

SUN

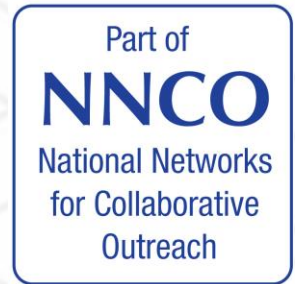
SUN

SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITIES
NETWORK

Sinead Holmes | Helen Stevenson
Successes of the NNCO from SUN
Friday 9 June 2017

Southern Universities Network

National Networks for Collaborative Outreach (NNCO)



The national strategy for access and student success highlighted the value and effectiveness of collaborative approaches in the delivery of outreach activity to school and colleges.

Each network:

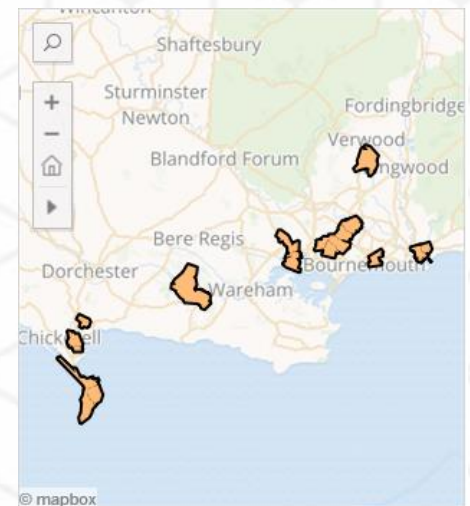
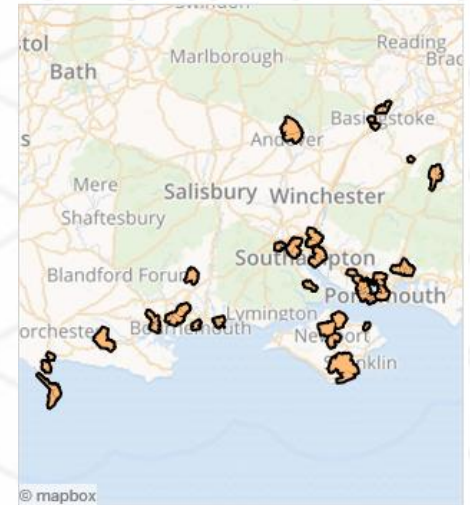
- nominated a network lead institution
- provided a Single Point of Contact (SPoC)
- established a web presence, which will held details of the individual and collaborative outreach activity available from each member institution
- acted as a source of information to all state-funded schools and colleges within its sphere of activity
- identified itself as part of a national 'brand'



Southern Universities Network

Network Context

- The SUN region covers Dorset, Hampshire and IOW
- SUN - led by the central team based at the University of Southampton
- Partnership comprised six HEIs
- Rural / Coastal / City / Island / Peninsula
- 211 schools and colleges across the region
- Relatively good HE provision in the region
- Comprehensive outreach/WP programmes – partners worked with all colleges and 90% schools



DISCUSSION

What are the challenges of collaborative working?

Task 1: Identify potential challenges (1 per post-it note)

Task 2: Order challenges

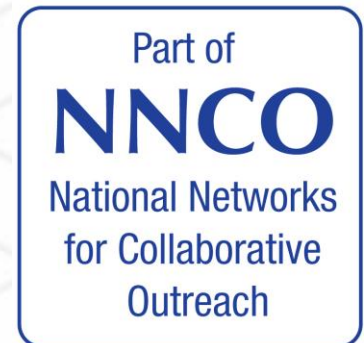
Task 3: Record ways to overcome challenges



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SUN Approach to NNCO

- Provision of outreach support with priority for 'cold spot' schools in Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight
- Provision of continuing professional development opportunities for staff in schools across the region
- Development of a website to provide information on the outreach opportunities provided by the partners
- Development of themed projects for secondary schools
- Exchange of good practice
- Focus on Pre-16 Students



Southern Universities Network

What we did well

- Buy-in from recruitment / outreach / WP managers
- Communication / regular meetings
- Clear governance structure from outset
- Identified point of contact within each institution for SPoC
- Partners used institutional funding to fund additional stafftime / appoint 1 FTE
- Collaborative CPD Opportunities
- Collaborative working with other NNCOs – CPD Webinar Programme
- Themed projects
- Preparation for NCOP bid

Southern Universities Network

Themed Projects

- Some schools saturated with outreach offers
- Themed projects allowed all partners to contribute to the network

Benefits

- Divided responsibility
- Opportunity to share good practice
- Created a sense of ownership for all partners = equal playingfield
- Roll-out of an existing project across the region = reached more schools
- Capacity to create multiple, simultaneous projects
- Resources created – input from all partners – impartial

Southern Universities Network

Challenges

- Branding
- Staff balancing SUN / institutional duties
- Location / size
- Regional context (3 LEPs, 5 Local Authorities, 2 EBPs, School/college system)
- Working remotely
- Institutional funding / difference in funding
- Institutional sensitivities / existing relationships
- Collaborative working = time consuming

Themed Projects

White Working Class Males Research

Commissioned two research projects which seek to explore the disadvantage experienced by white working class males in relation to their progression into higher education.

Pre-entry research:

- White working class males engaged by the study generally hold positive attitudes to learning and are happy to be viewed as hardworking. Some may not be fully engaged in their current learning but most are positive about future opportunities.
- The majority of learners in the sample felt relatively supported by their parents, although many (particularly those in post 16 education) report that parental opinion is of no or little importance.
- The general consensus amongst the FE learners was that they had received limited information or encouragement regarding progression towards HE.
- Learners were interested in experiencing HE and talking to individuals who could help them find out more, including employers and students.

