NNECL Webinar; Supporting students with the transition from application to arrival

Phil Bakstad	Liverpool John Moores University
Will Kelly	Winchester University
Wendy Price	University of Sunderland
Beth Taswell	Kingston University

Webinar Etiquette

- For all attendees to have equal access to our slides and speakers please ensure that all videos and microphones are off and muted throughout the webinar.
- Please be aware that we will be recording this webinar and sharing the recording on our website following the event.
- There will be time at the end of today's webinar for questions so please use the chat function to ask your questions as they arise. We kindly ask that you do not respond to questions within the chat function.
- We will be sending out slides, along with any questions and answers following the webinar.

NNECL Membership

NNECL (now an independent charity) supports professionals working with care experienced students to improve the progression of young people in or leaving care into and through further and higher education.

NNECL Membership Offer:

- A third (33%) off your conference fee. This is for everyone in your institution (this has increased from 30%).
- A quarterly newsletter which you will have the opportunity to contribute to & monthly bulletin for members only.
- Priority for upcoming NNECL Quality Mark- launching Spring 2020.
- Free access to online webinar programme (New).
- Use of the 'NNECL Member' logo on your website and paperwork.
- Your institutions logo on NNECL homepage with a searchable profile about your institutions activities, with links to your page on the Propel website.
- The opportunity to directly inform the work of the charity and inform future membership benefits.

https://nnecl.org/membership/join-nnecl

Programme

Background:

- • Key issues facing care-experienced students as they consider HE study
- • What makes an effective transition to university? What are the barriers?

A case Study from University of Winchester- Will Kelly

- • Outreach activity to support aspirations

The We Care team at University of Sunderland- Wendy Price

- The student journey from enquirer to enrolment

The John Lennon Imagine Award Liverpool John Moores University - Phil Bakstad

- • Practical considerations in ensuring a smooth transition

Panel Q&A • An opportunity for questions with our speakers and Arron Pile- NNECL Co-Chair

Background

- Increase in number of care-experienced students entering higher education.
- Studying at university can provide a level of stability following previous periods of transition and uncertainty.
- Care-experience may not negatively impact on progression to highly skilled employment or further study.

What are the key issues facing care-experienced students as they consider higher education study?

- Lower school attainment, particularly at key stage 4
- A lack of positive role models and low expectations from carers and advisers
- Low aspirations and concerns about being able to afford higher education
- A lack of information and advice before and when applying to higher education
- Difficulty accessing the financial support they need and problems with accommodation.

OfS, 2020

Key areas for action for HE providers

- Raising aspirations in partnership with local authorities
- Identification, definitions and targeting
- Appropriate information, advice and guidance
- Accommodation and financial support
- Ongoing 1:1 support

Outreach Activity To Raise Aspirations

A case study from the University of Winchester

UNIVERSITY OF WINCHESTER

Bespoke outreach offer for those who are care experienced

- Spotlight on Uni Residential
- Hampshire Children in Care awards
- Hampshire Fostering Network conference and CPD
- Bespoke campus visits
- Staff CPD
  - Schools, Colleges and Virtual schools
- Family fun days
- Opportunities on open days

