



Widening Access and the Voluntary Sector:  
What makes our offer unique?



# IntoUniversity's History & Mission

To raise the aspirations and achievement of young people from the poorest homes



A photograph of three young boys in school uniforms sitting at a desk, looking intently at a computer screen. The boy in the center is pointing at the screen with his right hand. The boy on the left has his hand on his chin, and the boy on the right is also looking at the screen with his hand near his chin. A red fire extinguisher is visible in the background. A semi-transparent red banner is overlaid across the bottom half of the image, containing white text.

# Academic Support Mentoring The FOCUS programme

# Our Innovative Programme

We work with children from age 7 onwards, on a long term **pastoral** basis



All centres are based **locally**, with strong connections to the **community**.

Excellent partnerships & **collaboration** with HEI's, allowing our students unique opportunities



# Our growth: Centres

- Existing
- Proposed

By the end of 2017,  
**IntoUniversity** had  
supported over  
**26,000** students



# Case Study: Successful Collaboration with a HEI

*IntoUniversity Leeds started in 2014 having recognised the importance of long term, sustained intervention. It is also funded by Leeds alumni, and therefore had no impact on WP budget.*



## So what makes the partnership a success?

- Supported by **all** at the university, including academics, students, facilities, conference teams and the university's leadership.
- Workshops and sessions designed and run by academics for year 3 up to year 13
- Academics and students volunteering regularly at Academic Support
- 60 students each year committing to mentoring our students
- A range of activities run for us on campus to give students a well-rounded view of university life other than just academia.
- IU seen as a key part of University of Leeds' engagement work and have been involved in research, spoken at conferences and provided training on the work provided and how it fits with the university's mission.



# University of Leeds : Case Study

## How has the partnership developed?

- Currently 2 centres, but developing into a 'super centre' to cover growing need.
- Has expanded further due to NCOP provision. IU trusted to run programmes by the 'Go Higher West Yorkshire' consortium.
- 4 x NCOP staff have so far seen 1150 students since September

## What could a 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisation offer that couldn't be offered by a uni?

- Long term, early years impact
- Strong local knowledge and presence in the community that schemes run from university might find it harder to achieve
- Ability to work in typically hard to reach areas and therefore normalise the idea of university
- National charities can help form nationwide links to the HEI



# Our Impact

## IntoUniversity student destinations 2016

IntoUniversity school leavers	School leavers national progressing to HE		
<b>75%</b> progress to HE	<b>23%</b> of all maintained school students on Free School	<b>37%</b> of all maintained school students	<b>45%</b> of all Year 13 students on Free School Meals



# Brighter futures for all



# Using technology to change lives

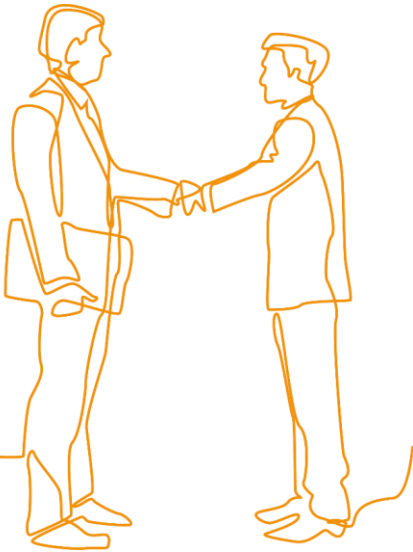
A UK based social enterprise, Brightside creates online mentoring relationships that help young people make life-changing decisions

We offer the support and information young people need to achieve their ambitions



# Everyone deserves the same opportunity

Young people with high academic ability from poorer backgrounds will earn less as adults than those with low academic ability from wealthy backgrounds



Professions are dominated by the 7% of the population who attend independent schools:

- 70% high court judges

- 54% top journalists

- 54% Chief Executives from FTSE 100 companies

# We create connections that otherwise wouldn't be possible

We provide support tailored to individual needs

Young people interact with their mentors in a safe and moderated space

We match people with the most inspiring mentor, not just the closest

We can reach the areas of greatest need: remote, rural and coastal

Our mentoring bridges social and geographical divides



We widen horizons;  
providing information  
about careers that young  
people might not  
otherwise discover





# Developing character traits

Our mentoring nurtures character traits that employers look for

We use robust academic scales to identify the positive change our mentoring has on young people, including their:

- Confidence in their ability to succeed

- Coping skills

- Hope for the future

- Belief that they can develop their skills

- Ability to seek and evaluate information

- Access to networks





# Our reach

We have worked with:

Over 150 partners – mentoring 100,000 young people since 2003

70 Universities

Other charities and businesses

21 NCOP consortia – mentoring 2500 young people so far

# Benefits of working with the third sector

Access to best practice (working with other partners nationwide)

Focused expertise

More hands!

A shared social mobility agenda

Our staff often have experience of working in HE, but also a range of other experiences (e.g. business, teaching, careers advice, other charities which engage with young people, beneficiary alumni)

Our network

We are good at innovating

Access to industry (e.g. mentors)

Access to community centres for reaching young people who otherwise would be hard to reach

# Working with the third sector: critical success factors

1. Trust
2. Open and honest communication
3. Clear roles and responsibilities
4. Regular catch ups
5. Making sure staff and young people have a good understanding of the TSO (e.g. through volunteering)
6. An understanding of each other's strengths and areas of expertise