

TAKE YOUR PLACE

ANNUAL REPORT

Network for East Anglian
Collaborative Outreach
2018



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WHO WE ARE

In parts of East Anglia, young people are less likely to go into higher education than in other areas of the country despite similar GCSE results. The Network for East Anglian Collaborative Outreach (neaco) is one of 29 consortia across England that have been funded by the Government through the Office for Students (OfS) as part of the National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP).

The national aim is to deliver outreach into these low participation areas to double the proportion of students progressing into higher education and higher apprenticeships. These local partnerships give inspiration, increase aspiration and support young people in years 9-13 to plan their future education.

neaco is a local partnership of five universities and eight further education colleges in Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. We work closely with schools, Local Enterprise Partnerships, local authorities and other stakeholders.

neaco is taking a non-prescriptive approach to widening participation, intuitive to the needs of students, staff and local communities. At the centre of this approach is our Take Your Place framework, a fully funded and progressive programme for target students. It includes several strands, each addressing our target students' identified needs and aims to increase progression to higher education.

The framework focuses on improving our students' understanding and preparedness towards applying for higher education, developing their passion and ambition towards the idea of higher education as well as making informed choices to enable progression.

OUR PARTNERS:



CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE GROUP OVERVIEW

The work taking place through the Network for East Anglian Collaborative Outreach (neaco) partnership represents a significant sea-change in the scale and innovation of higher education outreach in East Anglia, and I am delighted by the progress we have made so far.

Our focus on raising ambitions and attainment levels for our target students at schools and colleges and on changing perceptions among teachers and parents remains at the heart of neaco.

Two years on from the formation of neaco there has been an enormous amount of activity delivered and hugely positive relationships built across the region. Our first year, 2017, was one of rapid growth, as we built our partnership and set the foundations of the project. 2018 saw large-scale engagement of target students in a sustained and progressive way, working alongside and within our partner schools and colleges to deliver high quality interactions to almost 11,000 students over the year. This year we have also concentrated our efforts in bringing together our eight Further Education College partners in East Anglia, each with their own unique context, to ensure an aligned, collaborative approach with the University partners.

Throughout 2018 we have embraced a new mission and values to support our approach and direct our progress. Our mission and values focus on our commitment to doubling the proportion of young people from underrepresented neighbourhoods progressing to higher education.

Embedded in the project is the belief that we have the opportunity to improve the evidence base of the impact of outreach work. In September, the follow-up to the base line survey saw another high response rate from Year 9 to 13 students in East Anglia, with almost 21,000 completing the survey. In both instances we have provided a major contribution to the dataset nationally. The results will begin to give an indication of the effect of our outreach work when compared against the baseline survey conducted the previous year.



We continue to work closely with business, public and third sector organisations in East Anglia and will build on these ties for the future. Three of the twelve 'social mobility cold spots', as identified by the Department for Education, are situated in East Anglia. Working with these opportunity areas in Norwich, Ipswich and Fenland & East Cambridgeshire helps to further support young people to make decisions about their education and career options.

The mood across the Network for East Anglian Collaborative Outreach as we look to the future is one of excitement and true team spirit. With indicative funding confirmed for phase two to July 2021, our drive to further this vital work is as strong as ever. We can look forward with confidence as we continue our targeted outreach to achieve impactful results and plan for our legacy beyond July 2021.

Professor Graham Virgo QC (Hon)

Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)
University of Cambridge

Chair of the Executive Group
Network for East Anglian Collaborative Outreach

OUR MISSION

We support target students in making informed decisions about their future

Our vision is one of equal rates of progression to higher education and higher apprenticeships between students living in target and non-target wards across East Anglia. We work towards this through:

- 1 Delivering and coordinating outreach activities which raise aspirations and support target students to make better informed choices using our progressive framework
- 2 Supporting the development of 'Information Advice and Guidance' related systems and infrastructure, and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for staff in target schools and colleges
- 3 Evaluating our approaches to ensure we learn which interventions work best



OUR VALUES

Each of our values aligns Take Your Place activity with our mission and framework



Collaborative

We work in partnership with target schools/institutions and other organisations and initiatives which have missions aligned to neaco



Impartial

We promote all available pathways and higher education providers within and beyond East Anglia



Sustainable

We deliver and support activity which embeds systemic change in schools Information Advice and Guidance; we prioritise initiatives which are scalable and could be sustained post-neaco



