Innovation in widening access: HE and the voluntary sector

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Deputy Chief Executive
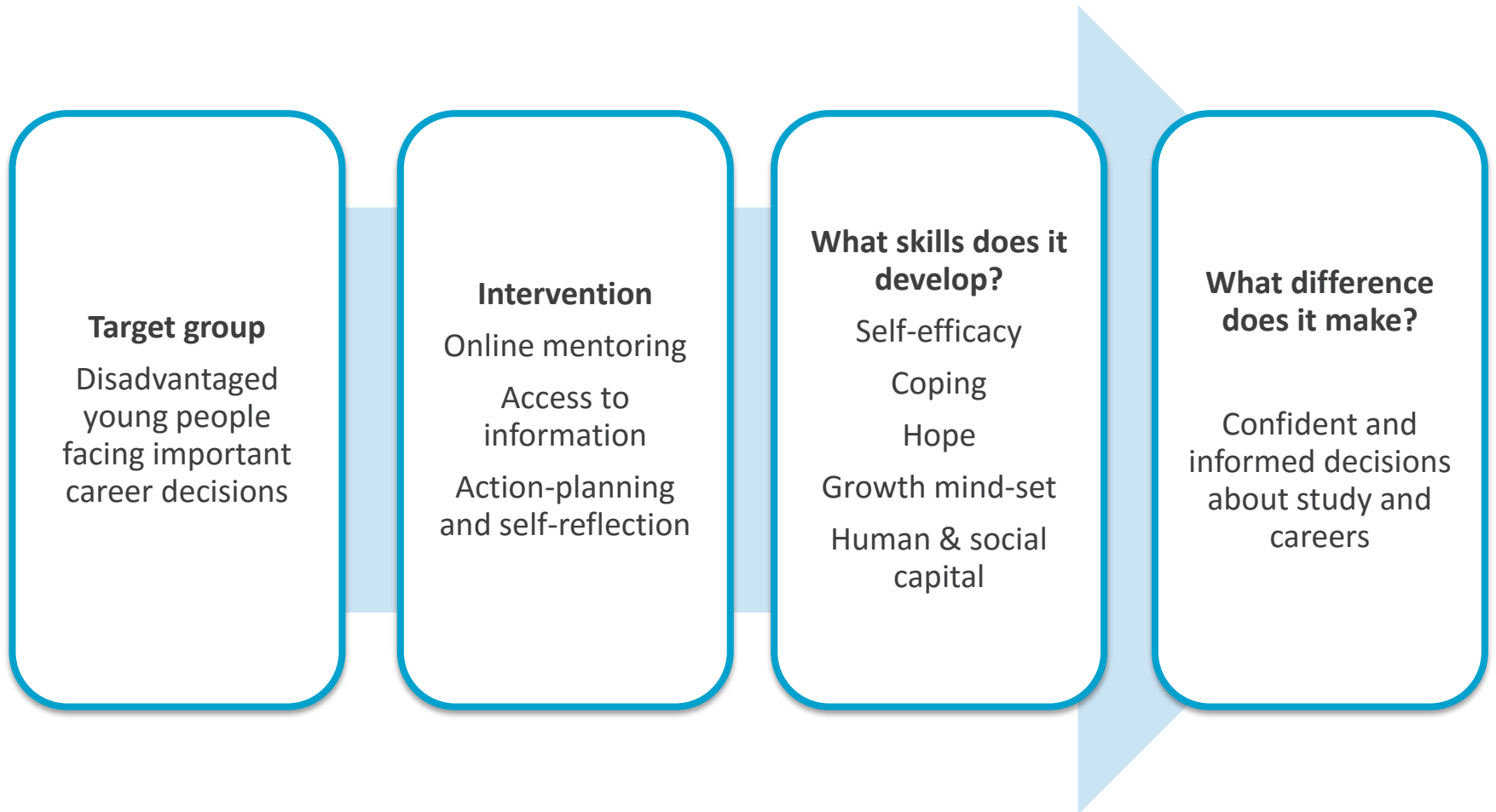Brightside
suzanne.maskrey@thebrightsidetrust.org

