

# Improving opportunity through collaboration

Dan Baxter  
College Engagement Manager  
NCS Trust

Gemma Kay  
College Partnerships Manager  
Aspire to HE



# The NCS Programme



**NCS has 3 key aims:**

**Social Cohesion**

**Social Mobility**

**Social Engagement**

We achieve these aims by delivering activity across four phases:

- 1. Be Epic** - our outward bounds phase where young people learn skills outside of their comfort zone.
- 2. Live Life** - where young people experience FE and HE, build their social capital, and develop new skills for their futures
- 3. Do Good** - where our young people plan and deliver social action projects which benefit themselves and their local communities whilst interacting with local employers
- 4. Go Party** - where we celebrate the achievements of our young people with a graduation ceremony



## Young people who have completed the NCS programme tell us that they...

- had more skills and confidence
- believed themselves to be more resilient and were more satisfied with life
- were more trusting of people in their local community
- could better tackle problems that came their way

## Furthermore

- since NCS began in 2011, over 12 million hours of social action have been delivered
- NCS supports education providers in working towards the Gatsby Benchmarks and the Ofsted framework
- NCS supports educational progression
  - 12% more likely to go to University
  - 50% more likely if you are from a disadvantaged background

# Aspire to HE



- ❖ Aspire to HE is one of the 29 NCOP consortia, lead by the University of Wolverhampton and in partnership with **six further education colleges**;
- ❖ working in 29 target wards across **Sandwell, Halesowen, Dudley, Walsall, Wolverhampton, and Telford and Wrekin**. Within those wards, Aspire to HE has 39 partner schools each with its own Aspire to HE Lead Teacher, and 24 of those schools with **Aspire to HE funded Engagement Officers** providing one-to-one mentoring and group activity **mapped and evaluated against a progression framework**
- ❖ The six colleges at the **heart of the consortia** led by a dedicated College Partnerships Manager to oversee and monitor all FE College Aspire to HE delivery. Each has a unique delivery plan but all are challenged to identify a **target 50** of those not on a clear pathway to HE and provide **one-to-one mentoring support**.



**NCS & Aspire to HE began collaborating in June 2018.**

In this time, we've built a strong relationship based upon our **clear alignment in strategies** and have delivered some key outcomes for young people in the area which are now being used as examples/pilots of work across the NCS network.

- Initially carried out a **mapping exercise of access and engagement** in colleges across NCOP and NCS activity to understand greatest potential opportunities
- Supported the recruitment and funding for the first ever **NCOP exclusive NCS programme** at Dudley College, **removing the financial barrier to NCS** for NCOP learners which proved to be a great success
- Now involved in the planning of a **new pilot** which will see the Aspire to HE staff working in schools and colleges also supporting NCS activity as **Aspire to HE NCS Champions**.