UWIN Futures

UNIVERSITY OF WINCHESTER ACCESS & OUTREACH

UWIN Futures: Spotlight on Uni Residential

NNECL
National Network for the Education of Care Leavers

Who is it for: Care experienced young people between 14-17 years old

Where: University of Winchester Campus

When: Around the Easter Holidays

How long: 3 days, 2 nights

How many participants: up to 36

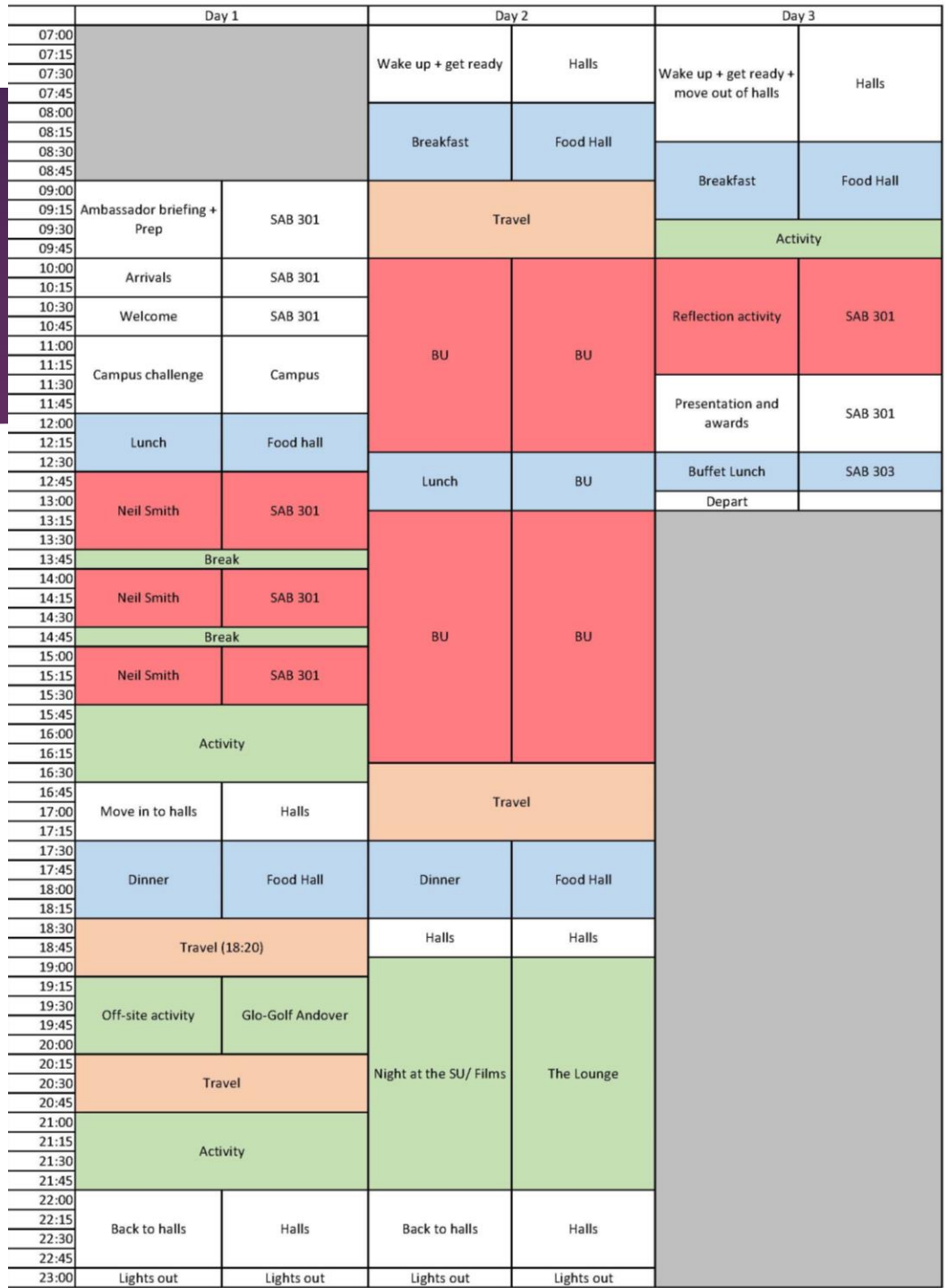
Purpose:

- To raise expectations for care experienced young people
- To provide opportunities to share experiences
- To increase knowledge of future opportunities, including higher education

UNIVERSITY OF WINCHESTER
ACCESS & OUTREACH

Example Programme

- Day 1:
  - Welcome and ice breakers
  - Subject workshop
  - Move into Halls
  - Off site activity (like a society would go on social events)
- Day 2:
  - Visit to another university
    - Includes campus tour and subject workshops
  - Skills development workshop (Either at UoW or off-site)
  - Night at the Student Union
- Day 3:
  - Reflection activity
  - Celebration event – parents, carers, social workers, personal advisors, family and friends are all invited



