer 11- 25 Pathways Cornwall Council



Listen to the Podcast



100%

of respondents either agree or strongly agreed that the workshop had increased their awareness of HE pathways leading to careers in media and journalism

NSSW Communications 2020 - 2021

Tranche 5 successes:

Email Engagement 2020 - 2021

No. of students	9221 - 9201
No. of schools/colleges	439 - 513
No. of parents/carers	211 - 243

“ **Great Torrington Sch**
Yr10 - Trying to understand the difference between all the qualifications can be confusing. **The resources from @NextstepsSW can really help you** ”

Parent & Carer Newsletter

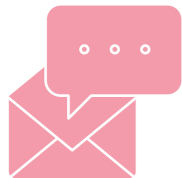
Open rate **39.7%**

School & College Newsletter

Open rate **31.3%**

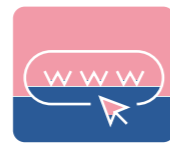
Student Email

Open rate **17.4%**



The UK the average open rate for email marketing campaigns is between 15 – 25%.

Website



34% increase in unique website visits and **32.9%** of overall visits.

From **90,533** total visits in 2020 to **120,278** in 2021

Facebook



4.6% increase in page reach

Instagram



68% increase in page reach

Twitter



5.8% increase in page impressions

NSSW SHOWCASE

The October 2018 Showcase, held in the Rolle Marquee at the University of Plymouth, was a highlight for Next Steps South West, celebrating the successes of the first phase of the project. Students, staff, In-School Coordinators, partners and senior managers came together to recognise and applaud each other's achievements.

Year 9 and 10 students from Bodmin College and Eggbuckland Community College, supported by their respective ISCs Rachel Devine and Lynn Harris, delighted the audience with first-hand accounts of how they had engaged with NSSW, reflecting on what they had enjoyed the most, and demonstrating how they were experiencing long-term benefits.

The evening also showcased the many innovative and collaborative projects including the NSSW Bus Roadshow, the VIVIT Experience, and the Articulatory programme.

Awards were given for

- Making A Difference: In-School Coordinators
- Most Committed Student Ambassador
- Best Collaborator Award: NSSW Staff
- Biggest Personal Achievement: NSSW Staff and Student Ambassadors
- Most Inspiring Project: NSSW Team



Students from Eggbuckland Community College'

EXTERNAL EVALUATION

Evaluation by the Office for Students

The OfS monitors the governance and performance of partnerships, through operating plans and biennial submission of engagement data, financial returns and qualitative reporting. Uni Connect is also being evaluated at a national level to assess how successfully the programme meets its aims.

Key Findings

Key evaluation publications for Phase 2 include:

- Uni Connect national evaluation: An analysis of young participation in higher education in England in the areas targeted by Uni Connect (OfS, May 2021)

“The greatest potential for increasing participation came from removing barriers to applying to higher education.”

- Independent reviews of evaluation evidence submitted by Uni Connect partnerships (CFE Research, Dec 2020, Mar 2021, May 2021)
NSSW has submitted 8 local impact reports to contribute to this evaluation

“There is a high volume of strong evidence that multi-intervention approaches have a positive impact on short, medium and long-term outcomes for learners.”

To access these, and other Uni Connect reports, please visit:

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/promoting-equal-opportunities/uni-connect/evaluating-uni-connects-impact/>

Evaluation by Ipsos Mori

The OfS has also commissioned Ipsos Mori to investigate partner perspectives:

Reports

National Formative evaluation of Uni Connect phase two: Findings (Ipsos Mori, May 2021)

Key findings:

- "Uni Connect staff based in schools/colleges were particularly helpful in engaging and continuing communications with schools/colleges".
- "Strategic relationships established between Uni Connect and local partners were seen as sustainable".
- Formative evaluation of Uni Connect phase two: survey of school and college staff (Ipsos Mori, March 2021)

NSSW Bespoke Report

- 'Quality of activities' cited by 88% as a key reason for engaging with NSSW
- 'Increased knowledge of HE' most frequently cited benefit for NSSW students 97%
- 97% respondents had taken part in at least one NSSW monitoring and evaluation activity.
- 71% accessed information through the NSSW website



Case Study

To complement national reporting, Ipsos Mori also carried out 5 local case studies. NSSW and City College Plymouth were selected for their example of good practice in engaging with further education. This will be published later in the year as an Ipsos Mori Learning Digest

Key Findings

Two NSSW learning groups were key to developing activities to support engagement with FE Learners:

A partnership-wide college best practice practitioner group

A forum for sharing ideas and strategies for engaging FE learners. Now extended to an additional 10 Uni Connect Partnerships

The NSSW Literature Review Group

Reviews academic journals, reports, blogs and other grey literature for current, research-based input into workshops and the development of outreach materials


Using examples of good practice from the practitioner group and literature examined, two key pillars for developing activities for FE learner were identified:

- **Pillar 1:** activities work best which are interactive, collaborative and provide learners with a sense of agency.
- **Pillar 2:** where possible, an activity should consider the local context or 'fit the narrative of the area'.

