



# Winchester Hub Annual Report 2017-18

Strategic partners:





**Winchester Hub supports students to take part in and lead meaningful social action activities, creating positive impact in their local communities.**

We believe that when young people are supported to **connect** with each other, **learn** about social issues, and are given the opportunity to **do** something about them, two wonderful things happen. Firstly, students benefit from developing key skills for life in real world settings and with the opportunity for insight into social issues, they develop personally as well. Secondly, communities benefit from the specialised skills students can provide and their abundant enthusiasm!

At **STUDENT HUBS** we believe that when students are **SUPPORTED** to...



### **Our Theory of Change**

At the heart of our work is student leadership and community collaboration. Throughout the city we work closely with our community partners to ensure our work is responsive to the needs of the beneficiaries we work with. With our support, students are encouraged to approach challenges head on and with confidence, leading each other in projects across the city.

Our vision is a world in which all students engage with social action during their time at University. We are pleased to share and deliver our vision in partnership with the University of Winchester, championing their values and mission to serve the common good.

With our joint approach, we aim to mainstream student social action, making it a key part of the university experience, inspiring students to become active citizens for life, and to continue to make socially impactful choices beyond graduation.

**SOCIAL**  
**BOLD**  
**BE LONG TERM**  
**MOTIVATIONAL**  
**AMBITIOUS**

# Overview of Impact 2017/18



**214**

**students taking part in  
our key social action  
activities**

**257**

**students attending  
training sessions and  
events**

**16**

**core community  
partners in  
Winchester**

Our key social action activities include [Schools Plus](#), [LinkAges](#), [Youth Theatre](#), [Woolly Matters](#), [Give It A Go](#), the [Social Impact Internship Scheme](#), and the [Try It Awards](#).

Core community partners include anyone we run regular programmes or events with, such as schools, care homes, community centres, other charities, and social enterprises.

**70%**

**of students said our  
activities enhanced their  
overall university  
experience**

**80%**

**of students said they felt we  
had offered them access to  
opportunities they wouldn't  
otherwise had**

**80%**

**of students said we  
introduced them to people  
they otherwise wouldn't  
have met**

Overall our feedback response rates were low this year and so we will be prioritising this area of work going forward, to ensure that we are being as data-driven as possible in our efforts to continually improve our activities.



## A closer look...

### Schools Plus

Schools Plus is our largest practical volunteering programme aimed at tackling educational disadvantage in and around Winchester. This year we worked with primary and secondary schools, and libraries based in Winchester and Basingstoke. Though we had a tricky start to the year, with the support of our advisory board, the hard work of our student coordinator, Jess, and our Projects Officer, Daniel, Schools Plus grew attracting a variety of students. We had 43 student volunteers supporting 12 community projects.

In the second semester, we piloted a project working in Maple Ridge Primary School in Basingstoke, and were also contacted by Fair Oak Junior School in Eastleigh. We are very excited to be expanding Schools Plus in the 2018/19 academic year.



This has been an eye opening experience, allowing me to help tackle educational disadvantage within schools and ensure children reach their full academic potential. I have enjoyed motivating volunteers to make a positive difference to the community!

***Jess Booth, Schools Plus Coordinator  
and 2nd Year Primary Ed.***

### Youth Theatre

Youth Theatre, our student-led drama club, continued to run sessions at the Carroll Centre this year. We ran sessions during their after-school club in an effort to reach more children. We also worked alongside Winnall Primary School to develop some new workshops, including a choir session, and are currently looking for more community spaces to run these in the new academic year.

### Woolly Matters

Our knitting group grew this year, with 6 regular members every week crafting to raise money for Trinity, hosting two table top events!



## A closer look...

### LinkAges

LinkAges is our intergenerational volunteering programme that aims to lessen the effects of elderly isolation through activities that bridge the gap and facilitate interactions between students and older people.

This year we have continued to work with Winchester City Council and TACT to host befriending opportunities at Hyde Gate Sheltered Housing. We have also started supporting activities at St Cross Grange Care Home and Sunrise of Winchester in Weeke. In total, we have had 28 volunteers in four community projects throughout the year.



"A lot of these people are isolated, so it's nice to come here and reminisce with younger people. It's so good [that residents are] coming along because there can be such an anti-thing about students, but we can't complain as they're all fantastic!"

***Monica Gill, resident at Godson House  
and TACT Representative***

### Spotlight on Hyde Gate

***Kyra-Jaine, a second year education student, goes to Hyde Gate for tea every Tuesday...***

"I go down to have tea, I bake cake sometimes, I take cakes down and they like that. Carol gave me a quiche dish she won in the raffle. So I brought her a quiche so she could see it was being used! So I just go down and have tea, chat. [We] mostly [talk about] gardening, I had no idea about gardening, Ernie tries to teach me but...I have no idea.

Some of [the residents] really like having someone to talk to, especially those who can't get out, so it's nice for them to go somewhere, have a chat have a cup of tea. I enjoy it, it's my favourite time of the week!

