

Welcome

Thank you so much for inviting me to talk this morning, My name is Wendy Heasmer I am one of the Outreach Officer from the university of Brighton and I have a responsibility for the Primary work we deliver, alongside my colleague Vicky who is also here today. Brighton has delivered primary work for many years now and has several well established projects. If anyone would like to talk to use about these projects please feel free to find either Vicky or myself at lunch.

I am the chair of the NEON primary working group and I have been asked to talk to you about the findings from the recent Primary outreach survey.

Working group background

Started back in 2013, and has grown in numbers since. The working group is chaired by myself and support by the NEON team. Our next meeting is due early 2018 and I will be setting this up for my maternity cover to take over. The agenda is set by the group, but quite often has a focus on sharing good practise and discussions around the best way to evaluate and prove the impact on the work we do. We are a very informal group and would welcome new members. If you would like to become a member of the working group please do find me at lunch, or email me on w.heasmer@brighton.ac.uk

Survey

For those of you that have been NEON members for a while you will be aware that they often send surveys for members to fill out to find out more about a particular area of interest. We thought that a survey could be a fantastic way of seeing the different types of primary projects that are being delivered across the network as well as the work we know about delivered by members of the working group. We spent some time at the last working group devising some questions and NEON very kindly sent the survey out for is.

We were really pleased with the response, we had 40 responses, a couple of universities responded twice and one that had no data. We have a really useful starting point about the variety of work that is taking part across the NEON network.

Surprises

Michael asked me to present on any surprises in the findings. Well the surprise is, there were no major surprises! So thank you for listening to my session! If we carry on like this, you'll be done by 11! What I think the findings have highlighted are the common problems we all have when approaching primary work. Members of the working group and experienced practitioners could have all guessed that main challenges around this work are data collection and tracking and evaluation. Which is why I am so pleased to see the focus on evaluation on the agenda today. I will spend some time pulling out a few examples of good practise and common themes of some of the questions.

Years

Majority are working with Y5 & Y6, but some are working with students in reception, and throughout primary school.

Kingston, Newcastle and Leeds are some of the examples that spring to mind that are working across the all primary years.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
R	10.26%	4
1	15.38%	6
2	15.38%	6
3	38.46%	15
4	51.28%	20
5	97.44%	38
6	97.44%	38
Total Respondents: 39		

Challenges

It's always nice when the majority of responses to a question with the word challenge in it has an overwhelming response of no challenges! This is certainly the reality for us at Brighton. People that did acknowledge a challenge were about projects being so successful and having such a good local reputation capacity and funding was the main challenge. Again – not a bad problem to have!

There were some challenges identifies and outreach practitioners will recognise these as problems we face on the majority of our outreach programmes - cover, last minute cancellations etc./

Convincing staff of its relevance. For me this one relates to a later question around impact of the work we do.

One action for the working group could be to complete a primary outreach literature review and share research that has happened?

Local issues

I'm still not sure if I find it reassuring or heart breaking that across the country we have similar local issues around low aspirations, 3rd generation employment and financial disadvantage. There were very few local challenges that weren't mentioned by other intuitions.

Activities

Again no real surprises here, the variety of work we offer young participants is incredibly varied.

Well for me maybe there was one surprise of a primary residential! Rosy - Into Uni

On campus activities and subject specific activities were the most popular. More details was available in a later question which asked for the background of projects. Which I don't have time to go through today, but there is a lot of rich data there that will be really useful at future working group meetings.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Campus tours	70.00%	28
On campus visits	85.00%	34
Off campus visits	62.50%	25
Subject specific activities	75.00%	30
General IAG activities	40.00%	16
Day-long visits	52.50%	21
Residentials	2.50%	1
Longitudinal programmes	27.50%	11
Tutoring/mentoring programmes	17.50%	7
Other (please specify)	22.50%	9
Total Respondents: 40		

Staff

3 respondents have dedicated members of staff, most popular was that it was covered by staff with a pre-16 role.

Some activities are run solely by students with some coordination by staff and some institutions mentioned the SU being heavily involved in younger years outreach.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
One (or more) full time people working exclusively on primary	7.69%	3
One (or more) people dedicating set days/hours to primary	20.51%	8
One (or more) people covering primary as part of a pre-14/pre-16 role	41.03%	16
Covered by the broader outreach team as part of a whole	23.08%	9
Other (please specify)	30.77%	12
Total Respondents: 39		

Data/tracking

So this is where we start to get in to what feels like the most common area of concern in Primary outreach. Data collection, tracking and Evaluation.

Other – using local databases or their own systems.

Several colleagues mentioned that they believe they are using HEAT incorrectly or are new to HEAT and are hoping to track in the future.

Problems with getting consent forms

What do we do after May/GDPR

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Not using HEAT	17.95%	7
Only tracking Secondary aged students	25.64%	10
Tracking KS2 only	17.95%	7
Tracking KS1 and KS2	12.82%	5
Other (please specify)	33.33%	13
Total Respondents: 39		

Evaluation

This has become a theme of the working group.

A large proportion of responses identified that current evaluation wasn't where it should be. Lots of replies skipped this question.

Just a collection of numbers

Several said they were going to have a focus on Primary work evaluation in 17/18 – Brighton included.

We would like to develop our impact data recording as we currently keep record of all outreach we deliver, but not of the individuals who attend or who are a part of the scheme.

Sussex - Through our relationship with the secondary schools we will this year be doing some retrospective evaluation looking at responses from Y7 students and looking for differences between students coming from these schools vs other schools (allowing for mitigating influences - and whether the other primary schools have had any HE intervention of their own)

issues with schools assisting outreach colleagues with the collection of forms/permissions.

However, special mention should go to the University of Sheffield who I would argue gave the most confident reply to this question. And as you can see from the agenda today, it would seem they have every reason to be confident! I am really looking forward to the sessions from the Widening Participation Research and Evaluation Unit – University of Sheffield. I'm already thinking up potential workshop ideas for the next working group. So I have one more slide to share with you before I hand over

Total amount of students – 61437

So, from the 40 responses we had, this is the approximate amount of Primary aged children who have an interaction with an outreach practitioner last year – yes, there will be some double counting but the reality this is a staggering number which is probably only the tip of the iceberg. Over 61,000 have had some form of intervention encouraging them to think about university, and that is because of the people in this room and others who dedicate and fight to continue working with younger years. So Thank you!