Learn

We undertake research to inform practice and better understand decision making of target students; we thoroughly monitor and evaluate impact; we develop staff



Responsive

We operate within an agreed framework, while supporting and responding to the needs of target schools and students



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2018 we worked with
10,878
of our 25,825 target students
from all 74 target wards in

86
schools and
colleges through



8
Further Education
Colleges and



5
universities

Our staff in schools, colleges
and Further Education Colleges
delivered



5399
activities. That's
52,938
contact hours



We surveyed

20,881

students in our follow-up survey
and conducted 2 Randomised
Controlled Trials



CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH

6015 target students

8 university project delivery staff
3 Further Education College staff

NORFOLK

10,905 target students

15 university project delivery staff
7 Further Education College staff

SUFFOLK

8905 target students

17 university project delivery staff
4 Further Education College staff

neaco funds:

28 ✓

Higher Education Champions
working in schools and colleges

14 ✓

neaco funded staff in
Further Education Colleges

6 ✓

Higher and Degree
Apprenticeship specialists

WORKING WITH STUDENTS

Our Higher Education Champions are integral to the programme. They are all experienced education and outreach professionals who work with our target students.

Their in-school work has included widening and enhancing current programmes. This has included university visits and taster days, as well as developing new activities tailored to the individual and local needs of schools and pupils. Some of our more tailored activity has included a project on the UK housing crisis, encouraging oracy on debating days and 'a day in the life of a university student'.

At the centre of our approach is our Take Your Place framework.

This progressive programme of activities includes several strands of activity, each addressing a student's identified needs:

- Improving their understanding and preparedness towards applying for higher education
- Improving their passion and ambition towards the idea of higher education.

The **neaco Information, Advice and Guidance framework** provides a set of outcomes and accompanying resources to help structure provision and ensure consistent development of activities. The framework is aligned to Gatsby Benchmarks.



In one of my Haverhill schools I run a Boys Club each week over lunch (pizza included) for 'low mood' target students. The Club provides a relaxed open forum where we talk about 'future stuff' such as stress, skills, interviews, financial skills, apprenticeships and university. Next year we're visiting a local business to find out about careers in construction.

Importantly the Club provides a 'safe environment to talk', where the boys can be open with thoughts and 'learn about life'. Next year, the club will be replicated with a mix of boys and girls to evaluate which format produces the best outcome.

Charlotte Steggall,
Higher Education Champion



Undercover Readers

Undercover Readers aims to ignite students' passion for literature and encourage expression through creative writing. Throughout the year, 450 Norfolk students attended author masterclasses and creative writing workshops in schools.

Iain McNally, Assistant Principal, Create College - Learning Community (Ormiston Venture Academy, Great Yarmouth) talks about his school's involvement: "Undercover Readers has encouraged students... to think of themselves as creative young people and in many cases, talented writers. It has also opened up their eyes to potential study pathways, involving creativity and writing."

Louis Bailey, Year 9, Ormiston Venture Academy, said about his winning entry 'Vertigo', "it's definitely a great start for a possible future career in storytelling."

Andrew Underwood
Higher Education Champion

"As a school in one of the Opportunity Areas we have been working closely with neaco for some time. This has allowed us to give our students many fantastic opportunities that would have otherwise been extremely difficult and expensive to deliver. These opportunities give some of our students who wouldn't otherwise aspire to attend university, the impetus and the drive to do so. My thanks go to all at neaco."

Dr Norton-Berry
Assistant Principal, Ely College



Medics for the Day

60 students from Felixstowe and Chantry Academies scrubbed in to take part in a very hands-on operating experience. Over the day the students dissected brains, inflated lungs and explored intestines under the watchful eye of a trained clinician.

"I usually find science boring," Liberty Pinner, a student at Felixstowe Academy said, "but I'm really enjoying this. I learn hands-on so much better and I find this really inspiring for my art." Liberty has no intention of entering the medical profession but she does have a plan: "I'm focusing on the creative side - I'm thinking Level 3 BTEC".

The aim of the day was to give students a hands-on experience with real-life, practical applications in a range of careers. Tommy Mosely, Assistant Principal, Chantry Academy, commented, "Today's activity has such a wide range of applications including maths, soft skills and all things students need besides the obvious biology and science applications. There really are links to any world of work."