Themed Projects

White Working Class Males Research

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Post-entry research:

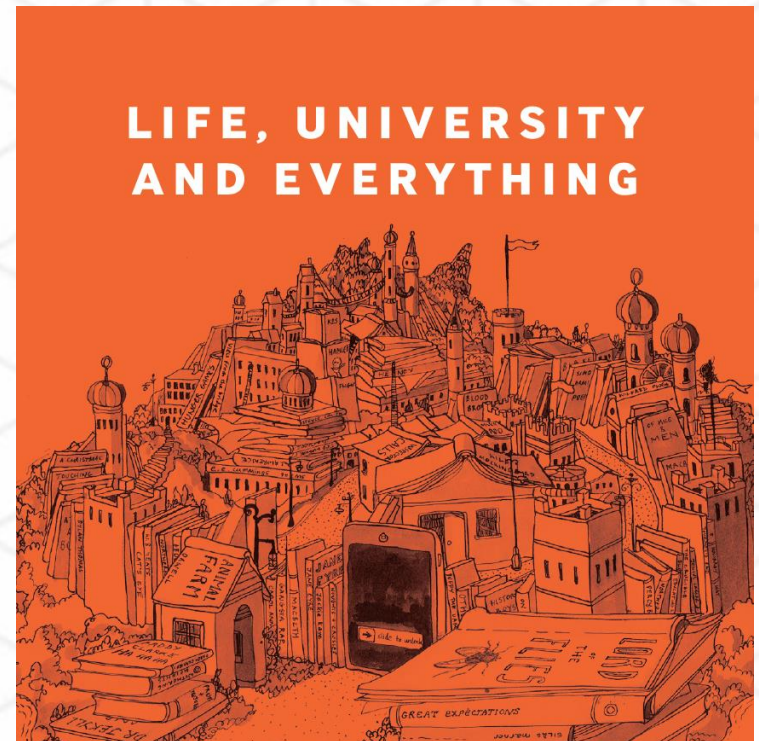
- Findings suggest that white, working class men who enter higher education may be more aspirational than their peers.
- Findings show that white, working class men are making decisions about whether or not to pursue university much later than their peers.
- Higher education is viewed as a risk that may not be worth taking, especially as this group expressed aversion to taking on student debt
- This group is worried about transitioning into higher education and whether or not they will feel like they belong.

Themed Projects

Life, University and Everything

Advice guide for Year 11 students:

- Collaborative process
- Impartial
- General HE
- Subject-based by interest
- Student profiles
- Timeless sustainable resource
- Links to information on fees, entry requirements etc.



Themed Projects

Uni Explorer

Interactive Resource linked to Advice Guide:

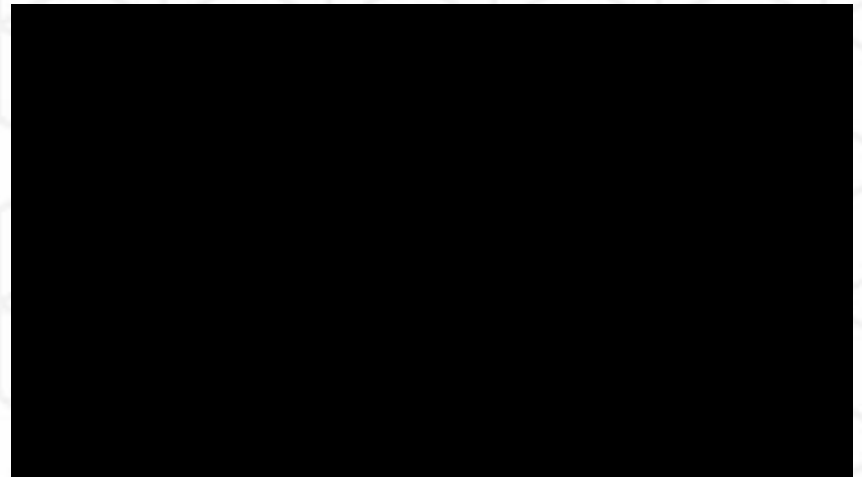
- Interactive campus
- Student profiles
- Talking head videos
- Glossary
- Notebook
- Extension – budgeting app
- Future developments?



Themed Projects

Inspiring Males

- Aims to inspire young males into considering career opportunities in areas in which they are under-represented
- Support the progression of males into degree courses that aren't always associated with this group



Lessons Learned

The Future of the Southern Universities Network and the National Collaborative Outreach Programme

- Create a SUN identity for those working on NCOP – SUN Team
- Colleges to become partners
- Detailed audit of activity by school (not just HEI outreach activity)
- Working cautiously (institutional sensitivities)
- More communication to WP/Outreach teams
- Wider communication scope within HEIs (helped to identify potential collaborative work)
- Level the playing field amongst partnership
- Consultative working with schools and colleges – tailor offer to individual needs

Resources

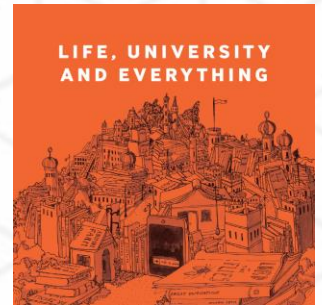


White Working Class Males Research –
www.sunoutreach.org/resources/research

Advice Guide – email sun@soton.ac.uk



Uni Explorer - www.uniexplorer.org



Inspiring Males – SUN YouTube Channel



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Any Questions?

www.sunoutreach.org



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