



SUN DISCOVER
YOUR
FUTURE

Mary White | Senior Lecturer Leadership & Management
**The Barriers for pupils entering Higher Education in target
wards**

OBJECTIVES

- Provide the context of the research;
- Share some of the emerging themes from the research;
- Answer your questions.

Context of the research project

- Directly targeted at young people living in wards where entry to HE is lower than expected;
- The purpose was to identify the barriers for pupils entering HE.

Participants and research approach

- Two schools participated in the project;
- Workshop sessions were held with pupils from year 10 and the parents/carers of year 10 pupils;
- The research approach was Appreciative Inquiry

An overview of some of the findings

- Family influences may impact on their perception of HE and decision making;
- Perceptions of HE attributed by previous experience at feeder school;
- Lack of self belief and motivation to consider HE;

An overview continued 2

- **Do qualifications add value for the life of a student?;**
- **Fear of leaving home is a barrier to entering HE;**
- **Perceived positive outcomes of attending HE;**
- **The cost of HE is perceived as an inhibitor by both parents and students.**
- **Limited communication and information about HE.**

An overview continued 3

- Health & Wellbeing issues;
- Limited number of courses;
- Qualifications needed for access;
- Limited opportunities of work experience not offered as part of the HE experience;
- Scepticism about support from feeder schools that places HE as impossible option for pupils with special needs.

Suggested actions for schools

- More information about types of jobs and careers;
- Provide more information about the value of HE;
- Include parents to open days and other events;
- Provide work experience , taster sessions, trips, careers advisors and more support for children who need extra help.

Suggested actions for the government

- More government funding the biggest issue (98%);
- Pay students whilst studying at college,
- Reduce working age;
- Include accommodation as part of the HE package;
- Make it possible to gain qualifications whilst working;
- What jobs are needed in the future?

Suggested Business/Industry actions

- Business/Industry to offer work experience;
- Work experience needs to be authentic;
- Businesses to be involved with schools and colleges to share information;
- Business to help with university funding or sponsor career paths.

Suggested actions for HE

- Universities need more school links, workshops and taster days;
- Compulsory engagement in college visits for pupils;
- Make it easier to see how HE can get you a job;
- Regular visits to colleges and universities;
- Provide parents with full information;
- Colleges and university group evenings in school + many more.

Suggested actions on communication

- More information shared with students and parents;
- Butterfly broadcast;
- Use events, newspapers and billboards to raise awareness;
- Information is shared in a variety of ways;
- Social media to include more news and information + more

ANY
QUESTIONS
?