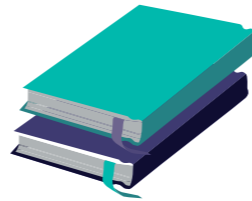
Nisa Heys & Aimee Hayes
Higher Education Champions

WORKING WITH SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

neaco works with

86

schools and colleges



Our work in schools and colleges continues to influence outcomes for our target students. Our approach is localised and targeted, supporting the aspiration and progression of young people to higher education.

In addition to our 28 Higher Education Champions we have staff offering specialist subject knowledge.

We now have four Arts and Media Champions across East Anglia working with target schools to support students through a variety of activities, supported by our Information Advice and Guidance Framework. Some examples include: portfolio preparation, presentations, subject taster workshops, artist guest speakers, bespoke activities and more.

Our Highly Able Champion in Cambridge works with schools throughout East Anglia. The activity has included online mentoring, subject taster days and debating workshops as well as campus visits and interview workshops.

Our six Higher and Degree Apprenticeship specialists work with schools and colleges as well as businesses to offer specialist knowledge in this growing area.

Our school grant scheme forms part of the Take Your Place programme. Throughout 2018, schools accessed funds of between £500 and £10,000 for specific projects, encouraging diverse and innovative approaches to supporting outreach activity.

Projects undertaken include subject specific activity including 'Science as a Future Career' and 'Wonderstruck' at Castle Manor Academy, the business themed 'National Enterprise Challenge' and journalism themed 'Roving Reporter' projects at Ken Stimpson Community School. A 'National Theatre' project at Springwood High School supported GCSE English and Chantry Academy have undertaken a number of projects including leadership training, support for creative writing and Computer Science, as well as a visit to Museum of London and Houses of Parliament for politics students.

A number of projects have also touched on Continued Personal Development for staff in our schools and colleges. Long Road Sixth Form College in Cambridge trained four staff members in Level 4 CEIAG qualifications.

Lindsey Jonesman, Highly Able Champion, talks about her work with target students

The varied nature of the highly able programme has meant that I get to work with students across different projects. Working with the students away from the normal confines of the classroom on topics they are interested in, really gives the students an insight into university life and a chance to get to know the undergraduate students more than they would on a single day visit. For example, students from Caister Academy have taken part in an academic project where they worked on different activities each week. They used an online mentoring platform to message undergraduate students about their work and ask questions about university life. They then visited Cambridge where the students worked together and with mentors on presentations, showcasing their work to the rest of the group.

I think Cambridge has a lot of myths surrounding it and it may seem unachievable for target students, but I hope from the visits they've had and the chances to meet our student ambassadors they've found it a place that is welcoming and somewhere they could see themselves.



In 2018 neaco awarded 37 school grants, totalling:

£148,868

Image courtesy of CERN



Working creatively with schools and colleges

As part of our creative offering, 30 schools and colleges around Norfolk took part in the Break Charity GoGoCreate education project. Schools were given a small leveret sculpture to design and paint, which was then displayed around Norwich as part of the Leaping Leverets trail. Over 400 students took part.

Local artist Genevieve Rudd talks about her time at East Norfolk to help paint leverets.

"I went to East Norfolk and, like many of these students, I was the first in my family to go to university. I had some really interesting conversations about their perceptions of university and the value of studying creative subjects. I hope that working with the students has inspired them to follow their own creative ambitions through higher education."

Annabel Osborn, Jodie Marr
Arts and Media Champions

Kate McCormack, Higher Education Champion, talks about Sewell Park Academy

The student cohort in Years 9 to 11 at Sewell Park Academy in Norwich live almost entirely in neaco target postcodes. Support to improve student outcomes given by the Higher Education Champion crossed almost all subjects. It also provided an opportunity for continued learning for staff at the school.

Some of the activity has included a trip to the Castle Museum (History students) and Bletchley Park (STEM students). In school, English students had a visit from experts from Shakespeare's Globe, as well as Undercover Readers and Rivers of Reading activity. To further encourage progression, students visited Loughborough University.

Students at Sewell Park have also received support from our specialist Arts & Media Champions including print making workshops, 'A Day in the Life' photography project encompassing the University of Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin University and a trip to the Design Museum in London.

Supported activity in 2018 culminated in a field trip to Geneva to enhance students' science capital, funded through the school grants scheme. Twelve students were chosen who had shown great aptitude in their academic studies but may not have considered higher education and a professional career an obvious life pathway. Students spent a day in CERN as well as touring the United Nations headquarters and Geneva's History of Science museum. The group were fortunate to be shown around by a CERN scientist who grew up in the catchment area of the school. The trip has had a marked impact on the students, one described it as 'it changed me in a way that made me think of my future.'

