



GET THE LOW DOWN

EMPOWER ACADEMY

ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Lancashire
County Council 

University of
Cumbria 

Lancaster
University 


uclan
University of Central Lancashire

Edge Hill
University



Session Overview:

- Introductions
- Origins of the Empower Programme
- What is the Empower Programme?
- Challenges and Successes
- How could a collaborative programme work for you?



Anna Wooley,
Widening Participation Officer,
Edge Hill University

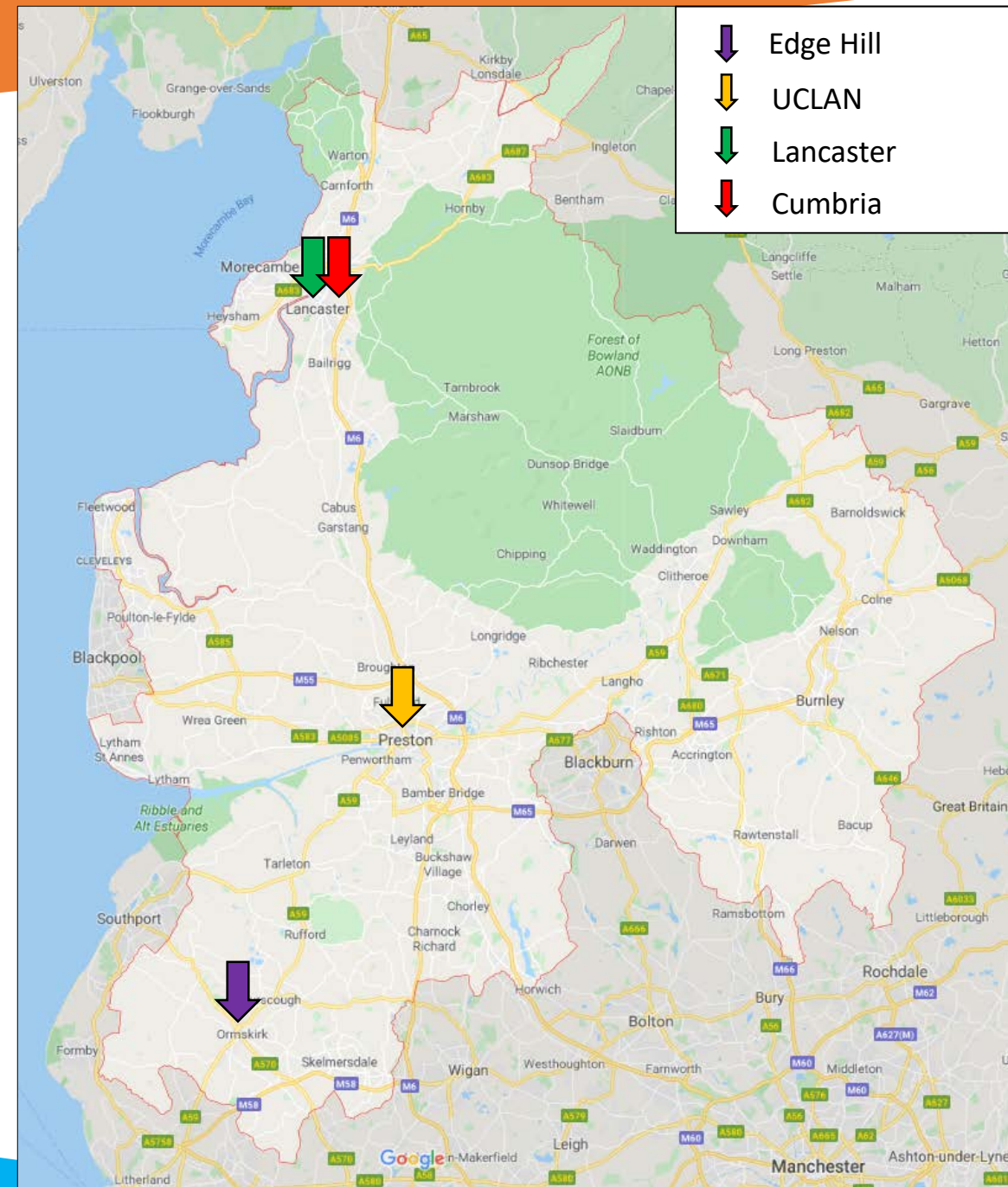
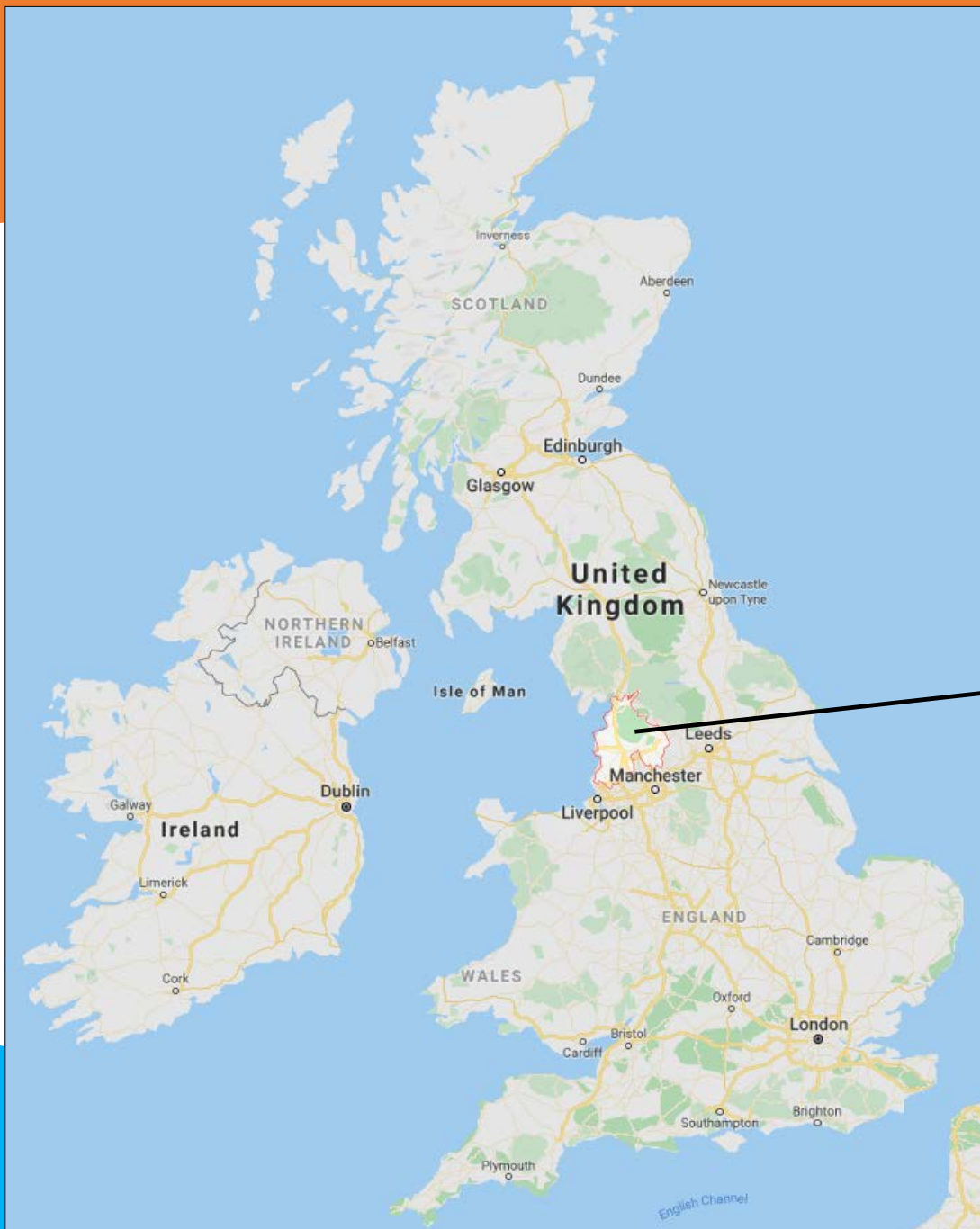