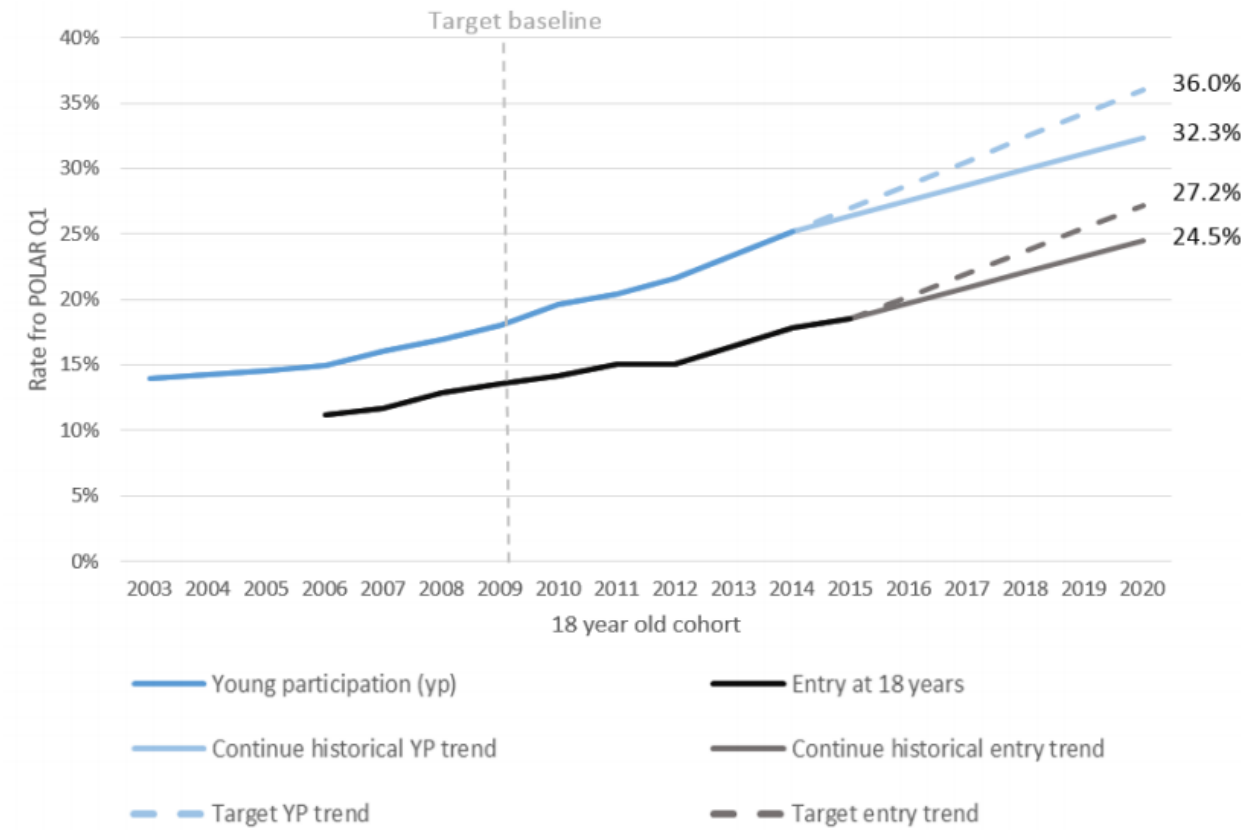**Brightside**
online mentoring

About Brightside

- Social mobility charity, established in 2003

- Provide mentoring to help young people with their future education and career choices

- Work with over 60 different partners including directly with 30 universities

- Began with 50 mentees; now support over 15,000 young people every year

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Brightside's work

Target group

Disadvantaged young people facing important career decisions

Intervention

Online mentoring

Access to information

Action-planning and self-reflection

What skills does it develop?

Self-efficacy

Coping

Hope

Growth mind-set

Human & social capital

What difference does it make?

Confident and informed decisions about study and careers

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The HE widening access challenge

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Doubling young participation by 2020

Source: HEFCE Trends in young participation 2013/28, 'UCAS End of Cycle Report 2015', www.ucas.com. Projections based on ONS mid-year estimates and projections.

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How can the third sector help to innovate?