WORKING WITH FURTHER EDUCATION COLLEGES

In 2018 efforts concentrated on bringing together our Further Education College partners in East Anglia, each with their own unique context, to ensure an aligned, collaborative approach with university partners. The eight Further Education Colleges in East Anglia are spread across numerous sites.

Each Further Education College delivered the Take Your Place approach in a range of ways relevant to the college, the needs of students and the local community, opening new progression routes into higher education or apprenticeships. The approach was mapped back to a project plan with agreed outcomes specific to each institution and the environment in which they exist.

Examples of the different ways Further Education Colleges have taken individual approaches has included a Careers Event with local businesses held at City College Norwich. Cambridge Regional College held taster days in schools for Year 10s and 11s showing options after GCSEs. Suffolk New College invited the Royal Marines to hold team building sessions for public services and catering students. The College of West Anglia have built careers hubs in three different campuses - King's Lynn, Wisbech and Milton.

neaco partners with

8

Further Education Colleges

neaco funds

14

staff members



"Working with Take Your Place helped me find the perfect university without too much stress. My Dad and I were able to visit my top choices, meet the academics and feel happy about the decision I have made about my academic future. We could not have gone without the help. Thankyou!"

Heather Smy
BTEC National Extended Diploma in Performing Arts - Acting

City College Norwich

The team at City College have been very busy over the past year setting up events, workshops and talks for students, including an evening event for Arts students, Humanities taster days and a very well attended careers event.

We also provide one-on-ones with students in the 'advice shop' and advice drop-ins during tutor sessions. One student came to us for advice about her upcoming midwifery interview. In talking through what kind of questions might be offered and asking the student some of these questions in a mock interview setting, she felt so much more prepared and confident for her upcoming interviews. She had an excellent interview and got an offer for midwifery at her top choice university.

Another student was first pointed out by their A Level tutor, as someone who was bright and planning to apply to university, but had not yet done so and was failing to attend tutor sessions. We got in touch and offered guidance on the UCAS process and writing their personal statement and helped them create an action plan to ensure they submitted their application on time. This student applied on time and has already achieved a conditional offer.

Rebecca Foster and Hannah Dunlop
Higher Education Advisers, City College Norwich



At Peterborough Regional College we have seven higher education core offerings to students to support progression, including a university trip and an Aspirational Workshop. We also run various higher education inspiration days at the University Centre Peterborough.

Ensuring strong support and buy-in from the College's Principal to the curriculum leaders and tutors is imperative for the programme to work effectively, as is having at least two of our core offerings mandatory for target students. This academic year each course will now provide a 'higher education day' in which our core events are run on the same day, having a greater memorable impact and providing several touch points with our students.

Ruth Hovell
Higher Education Engagement Officer

West Suffolk College

West Suffolk College is extremely proud to be part of the Take Your Place project. We put students at the heart of everything we do, and supporting young people from our community to access higher education is a key priority for their future success.

Working in close partnership with our Higher Education Champion, we have delivered a demanding schedule of neaco activity. Target students have particularly enjoyed STEM career fairs, trips to universities and graduate employers and a 'Prepare a Doctor' medicine event. We hope that the advice and guidance we have provided on UCAS, Student Finance, university life, career planning and leaving home and finding independence has been invaluable and will prepare our young people for promising graduate careers in the future.

Tegan Locke
Head of Higher Education, West Suffolk College



WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

Working with students in their schools and colleges only gives a partial picture of their lives and influences. Understanding, interacting with, and finding ways to influence the communities they live in, completes this picture.

Throughout 2018 we continued to work with our communities through localised conversations, our community grant scheme and attendance at county level Skills Shows.

We have also continued our attempt to influence our target students' influencers. This included the release of a magazine aimed at their parents and carers.

The Skills Shows brought together partner institutions at a county level in a Higher Education Zone. The Zone enabled partner institution staff and Higher Education Champions to have conversations with young people from our target areas.

Our community grant scheme offered up to £20,000 for local community groups to use their expertise and networks to support the progression of young people to higher education. The scheme was open to any not-for-profit organisations

including community groups, educational charities, arts groups and libraries. In 2018 we awarded 21 community grants, totalling £248,916.

We funded the Carers Trust to target young carers at key transition points in the educational journey to overcome potential barriers.