Carla Lockwood,
Outreach Operations Manager,
Lancaster University



Lancashire Collaborative Network institutions:







Identified three groups for targeted collaborative outreach:

- Pre-16 CLA students (Years 9 to 11) —————> Empower Academy
- Mature Care Leavers —————> Hothersall Lodge
- Social Workers, Foster Carers and supporters of CLA and CL students —————> Empowering Practitioners conference



Empower Academy:

- Targeted at Year 9 and 10 CLA students
- Contacted and invited to join programme by LCC key staff
- Introduction and routes into HE, overview of Student Finance, How to choose a career, and developing students skills
- Year long extended programme involves visiting each HE campus to explore a different topic area; always a weekday date and 10am to 2pm
- Delivered during half term holidays
- Launch and celebration events held in May



Empower Academy launch event:

- Welcome event for students and their supporters (May)
- Held at Lancashire County Council's headquarters in Preston
- Overview of programme for attendees and to meet programme staff
- Student ambassador led workshop for student attendees
- Staff led presentation for supporters
- Data collection, pre-evaluations, Q&A





We hope you are well and had an enjoyable summer.

Since the launch event of the Empower Academy in May, we have been hard at work creating the programme of activity for our new students for their first campus visit to Edge Hill University on 22nd October.

In preparation for the visit to campus

How to Find Us

The main Edge Hill University campus is in Ormskirk. There are several ways that you can get to the best option.

By rail – Take the train from Ormskirk station, you can

- Bus: Free bus service
- Walk: From Ormskirk station
- App: Use the Edge Hill app
- Know: The location
- Road: A66

By car – Leave your car at the bus stop where you can park.

Unfortunately, parking space on-campus is extremely limited and is by **pre-booking only**. If you will be travelling by car, please do contact us via Wooleya@edgehill.ac.uk and we will establish if there is any availability on the event date for you.

Alternatively, there are many pay and display car parks available within Ormskirk town centre (please see [attached map](#)). From the town centre, you can travel to campus by foot (approximately 10/15 minutes) or via the Edge Link bus which departs from Ormskirk bus station.

On arrival to campus

Please arrive at the [Main Entrance](#) to the University (2nd entrance on the right if approaching from the M58). Our student guides (who will be wearing purple tabards) will be waiting at the entrance to greet you.

Students will be taken by the guides to the first location. Carers and supporters are welcome to stay on campus for the duration of the event, and our student guides will be happy to direct you to our social spaces on campus where you will be able to access refreshments. Before you leave your student with the Student Guides, you will be asked to provide an emergency contact number should we need to contact you during the event. Students will be brought to our Main Reception area at the end of the event (2pm) to be collected.

If you have any questions before the event day, please contact the event day organiser Anna Wooley via wooleya@edgehill.ac.uk

We look forward to seeing everyone on the 22nd October.

Best Wishes,

Anna and the Edge Hill team



We hope you have had a fun summer holiday and a good start back to school!

In just over a month's time, the Empower Academy programme will be in full swing, with your first university campus visit being to Edge Hill University on the 22nd October.

During the visit, you will be exploring the university campus with some of our current students, as well as taking part in activities which will give you an idea about what university is like.

In preparation for your first visit day we have included an activity with this letter, which we would like you to try before you come to campus on the 22nd October. Make sure you bring your sheet with you on the day, as we will be giving you the answers when you arrive!

We hope you are excited for the first visit of the programme and we look forward to seeing you at Edge Hill University soon.

See you on the 22nd!

Anna and the Edge Hill team



How much do you know about UK Universities?
Universities are fascinating places where there is always something unusual and exciting happening.

Try the quiz below to test your knowledge. You will receive the answers on your first visit day!

1.

The computer science department at the University of Abertay, Dundee, ran the world's first course in what?

- A) Hacking
- B) Facebook
- C) X-box games
- D) Untangling power cables

2.

Bangor University is the only university in the UK to own a research...?

- A) Submarine
- B) Ship
- C) Hot-air balloon
- D) Spacecraft

3.

What is unusual about Coventry University's campus?

