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| SU Access Case Studies |
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| http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/asset/News/6010/LGOS-Full-RGB.jpg  **Union:** Liverpool Guild of Students  **Type:** Outreach to low participation schools  **Activity:**Societies in schools |

Student societies at Liverpool Guild had been running activities in a range of activities in local schools on an adhoc basis for a number of years. In order to try and target this work more effectively and provide societies with better support, Liverpool Guild designed the “Societies in Schools” programme. Societies that were interested in working in schools were invited to submit a proposal form to the Guild. Societies such as Drama, English, LGBT, 24 Festival Drums, Students in Free Enterprise and Debating sent in proposals. The societies were then provided with training jointly from the Guild, the Educational Opportunities (widening participation) department and Teach First on a range of areas. These included learning about the WP agenda, how to control a classroom and how to design an engaging workshop.

Following their training, the societies will visit a local school to deliver their workshops. The schools involved in the programme were selected in collaboration with the Educational Opportunities department and are all on their target schools list and in the access agreement. This ensures that the work is being delivered to the schools that have been identified as having the greatest need. There are also plans to invite the participating pupils, and their parents, on to campus for a showcase evening, where the pupils can perform some of the things they learnt during the workshops and at the same time see what the university is like. These activities will be evaluated through a short questionnaire for the pupils at the end of the workshops.

In addition to the aim of informing local pupils, this project also aims to increase the knowledge Liverpool University students have about widening participation and their role helping deliver on its aims. Participating students were provided with a brief questionnaire at the start of the process, asking what they knew about WP and will be provided with the same one after the programme has concluded.

As the Guild has worked in close collaboration with the WP department, they are hoping to have this programme written into the University’s access agreement, which would then secure more funding for the continuation of the project in the future.

For more information on this project contact: [Rebekah Turner](mailto:r.l.turner@liv.ac.uk)



**Union: University of Strathclyde Students’ Association**

**Type: Outreach to 16-18 year olds from low participation backgrounds**

**Activity: StrathGuides – student buddying scheme**

StrathGuides is the student led outreach scheme run through Strathclyde Students’ Association. It is a buddying scheme aimed at providing 16-18 year olds with information and skills about higher education beyond getting accepted onto a course. Strathclyde SA were keen to focus on these types of skills as they felt that other schemes covered issues such as personal statements and applying to university, but there was a gap when it came to preparing students for what it would be like when they arrived.

The scheme targets high school pupils who are from low participation backgrounds, and at the moment is working with 40 pupils across two schools. To locate the schools where these pupils study, Strathclyde SA uses the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 20%. More information about this index can be found here: [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SIMD](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SIMD).

The StrathGuides program runs in three stages. The first stage is a round of four workshops delivered in the school to the pupils involved in the scheme. Each pupil is matched to a student volunteer and as a group they go through the workshop. The workshops cover skills such as time management, financial management and note taking. The second stage involves the pupils visiting the Strathclyde campus and having taster sessions in each Faculty – for example the Forensics department might run a mock crime scene for the pupils to interact with. The final stage, which is still in development, looks to link up StrathGuide pupils with student volunteers upon entering a university within Glasgow, to support them through the induction period.

In order to prepare for this scheme the student volunteers are given training from the SA at the start of the year. This is a crucial factor, not only to ensure that the scheme runs well, but also because the training session is also used for the volunteers to develop the workshops that they will deliver in schools.

At the moment, this scheme is run solely through union funding, and support and delivery sits with the President and the Volunteer Development Manager. However, Strathclyde are hopeful, following the success of this first year, that the University will be able to resource the project to expand further.

To find out more about this project please contact: [ussa.president@strath.ac.uk](mailto:ussa.president@strath.ac.uk)



**Union: Oxford University Student Union**

**Type: Outreach to low participation schools**

**Activity: Student Shadowing**

Oxford University Student Union have run a wide range of student led outreach projects for over thirty years. One of the projects is a student shadowing scheme, which is run for two weeks in February each academic year.

The scheme targets Year 12 pupils from schools with low application rates to Oxford and those in the local area and sees around 200 students coming through the scheme each year. The school pupils are matched with a current undergraduate student who is studying in an area that they are interested in. They then spend half a day shadowing the undergraduate volunteer, going to lectures, tutorials and labs and the other half in a range of workshops on student life and advice on the application process, including personal statements and interviews.

To find out more about the student shadowing scheme or any of the other projects OUSU runs visit: [www.ousu.org](http://www.ousu.org/)



**Union:**Student Volunteering Cardiff (Cardiff Students’ Union)

**Type:**Outreach to children/young people in care

**Activity:**Confident Futures - student befriending

Student Volunteering Cardiff is a student-led volunteering charity that is works in Cardiff Students’ Union, which is based in the Union and part-funded by them.

Confident Futures is a student befriending scheme run by Student Volunteering Cardiff. This is the first year of Confident Futures, and so far it is going well. The aim of the scheme is to support children/young people in the care system (looked after children) plan for their future careers or education, whilst also providing social support and relationship building. Fourteen looked after children aged between 14 and 16 years old visit the students’ union every two weeks. Each child has been paired with the same student volunteer throughout the programme. During each visit, the group will undertake some activities, usually based around supporting the children to explore their options about the future.

This might include CV writing sessions or similar activities. The session will also provide the time and space for each pair to work together separately from the whole group, giving the child a chance for individual attention. In addition, the children are introduced to the students’ union, helping them feel comfortable and confident in the University environment.

The children come from the care system from outside Cardiff, and this scheme is an expansion of a summer school for looked after children run by the University Widening Access department. The Widening Access department also jointly funds this new scheme. The additional money for the project came directly from last year’s Jail Break fundraiser, and so students can clearly see where there fundraising money is being spent.

This money is spent on training student volunteers and providing them with a CRB check, as well as going towards resources for the session activities.

As this scheme is in its first year, there is not yet any formal reporting. However, initial impressions have been that there has been an incredibly positive response from the children and students involved.

To find out more information about this scheme please contact [Alison Davies](mailto:daviesa74@cardiff.ac.uk) or [Sarah Pritchard](mailto:pritchard7@cardiff.ac.uk)