	Day 1		Day 2		Day 3	
07:00			Wake up + get ready	Halls	Wake up + get ready + move out of halls	Halls
07:15						
07:30						
07:45						
08:00			Breakfast	Food Hall	Breakfast	Food Hall
08:15						
08:30						
08:45						
09:00	Ambassador briefing + Prep	SAB 301	Travel		Activity	
09:15						
09:30						
09:45						
10:00	Arrivals	SAB 301	BU	BU	Reflection activity	SAB 301
10:15						
10:30	Welcome	SAB 301				
10:45						
11:00	Campus challenge	Campus			Presentation and awards	SAB 301
11:15						
11:30						
11:45						
12:00	Lunch	Food hall			Buffet Lunch	SAB 303
12:15						
12:30			Lunch	BU	Depart	
12:45	Neil Smith	SAB 301				
13:00						
13:15						
13:30						
13:45	Break					
14:00	Neil Smith	SAB 301	BU	BU		
14:15						
14:30						
14:45	Break					
15:00	Neil Smith	SAB 301				
15:15						
15:30						
15:45	Activity					
16:00						
16:15						
16:30			Travel			
16:45	Move in to halls	Halls				
17:00						
17:15						
17:30	Dinner	Food Hall	Dinner	Food Hall		
17:45						
18:00						
18:15						
18:30	Travel (18:20)		Halls	Halls		
18:45						
19:00			Night at the SU/ Films	The Lounge		
19:15	Off-site activity	Glo-Golf Andover				
19:30						
19:45						
20:00						
20:15	Travel					
20:30						
20:45						
21:00	Activity					
21:15						
21:30						
21:45						
22:00	Back to halls	Halls	Back to halls	Halls		
22:15						
22:30						
22:45						
23:00	Lights out	Lights out	Lights out	Lights out		

UWIN Futures

Important links

- Local Authorities
  - Virtual School
  - Virtual College
- Social workers and personal advisors
- Foster carers
- Schools and Colleges
- Other HE partners

How do we get people to sign up?

- Send out information via our key contacts (gate keepers)
- Provide an online or paper application form
  - This includes getting consent to take part, in many cases this is from the social worker
- Send out a confirmation pack those who have been successful

Relationships build over time – as key contacts become familiar with you and your work they will be able to encourage more participation

Evaluation

- Pre and post surveys
- Feedback from:
  - Parents and carers
  - Social workers and personal advisors
  - Teachers
  - Virtual school and college
  - Student Ambassadors
- Embed evaluation into each session

Impact

- Consistently over 85% of participants rate the residential good or Excellent.
- Each year we have run the event we have seen a rise in those considering HE in their future.
- More young people see the value of education and investing their time and effort.
- We have developed residentials for other target groups, including forced migrants.

The importance of laying a foundation for successfu transition

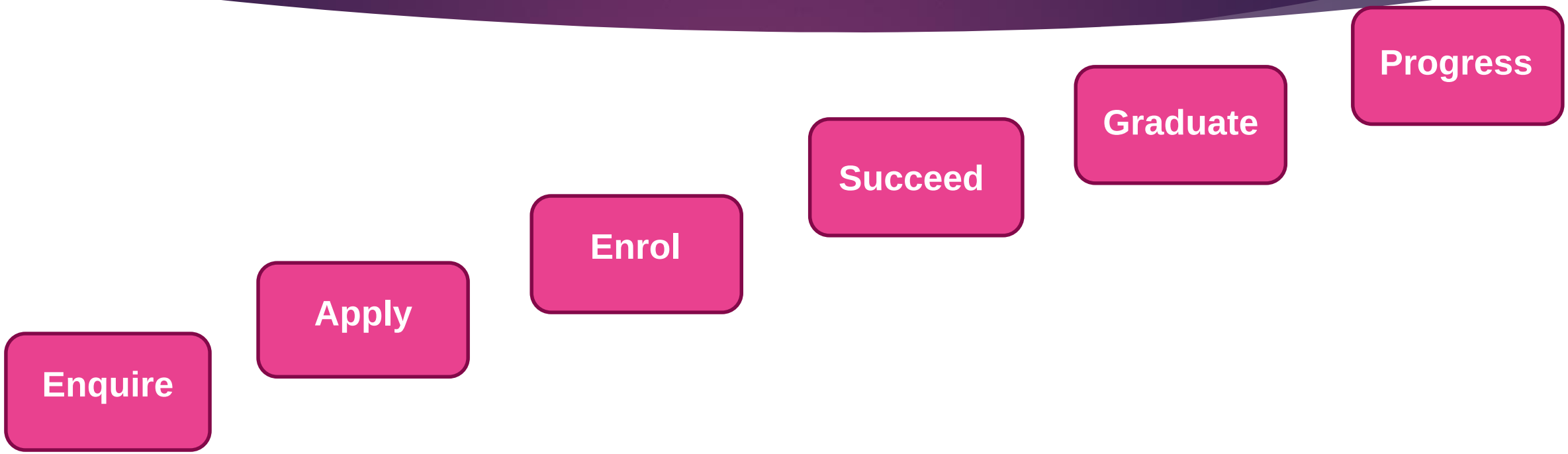
- Raising expectations and instilling a sense of self-belief
- Becoming more knowledgeable about future choices
- Knowing what support is available
- Knowing where to go to for extra advice
- Having a positive experience with higher education