COMPASS's ROGA project was aimed at motivating young Roma students to learn about and access higher education in the UK. The students were also able to meet many influential Roma role models and find out about their journey to success.

Norwich African Community Centre worked with African students and their families in Norwich to engage them in aspirations to higher education.

Norwich Castle hosted a number of interactive events for students re-enacting a criminal trial. The Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality research on BAME communities in Suffolk resulted in the publication of 'Manifestos for Educational Inclusion'.



We have been able to work directly with young carers as well as their influencers in order to identify what support might benefit them most and provide this to them. We have taken them on two university visits, to the 'What University/What Career event in London and provided one-on-one support/intervention. One example of this was to secure additional support for the family so that the young person could attend a university trip with her mum. We were also able to help a family visit a university when they had missed the main open day because of mum's ill health.

Andy McGowan
Young Carers and Young Adult Carers Service Manager



It Takes a Village to Raise a Child

The Ipswich & Suffolk Council for Racial Equality (ISCRE) was funded by neaco to engage with parents and families of underrepresented students in Ipswich.

The report, *It Takes a Village to Raise a Child*, is based on a series of one-to-one interviews and conversations with black and minority ethnic community members held at a sharing event.

The report demonstrates that recently settled groups, including those from Eastern European and the Roma communities, face the greatest barriers to higher education. Other, longer established, groups also reported problems in accessing information about higher educational pathways.

The reasons for this are varied, but include a lack of community networks, certain cultural practices and assumptions and the lack of positive role models.

Using what was learnt from interviewees and those who attended the sharing event, ISCRE have co-produced a set of Manifestos for Inclusion.

The manifestos are a practical call to action to ensure that every child in the county is able to reach their full educational potential.

The next stage is to engage with primary, secondary, further and higher education providers to sign up to the manifestos and implement the necessary changes to ensure a culture of total inclusion and support for pupils from underrepresented groups.

Phanuel Mutumburi
Business and Operations Director, Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality



In 2018 neaco awarded 21 community grants, totalling:

£248,916

Criminals on Trial

Students gathered at Norwich Castle to engage with re-enactments in its historic courtroom. As part of the authentic experience they were first taken to the county gaol, where the prisoner would have been held, and escorted to the re-enacted criminal trial from the 1820s.

The performance was interactive - young people were asked for their opinions throughout the trial, including if they thought the prisoner was guilty. Students were asked if the case against the prisoner is strong enough to convict him, then what the implications of their decision, guilty or not, would be.

We hosted six events for neaco target schools (particularly students from Years 9-12) and four community events, targeted at neaco areas. Aimed primarily at those students with an interest in Law and debating, the event also had applications in other subject areas including Art (as court artists) and English (as court reporters).

The re-enactment was followed by workshops and activities exploring crime and punishment, past and present, including touring the dungeons and the former prison buildings with museum staff, and analysing relevant



documents from the 19th Century with staff from the University of East Anglia.

Students from one school were so enthused following the event that they requested further activities from neaco that allow them to explore historical events, which have been arranged for later in the year with another Norfolk museum!

Jenni Williams, Norfolk Museums Service



WORKING IN COLLABORATION

"Teamwork"

Collaboration with organisations working to improve social mobility remains essential to our work across East Anglia. Throughout 2018 working with organisations whose aims closely align to neaco's ensured a coherent approach was taken to address the high level of need across the region.

The opportunity area programme provided targeted funding for children and young people in areas facing the biggest challenges to social mobility. Three of these social mobility 'cold spots' are in East Anglia - Norwich, Ipswich and Fenland & East Cambridgeshire.

25 of our target schools and colleges are within the opportunity areas. We are represented on each of the various working groups and form part of their delivery plans. Throughout 2018 we regularly met with the opportunity areas and continue to do so to ensure alignment in our offerings to target students.

We have worked in partnership with the opportunity areas on a range of activities including 'University in a day' at Ely College and a Maths study programme with students from the Ipswich area.

We have continued to work with the Local Enterprise Partnerships, local councils and other stakeholders, ensuring a local expertise is being fed into the programme and aligning our offers for the benefit of schools and colleges.

Throughout 2018 we also collaborated with organisations such as the Careers and Enterprise Company and the National Citizen Service.

Our partnership with Future First helped give young people access to role models through building alumni communities. At the end of December, we had 4716 former students signed up through Future First to support their old school or college.

