

Session Title:	Reaching beyond the school gate: Engaging with communities in meaningful outreach work.
Speaker(s):	Alex Blower
Chair:	Andy C
Reporter:	Fiona

Speaker/Institution Bio/Information:	Dr Alex Blower, Arts University Bournemouth, Access and Participation Manager.
Overview/Aim of session:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand limitations of current method of outreach • Reimagine opportunities and consider challenges of new way of working. • Share practice of the reachout project.
Workshop Content	<p>Issue with deficit language- “aspiration raising.”</p> <p>Deeper issues with the risk of deviating from the expected path, setting people up to fail.</p> <p>Telling (missionary approach to outreach) based on assumptions when we don’t know these students and their situations.</p> <p>White middle class traditionally progress to HE, structurally, is that who we cater for in outreach?</p> <p>Structural inequalities.</p> <p>A poll in the workshop room reflected that the room largely engage with students who are post-16 in schools, colleges and on campus.</p> <p>Recommended book: who are universities for? Manifesto how they could operate differently.</p> <p>Significant decline in mature learners, as unis are set up for young people. Questioning the set-up system.</p> <p>Missionary model is deficit, “under-privileged,</p>

	<p>disadvantaged, non-traditional.”</p> <p>Impact of model and funding = stagnant progress.</p> <p>Treat young people with respect. Don't squash their agency.</p> <p>No standards of practice for outreach, pedagogy or occupational standards so why not look to standards in youth work and ask for CPD such as YMCA? Advocate professionalising outreach.</p> <p>PGCert in WP at a few universities.</p>
Case Studies/Examples:	<p>Reachout- set up by Northumbria University had a youth work approach.</p> <p>Optional, not mandatory engagement, voluntary, non-hierarchical participation. 30 students invited; they brought their mates so 50 attended.</p> <p>During the pandemic, the youth worker gave a weekly phone call to students which helped with the strength and bond of those relationships. Eval data showed a 1-2 grade uplift overall.</p> <p>The trusted individual was important in this approach. Instilling belonging, access to resources on campus were important too.</p> <p>Housing associations partnerships to reach estranged students.</p> <p>Mytime- carers.</p> <p>Co-constructing activity with pupil-referral units. Pre-16 target groups in APP, voluntary participation.</p> <p>Being a boy- documentary in future.</p>
Scenarios/Roundtable discussions:	<p>Opportunities/challenges of this approach/starting again with outreach models.</p> <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small university approach might work • Other countries? Can we find practice that works and translate here? • Use what groups are in the community space already and work with them. • Use SA's and the SU to offer voluntary community work. • Faith spaces, St John's Ambulance <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality over quantity • Resource intensive

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation- seeking quick results on key groups • Timings. Schools and colleges approach is more easy/convenient • Might be difficult to find local groups- defunding of youth groups
Questions and Answers:	<p>Did you form relationships with parents through the reachout project?</p> <p>These formed organically with the youth worker through questions from parents, but no specific session was organised.</p> <p>How do you target based on this type of outreach, voluntary participation? How much is luck vs targeting?</p> <p>Youth work struggle with this but target certain postcode areas. The youth worker also developed relationships to understand characteristics.</p>
Summary Key takeaways:	<p>Rethink your method of outreach – is it really reaching those that need it, or those who were likely to go on to university anyway?</p> <p>Can you investigate CPD to help professionalise your outreach?</p> <p>Consider deficit language, and impacts on outreach/your frame for engagement.</p>