Identifying Good practice


Delivering good practice

Good practice combines the principles of pillars 1 & 2, as showcased by the **Combating Intergenerational Loneliness** project, an interactive academic challenge where students worked together to problem solve. It focused on learners interested in careers in public and third sector careers. The activity was attended by local MP, Luke Pollard.

Next Steps South West 


COMBATING INTERGENERATIONAL LONELINESS

Fri 14th February 2020 / 10:00 - 14:30
Devonport Guildhall, PL1 4EL



Event summary
Join us as we work through an academic challenge on how to support intergenerational loneliness. You will work in small groups with current university students and local employers to explore ways this issue can be addressed. This is an opportunity to discover more about a wide range of local employment opportunities in the public and third sector.

To register for this event, please contact:
Mary Coles - NSSW@cityplym.ac.uk

nextstepsw.ac.uk  @NextStepsSW #WeAreNCOP

In School Coordinators

To support NSSW, we have provided funding for a member of staff to dedicate allocated time to the project within each of our target schools and colleges. These In-School Coordinators (ISC) facilitate our data collection, provide a vital channel of communication and promote and encourage engagement in NSSW activities. 75 of a total 83 schools and colleges have appointed an ISC, and this network of support has played a key role in all areas of the success of NSSW. To evidence this, we conducted online survey of ISC opinion in June 2020, to which we received an extremely high response rate of 80% of ISCs.

70%

rated their role as effective or extremely effective

84%

stated the ISC role increased engagement of students in NSSW activities

60%

60% of responses also showed compelling evidence of capacity-building now embedded in schools and colleges.

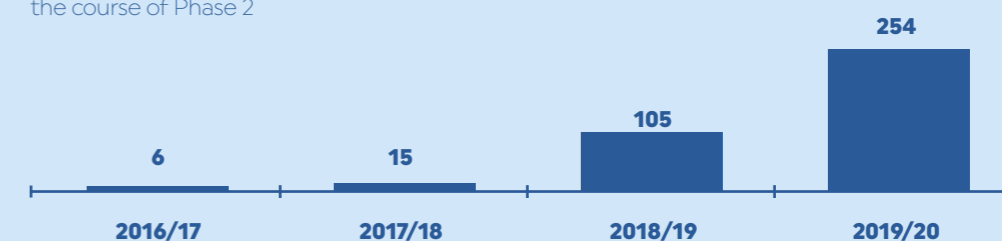
ISC responses also evidenced added value through increased professional development opportunities, career development, collaboration, sharing of best practice and practitioner networking opportunities.

Full report available on request, contact nextstepssw@plymouth.ac.uk.

HEAT Tracking

NSSW records student engagement data on the Higher Education Access Tracker (HEAT) database. Data sets of 'HE Ready' students are submitted to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) to track who has entered higher education. The number of NSSW participants tracked has increased over the course of Phase 2

However, please note that we have only been able to track those students who have consented, so actual numbers are likely to exceed those shown.



Of the 380 students, 169 were identified as having entered HE = **44.7%**

This compares with an average progression rate for the South West = 32.4% (UCAS 2020)¹

and a national average progression rate for the most disadvantaged students = 18.8% (UCAS 2020)²

6.6% of these students had progressed to a higher tariff university.

Strobe

Through UCAS and their Strobe reporting service, NSSW also tracks the number of applications to HE programmes for students who have participated in NSSW interventions. This has increased over Phases 1 and 2. (NSSW UCAS Strobe Report 2020)

Year	No of students accepted onto HE programmes through UCAS
2016/17	10
2017/18	280
2018/19	600
2019/20	645

¹ <https://www.ucas.com/data-and-analysis/undergraduate-statistics-and-reports/ucas-undergraduate-sector-level-end-cycle-data-resources-2020>

² <https://www.ucas.com/corporate/news-and-key-documents/news/students-disadvantaged-backgrounds-more-likely-ever-be-accepted-university-results-day>

WHERE
NEXT



PHASE 3

In 2021-22, Uni Connect will continue to focus HE outreach on those who have the ability to progress into higher education, but who live in areas where HE progression is lower than average, based on the OfS POLAR3 and Gaps classifications. Targeting will also include Adult Learners enrolled on Level 3 programmes in our partner FE Colleges.

Please visit our About Us webpage nextstepsw.ac.uk/about-us/ for more information on:

- OfS Uni Connect Phase 3 Programme Aims
- Maps of NSSW Target Schools & Colleges
- The Phase 3 NSSW Progression Framework
- The NSSW Schools & Colleges Brochure 2021-22
- NSSW Phase 3 Evaluation and Communications Strategies

Uni Connect funding is currently confirmed until 31 July 2022, and it is our sincere hope that this will be extended to at least July 2025 as outlined by the Office for Students, to enable us to continue our sustained and progressive programme and continue to increase target progression into higher education.



**Thank you for reading this
report. For more information
please visit nextstepssw.ac.uk**

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