We have continued our work with Norfolk County Council, broadening the reach of the Norfolk higher education scheme to include all higher education and degree level pathways. Recently we ran a mock 'mini interview' day reaching 40 potential medicine students.

The Apprenticeship Advisers who are funded by neaco and employed through Norfolk County Council are responsible for working with schools to run workshops to raise awareness of apprenticeships, with a particular focus on higher and degree level apprenticeships. They have extended their role to offer support to students in their apprenticeship applications. Having completed apprenticeships themselves they are well-placed to provide valuable advice to students.

Astra Richardson and Myles Smith
County Coordinator, Norfolk

Alumni Networks

Future First has had the pleasure of working in a productive and open partnership with neaco over the past two years. Together we have increased social mobility across East Anglia, supporting 52 schools to establish thriving and engaged alumni communities, building a network of 3501 former students, and reaching over 1461 students in Future First workshops alone.

Young people benefit greatly from access to relatable role models, people who have sat in the same seats and have gone onto higher education and rewarding careers. By building alumni communities in this region, young people now have access to social capital, and insight in to new worlds of opportunity and a variety of education and career pathways; broadening horizons and raising aspirations.

Matt Lent,
Chief Executive Officer
Future First

4716
alumni communities
engaged with Future First



James Paget hospital, Great Yarmouth

The James Paget education team have been delighted to be working closely with neaco over the last year to set up a junior and senior academy, encouraging progression into health professions. At the Academy, the students gain an insight into healthcare and the variety of pathways.

Great Yarmouth, where James Paget is located, is a Norfolk coastal town with a high proportion of underrepresented young people. Our work with neaco has helped to increase the aspirations of the young people we have worked with and we hope it will provide direction for many more.

We aimed to show the students what opportunities they could have within the NHS. At the end of the Junior and Senior Academies, the students have applied for positions in careers such as nursing - many have stated that the academy influenced their decision to apply. I have watched the students confidence grow over the months and the skills they have gained will benefit the NHS but also stay with them throughout their lives.

Sharon Crowle,
Head of Education and Practice Development and Non-Medical
Clinical Tutor, James Paget University NHS Trust

Higher and Degree Apprenticeships Officers working with businesses

Our key focus is developing relationships with employers to broaden the scope and understanding of the apprenticeship offer. We have engaged with many organisations, both public and private in Norfolk and north Suffolk, identifying and discussing the existing skills-gaps. We have worked across multiple sectors collaborating with companies to understand if current courses are adequate for industry requirements. Where appropriate we have worked with colleges to develop new higher education pathways.

A key part of our work has included myth busting and promoting the enormous benefits apprenticeship programmes can offer to both the learner and employer.

Stephen Davies and Lucie Chambers
Degree Apprenticeship Development Officers, City College Norwich

EVALUATION



20,881

surveys returned to CFE

10,878

target students participated in our activities

2

Randomised controlled trials

Research and evaluation are a core part of our project, to assess and understand the difference our activities make to the young people we work with. The programme also provides a unique opportunity to improve the evidence base of outreach work, and inform practice both now and in the future.

Monitoring and tracking students' engagement with the Take Your Place programme is the cornerstone of our evaluation. In 2018, we recorded 5399 individual outreach activities delivered by our project partners on our Higher Education Access Tracker (HEAT) database. Across these activities, we worked with 10,878 individual students. Through the HEAT tracking system, we will be able to follow the students we have worked with through their educational journey, and analyse how participation in our activities has affected their progression.

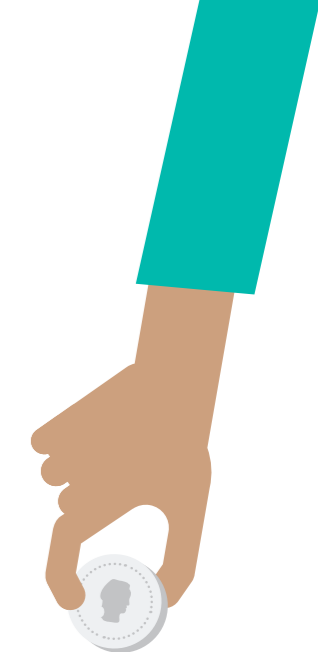
Our local evaluation is integrated with the national evaluation of the NCOP project. Across the country, NCOP consortia undertook a survey of students aged 13-19 in the Autumn term. In East Anglia, we collected responses from 20,881 students, which accounts for 22% of the responses nationally. These surveys provide key information about the knowledge and attitudes students have about higher education, which can help us to understand their decision making and influences. We will compare the results to the baseline survey conducted in 2017, as well as linking them to students' activity and progression records in HEAT. This will provide a rich dataset, enabling a robust and nuanced analysis of the impact of our work.