- A) It contains a graveyard
- B) It's built over an underground lake
- C) It's on the side of a mountain
- D) It features a crashed German WW2 bomber plane

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Time	Activity	Location
09:30	Arrival of Students and Carers	
10.00am	Carers to sign in Students: Welcome and Housekeeping Quiz Results Introduction to HE <u>escape</u> room activity	Take to B101
11:15am	Carers: Opportunity to meet with CL support staff Refreshments	B101
11:45pm	Campus Tour Students: Lee and Amelia Carers (optional): Kate	B102
12:30pm	Lunch (vouchers)	
13.50pm	Workshop – CAVE / Z space activity	Hub
14:00pm	Summary and Evaluation	Tech Hub
	Close	Tech Hub
		Please take students to Main Reception

Campus Visit (1) at EHU:

- Introduction to HE theme: what is HE, routes into HE, courses and institutions, what could HE do for me?
- Activities included an Introduction to HE themed escape room, a visit to the Tech Hub *CAVE* installation and *Z space* activity room, and a campus tour
- Carers/supporters accompanying students also had a session with EHU Student Services and an opportunity to go on a campus tour

Choose your response to the statements or questions below by circling your answer.

University is a serious option in my future

Strongly
Agree

Agree

Neither Agree
or Disagree

Disagree

Strongly
Disagree

Do you know what kinds of courses you can study at university?

Yes, I now have more of an idea.

I know what skills I need to have in order to be successful

Strongly
Agree

Agree

Neither Agree
or Disagree

Disagree

Strongly
Disagree

Can you name some of these skills?

Working hard in areas I enjoy.
Be confident.
Work with others.

I know what I can do to develop my skills, experience and knowledge

Strongly
Agree

Agree

Neither Agree
or Disagree

Disagree

Strongly
Disagree

Can you think of any examples of what you could do?

Extra curricula
things out of my comfort to
build confidence.

Do you have any feedback about today's visit?

What did you most enjoy? Is there anything else you would have liked to do?

I enjoyed the virtual reality
and escape room game.

- Evaluation meeting conducted following first campus visit
- Student and carer feedback was extremely positive
- Review of the day's structure and activities will inform the next campus visit (held at Lancaster in February)
- Communications sent to students and their carers is all under the same Empower Academy branding (constructed by respective HEI's and sent by LCC)



Hothersall Lodge events:

- Targeted event for mature care leaver students located in an Outdoor Education centre
- Contacted, invited and brought to event by LCC staff
- Event programme involved a morning of HE workshops and the afternoon on an outdoor adventure assault course
- Provided an introduction and routes into HE, overview of Student Finance, student life, and careers/employability
- Delivered in October/November

About the event

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I found the event useful	7	2			
I found the content easy to understand	8	1			
I understand more about going to University than I did before	7	1	1		
The material covered was relevant	7	2			
The presenters delivered the material well	4	4	1		
The venue was appropriate for this event	6	3			
The event was of the right length	4	5			
I know where to go to get further information	5	3	1		
The refreshments provided were suitable	6	2	1		
I would recommend <u>others</u> to come to this event	6	3			

What were the strengths of the event? What did you find most useful or enjoyable and why?

Informative, comprehensive, good length of time, finance, easier more realistic to see myself going to University, activities were great, good to meet other care leavers, team building activities, everything because everyone was involved, very enjoyable, having different unis giving talks on different sections, recognise the benefits of going to uni

- Evaluation conducted following the first event
- Student feedback was extremely positive
- HEI staff delivering the activity were varied: Access/Mature learner officers, Careers Advisors, Outreach staff, etc.
- Response to sessions on careers and finance was particularly positive



Empowering Practitioners Conference:

- Covering routes into HE, Student Finance, student support services, student life
- A mix of presentations and workshops delivered by HEI and SLC staff
- Also included workshops on *Personal Statements*, *Building Resilience in Students*, and a *Student Life* talk
- HEI information stands also available through the day

Empowering Practitioners Conference – 14th October 2019

We hope that you enjoyed the Empowering Practitioners Conference 2019. To help us to review and develop future activities we would like you to complete this brief evaluation form.

