

# Dr Jemma Basham

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Right place, right time?



# Policy Context

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- New guidance for access and participation plans
- “At present, around £800 million is spent by universities on improving access and outreach, but there is relatively limited hard evidence on what works most effectively” (OfS 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019)
- OfS announced new evidence and impact exchange centre
- New self assessment tool

# How to address these issues (Generic)

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- Move from input – outcome focus
- Establish logic model and theoretical framework
- Review process (consider structures)
- Build vision collaboratively but learn from the past
- Listen – participatory research



# Specific to University of Leeds

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- Maintain 'research' approach
- Realism in widening participation
- **E.g. Supporting the parent/carer with appropriate information, and improving links with the school, will influence the young person to take the step into HE.**
- Collaboratively establish programme theories
- Test the theories

# Learning to succeed

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- Collaborative Vision
- Realist evaluation framework
- Participatory approach
- Spatial focus

# Best Practice: Gold standard

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- Trail blazer
- Collaborative vision
- Innovate/Research
- Ethics and data protection
- Work to a flexible framework



# Dynamic Learning Culture: NCOP

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- Helping underrepresented communities to progress to higher education is most effective through engaging multiple interventions in varying relevant spaces at different points in the student life-cycle. Interventions need to take a holistic, respectful and community-based approach. Further, by tailoring support in relation to the space that young people inhabit allows for a stronger culture of WP to take place in underrepresented communities.

# Key Questions?

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- Is there a spatial distinctiveness to the barriers being uncovered in your areas? (is your response taking them into consideration?)
- How can you maximise on success in a longer term planning cycle?
- How can participatory research methods help and add value ?
- Why do you believe WP activity works?