neaco has also worked with the national formative evaluation as one of a number of consortia participating in field visits. Researchers from CFE and Sheffield Hallam University spent two days in May 2018 visiting some of our partner schools, Further Education colleges and universities. They interviewed a wide range of staff and stakeholders, including Graham Virgo, Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor at University of Cambridge and Chair of the neaco Executive Group, and Trevor Gannon, Associate Assistant Principal at Sewell Park Academy.

In collaboration with CFE Research and the Behavioural Insights Team, neaco completed the intervention stages of two randomised controlled trials during 2018. The intervention in each trial consisted of a series of text messages, delivered to students in Year 11 or Year 13. The messages were designed to nudge recipients to make more informed choices about their future study options. The initial results of the first trial, with Year 13 students, have shown a small increase in the likelihood of applying to higher education via UCAS, but this increase was not statistically significant. We therefore decided to repeat the trial intervention in the 2018/19 academic year, which will provide a larger combined sample size and enable any effect to be detected more accurately.

Communicating our work is also vital to enable the sector to develop more evidence-based practices. In July, our lead evaluator Dr Sonia Ilie participated as a panellist at the Brilliant Club 2018 Conference, which was hosted at Nene Park Academy in Peterborough. Dr Ilie is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge Faculty of Education, and spoke in the session "Context Matters: Local and National Approaches to Improving University Access". The neaco evaluation work has also been featured at the annual conferences of the Society for Research into Higher Education.

FINANCE



£11.5m

funding January 2017 to July 2019

£5.68m

total expenditure during 2018

neaco is funded by the Office for Students (OfS), as part of the National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP).

The OfS have allocated neaco a total of £11.5m in funding across the period January 2017 – July 2019. This is comprised of our original allocation (£9.2m to cover the two year period January 2017 to December 2018) and an additional £2.3m to cover the seven month extension of the project from January to July 2019.

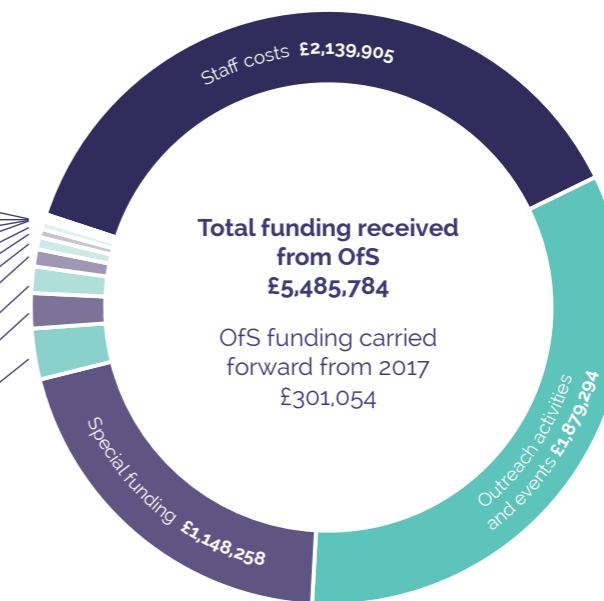
During the 2018 calendar year our total expenditure was £5.68m. This is an 89% increase compared to 2017, with costs increasing as the project grew and became established.

Our primary expenditure has been on staff costs (£2.14m), Outreach (£1.88m) and Special Funding (£1.15m). We now have a full complement of 57 staff including 28 Higher Education Champions delivering outreach activity in schools and colleges to our target young people. Our Outreach costs have covered the delivery of the Take Your Place programme by our universities, Further Education Colleges and charities in our partnership. Our special funding has covered a programme of CPD for teachers, mentoring for target students, and a range of projects with local community groups and charities.

Total expenditure during 2018

£5,676,380

- Legal £600
- Accountancy/audit £1,775
- Tracking costs £5,502
- IT costs including websites £14,194
- Lead institution costs £23,748
- Printing £25,795
- Marketing £37,384
- Equipment £53,283
- Travel and subsistence £81,359
- Other £108,479
- Research and evaluation £156,803



TAKE YOUR PLACE

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