NNECL
National Network for the Education of Care Leavers

Supporting care experienced students from enquirer to enrolment

Wendy Price
Head of Widening Access and Participation
University of Sunderland

We Care Team – support pathway



Enquirer

NNECL
National Network for the Education of Care Leavers

- Work with Local Authorities to support young people.

  Attend PEP meetings.

- Training for foster carers, CPD for Local Authority staff.

- Named contact for enquirers – mobile number, ‘Chat with US’ via website.

- Web content – student case studies and quotes.

University of Sunderland

Applicant

- First contact within 48 hours of receiving application.
- Tailored email campaigns introducing We Care Team and support available.
- Hard copy brochure x 2 posted to applicant.
- Outbound call centre campaigns – relationship building.
- Regular ‘touch points’ during recruitment cycle to reassure applicant and their support network.

Enrolment

- Help moving into accommodation. New home card and voucher.
- Welcome Meeting to identify individual support needs.
- £2,000 We Care Bursary.
- Peer Support – WhatsApp, Facebook Group and Teams chat.
- Birthday cards and regular touch points during the year.
- Digital Student Ambassadors – guaranteed interview.
- EDI Group – We Care workshop for colleagues.

Questions?

QUESTIONS?

care.contact@sunderland.ac.uk

@mrs_wp

Targeted support
The John Lennon Imagine Award at Liverpool John Moores University

Engagement and referrals through a variety of channels

- University website and publicity materials
- Schools and Local Authority relationships
- Third sector organisations
- Faculty admissions hubs
- Accommodation Office
- Money Advice team
- Online Enrolment
- Student Support Fund

Targeted support
The John Lennon Imagine Award at Liverpool John Moores University

- Accurate and timely financial advice incl. Student Finance
- Guaranteed accommodation in LJMU partner hall for all first year students
- Deposit and guarantor waiver scheme
- Dedicated member of staff with oversight of support

QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL

NNECL
National Network for the Education of Care Leavers

Please use the chat function to ask your questions to the panel.

Our panel consists of:

- Arron Pile — NNECL Co-Chair & Student Inclusion and Diversity Manager, University of Salford
- Phil Bakstad — Student Support Coordinator, Liverpool John Moores University
- Will Kelly — Access and Outreach Coordinator, University of Winchester
- Wendy Price — Head of Widening Access and Participation, University of Sunderland
- Beth Taswell — Access and Support Officer (KU Cares), Access, Participation and Inclusion

Future Webinars

We will be offering Bi-Monthly Webinars over the academic year. We will share details via our newsletters, Twitter, Bulletins and our website: https://nnecl.org/resources/nnecl-webinar-series-open-for-bo?topic=guides-and-toolkits

Next Webinar

- Tuesday 16th March 2021; Working Collaboratively with Local Authorities

Thank you

- Thank you for attending our webinar, we hope that you have found this session useful and informative.
- NNECL very much values any feedback and input from our network, so please do contact us with anything: info@nnecl.org
- Become a NNECL member for 2020/21 NNECL MEMBERSHIP