

TENDER FOR RESEARCH

Title/Theme: What 'working class' means in Sussex

Application: Interested parties should submit an overview (via email) of how they propose the work will be carried out, with a timeline and budget.

Budget: Up to £5,000 for part 1

Deadline: 16th June (Midnight) for tender proposals
31st July for Part 1 research report

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The Sussex Learning Network (SLN) manages the National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP) across Sussex. NCOP funding targets disadvantaged students in Years 9 – 13 living in identified ward areas where progression into Higher Education is lower than expected based on GCSE attainment figures. The overall aim of NCOP is to close the gap and increase the number of learners (by a third nationally), residing in these ward areas into higher education. SLN:COP is one of 29 successful consortia funded to support intensive outreach across the whole of Sussex and is a collaborative partnership consisting of: HE providers, schools, colleges, independent training providers and local authorities.

Through NCOP funding, the SLN consortium seeks to:

- Gain a better understanding of vulnerable groups and the barriers that they face in accessing, and remaining in higher level learning
- Provide a flexible and responsive offer, which can be tailored and offer a broad-range of activities dependent on learner need, and their families/carers/communities to enable progression into Level 4+ learning
- Offer a mixed methodology of delivery of outreach and study, with some taking place online, at school, in the community, at FE/HE, in a work environment
- Support attainment raising and skills development in young people to support and enable progression
- Provide access to funds to overcome practical barriers, such as transport and subsistence
- Develop sustained and progressive programmes which can reach out to young people and support their journey through education
- Monitor and evaluate what is meaningful and effective through impactful research

As we prepare for Phase 2 of the NCOP programme we want to use strategically targeted research to develop key areas of work. In order to develop a new strand of work focusing on working class in Sussex we want to understand what working class means in Sussex, what the specific challenges are for this targeted group of young people and how Sussex compares nationally with progression rates for working class young people.

We anticipate the research having two parts, the first a desk-based gathering of quantitative data and the second a targeted amount of qualitative data with interviews and information gathering of organisations and programmes working with the target group in Sussex.

Part 1 – to be completed by the end of July 2019

The research should be clearly presented using POLAR, ACORN, IDACI and IMD alongside other methods of deprivation to demonstrate patterns and trends including but not limited to:

- Progression rates primarily at 16 and 18 but also up to 25
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Geographical areas across Sussex (for example coastal, inland rural and urban)
- Employment trends using labour market information
- Free school meals
- Academic results as KS2, Level 2 and Level 3
- Comparison of the above areas to national data

Part 2 – Autumn Term 2019 to be discussed based on the submission of part 1

Information gathering of organisations and programmes working with the target group across Sussex. Targeted interviews with agreed individuals / groups to gain a deeper understanding of the issues specific to Sussex.

Reporting

The research should be clearly presented in a written report which can be used both internally and externally by the SLN:COP. The researcher / s will be required to facilitate a workshop to the SLN:COP central team presenting the results and discussing possibilities for engagement with the target group.