<p>Are you...?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Personal Adviser</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Foster Carer</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Support staff at school/college</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Support services</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other – please specify below <i>Participation Worker @ Barnardos.</i></p>	<p>How did you find out about this event?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Foster Carers Network</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lancashire County Council</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Word of mouth</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other – please specify below</p>
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Did the activity meet your expectations?

- ☐ Yes: The activity met my expectations
☒ No: It was better/ more worthwhile than I expected
☐ No: It was less worthwhile than I expected

*Really informative and helpful!
I will be sharing info with
my team and young people.
Thank you.*

Please tick the most relevant boxes below based on your experience of the venue

The temperature of the room was ideal

☐ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neither Agree or Disagree

The information on arrival was helpful

☒ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neither Agree or Disagree

The catering for the event was of good quality

☒ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neither Agree or Disagree

The room layout for the event was suitable

☒ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neither Agree or Disagree

Which aspects of the event did you find most useful and why?

*Experienced people providing good info.
Good to hear from care leaders
Very positive.*

Are there any aspects of the event that could have been improved?

No. well organised.

Please tick the most relevant boxes below based on the original objectives for this event

I have increased knowledge of Higher Education (HE) qualifications and routes into HE

☒ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neither Agree or Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree

I have increased knowledge of best practice in relation to the UCAS application process i.e. how to write an effective personal statement and the HE admissions process.

☒ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neither Agree or Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree

I have increased awareness of the student finance system and financial support available to care leavers at local Higher Education Institutions

☒ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neither Agree or Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree

I have increased knowledge of the range of support available to students at University (e.g. student services, careers support, etc.)

☒ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neither Agree or Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree

I have increased awareness of the student journey and university life

☒ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neither Agree or Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree

I have increased awareness of how to support young people to build their self-confidence and academic resilience

☒ Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Neither Agree or Disagree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree

Thank you for your time completing this feedback form.

All feedback provided through this form is anonymous and will not be linked to any information Lancashire County Council or the Higher Education Institution (HEI) partners already hold on you. Anonymous feedback that we receive may be shared with our partner organisations but you will not be able to be identified in any of the data shared.

- Evaluations conducted after the event
- Attendee feedback was extremely positive overall
- Second event structure was changed following delivery of the first: workshops delivered on rotation (so all attendees can attend all workshops)
- Attendees particularly appreciated being able to talk to CL Student Ambassadors about their experiences of HE
- Reaching a wide audience of practitioners

May 2018:

- Inaugural meeting
- Identifying contacts
- Establishing aims and target students / activity

July – September 2018:

- Activity content discussion and responsibilities
 - Establish budgets
- Plan EP conference and HL event

October 2018:

- First **Empowering Practitioners** conference
- First **Hothersall Lodge** event

September 2019:

- Evaluation and feedback of events
- Planning for event delivery

October 2019:

- First campus visit for **EA**
- Second **EP** conference
- Second **HL** event

November 2018 to January 2019:

- Evaluation of content delivered
- Planning for the delivery of Empower Academy

May 2019:

- Launch event for **Empower Academy**

February to April 2019:

- Invites to Empower Academy students
- Organise logistics for EA launch event

Late January 2019:

- Establish dates for 2019/20 activity
- Planning for the delivery of **Empower Academy**



Challenges:

- Arranging meetings convenient for all partners
- Changes in designated HEI staff
- Locations of meetings and events
- Cost: who pays and what do they pay for?
- Practical organisation
- Data sharing



Successes:

- Strengthening the relationships between LCC and all institutions
- Increased collaboration between HEI partners (e.g. Lancashire Collaborative Patient Journey events)
- Increased impact on students, particularly in relation to their experiencing a wider variety of HE institutions
- Accessing an increased portfolio of outreach opportunities (e.g. KS4 conference and foster carer networks)
- Sharing of costs and organisation
- Potential expansion of project (e.g. into Cumbria)



How could a collaborative partnership work for you?

- Who could it be with and what could they bring?
- What would you like the partnership to achieve?
- What are the aims and outcomes of the project?
- What could the project look like?
(e.g. practitioners conferences, campus visit days, cultural capital opportunities, etc)
- What barriers/challenges could you face?
- How could you address these challenges before they potentially happen?

Any Questions?

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