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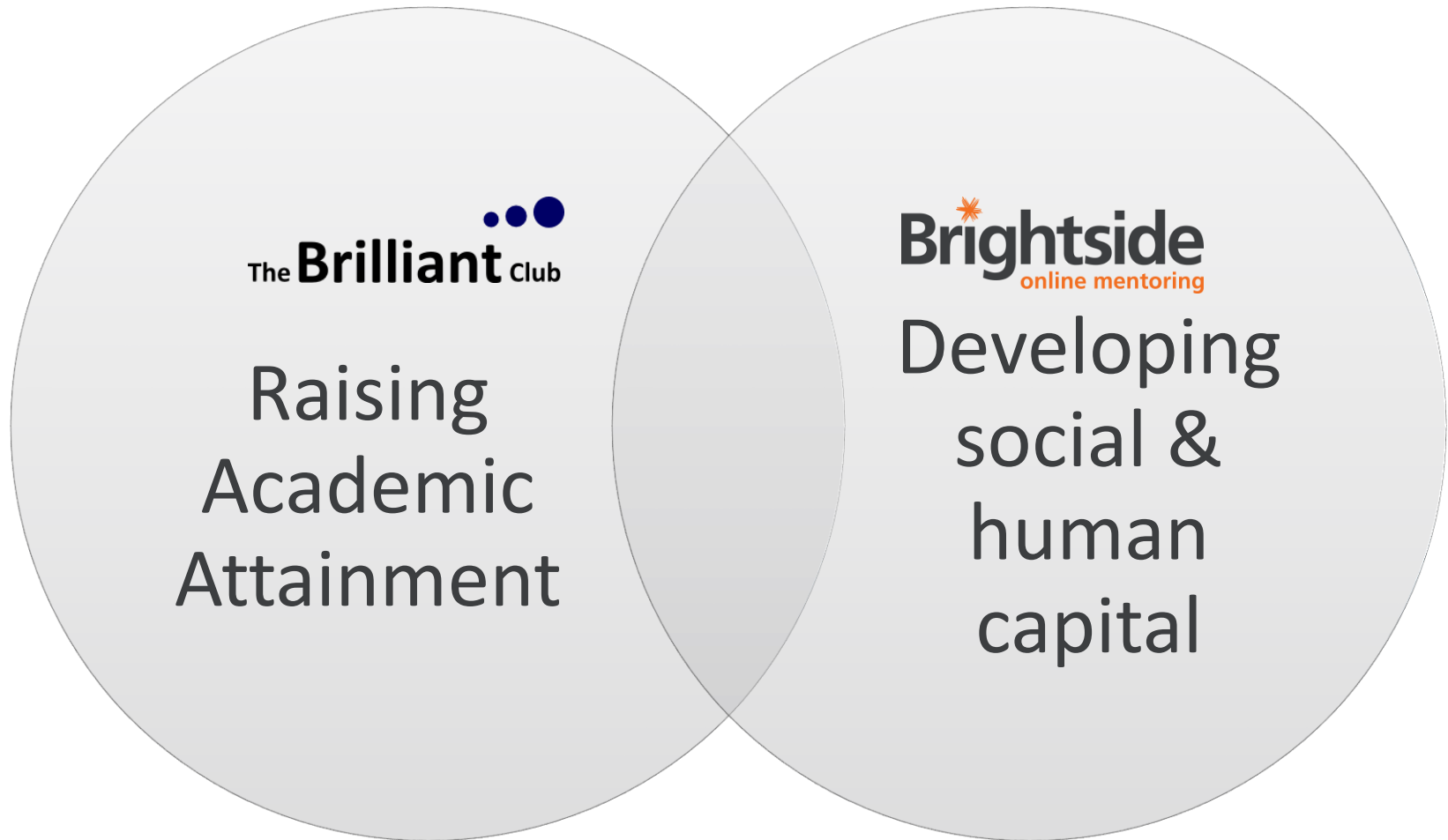# Third sector and innovation

1. Collaboration/ partnerships
   - Referring young people
   - Service delivery
2. Advice and expertise
   - Specific groups
   - Specific activities
3. Sharing and facilitating networks

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Examples of Brightside's work

- Third sector collaboration:
  - Partnerships
  - Quality framework
- HEIs
- Industry/ HEI collaboration
- NNCOs/ NCOP

Innovative partnerships: charities

Raising Academic Attainment

Developing social & human capital

Other charity partnerships

- Brilliant Club, Into University, Villier's Park:
  - Focusing on academic attainment of young people

- Inspiring the Future and Future First recruit volunteers from business to go to schools and talk about their own routes into HE and the professions

- Third sector organisations are usually up for working together!

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Innovative partnerships: NNCOs

pre-16 outreach

applications support

pre-arrival support

retention & student success

employability

ARCC
Access for Rural & Coastal Communities

- 73% - gained a university place
- 93% - said mentoring increased their passion for learning
- Based on this, set up a new project in three rural & coastal regions
- Up to 1800 school pupils supported

KMPF
KENT & MEDWAY
PROGRESSION
FEDERATION

University of **Portsmouth**

sussex
learningnetwork

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Innovative partnerships: HEIs

Birmingham City University

- First year students are mentored by final year students to support transition to university.

- Final year students are mentored on employability skills by alumni working in the area.

- Often, students move through all three tiers – mentees becoming mentors. Benefits mentees AND mentors.

"telling [my mentee] what to expect at university, making them aware of the problems I had and how to deal with them and giving advice has built up my confidence, made me more independent and given me better people skills"

More innovation!

Ideas?

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