I would say I'm more confident, especially around older people, whereas before I would think if they were old they would think I was young and stupid! Whereas now if I see an older person in the street I always smile."

## A closer look...

### Give It A Go and Student Volunteering Week

We had 101 students taking part in one-off activities throughout the year, supporting projects such as wildflower planting on campus, Christmas Postcards at Royal Hampshire County Hospital, and a clothes drive. The jewel of the year was Student Volunteering Week! The student committee organised an event for every day of the week. These events attracted over 100 students to volunteering opportunities, stalls, and other smaller activities.

### Spotlight on...

#### Community Action Day

Our annual community action day took place in Cromwell Park in Stanmore, in collaboration with the Students Union, Winchester City Council, and Osbourne. Though it was a blustery day, there was fantastic turn out from both students living locally to Cromwell Park and local residents.



#### LinkAges Tea Party

We hosted a LinkAges Tea Party at West Downs where we invited guests from sheltered housing estates in town (that we work with weekly through LinkAges) to campus. 32 volunteers helped host and entertain guests with a quiz and lots of cake!



#### Hedgehog Habitat Building

We worked with the Environment and Maintenance teams at the University to deliver a hedgehog habitat building session. Students here had the opportunity to learn about hedgehog populations and how to safely use power tools to create large homes for hedgehog which have now been placed around campus, protecting our unique wildlife.



# Professional Development



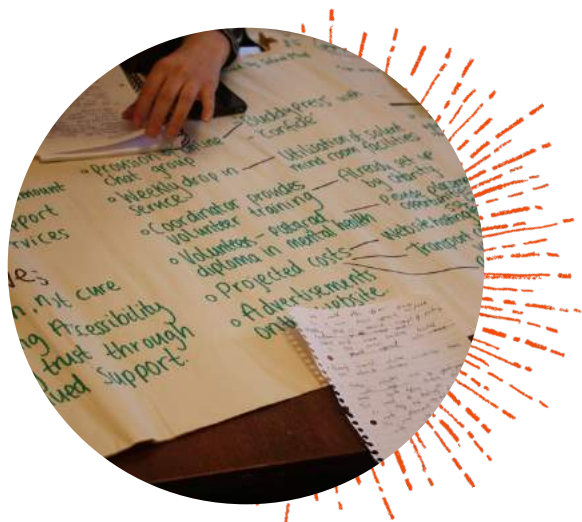
## Social Impact Internship Scheme

This year we took 9 students onto the internship scheme. We were very impressed by the quality of candidates this year, and the organisations they've gone on to work in, including; Winchester Hospice, FirstBite CIC, BrendonCare, and Catering at the University of Winchester.



## The Charity Challenge

This year The Charity Challenge took place with a focus on supporting Trinity. Fundraisers from Trinity came and delivered briefs for our teams to work on. The teams designed ways to support service users, develop Trinity's construction work, and reach new audiences to fundraise through.



## The Try It Awards

We ran two rounds of the Try It Awards this year, alongside a range of workshops tailored at supporting students who had never thought of setting up a social enterprise before. Some of the award winners this year include Messy Play Theatre and The Bard Buskers, who can often be found performing on the High Street!

# Championing Student Leadership



A core part of engagement at Winchester Hub is about supporting and challenging students to feel comfortable and confident taking the lead, either formally through our leadership roles, or informally in their day-to-day interactions. This is a key part in developing active citizens, and encouraging them to embed these behaviours for life.

Our student committee have led on 16 events this year, and have been featured in the local newspaper three times, including Jess Booth, our Schools Plus coordinator receiving the Mayor's Community Award, recognising the impact Schools Plus has on the community.

## Spotlight on...

***Anya Jessop  
Comms Officer  
and 3rd year Digital Media  
Development Student***

***Lydia Green,  
President  
and 3rd year  
Sociology Student***

"By being apart of the Hub I have met new people, felt like I have made an impact to our community and improved my time management skills... I have also gained confidence holding meetings and knowing when to delegate...The Hub has allowed me to gain an understanding for digital media marketing and social media content creation...Working with the Hub has exposed me to new techniques and tools of time management suggested by our Hub staff!

It's also been great having people to go to, in the form of our amazing Hub staff, that are separate from my course. It's been nice to know there is someone to talk to about University life, especially because they weren't University students themselves too long ago, and they give helpful advice or sit down with you and help you to organise your schedule! The Hub knew I have an interest in Digital Media and hence also gave me the chance to grow my skills and portfolio by getting involved with the Hub which I am very grateful for."

"Winchester Hub has been the pinnacle of my experience as an undergraduate. Not only has it profoundly enhanced my self-development, but also it has led me to be more aware of my core values and hence what career I want to pursue.

One of the most effective things about being part of the Hub is that if you have an idea, staff will approach it with a positive attitude and equip you with everything you need to achieve it – whether that is logistical or support and encouragement.

I worked closely with one of the graduate support officers, where I was able to speak about my experience with Hub and how this relates to the world of work, my career options, my interests, skills I wanted to develop and so forth. This coupled with the President role has been a particularly effective way to ease myself into what I choose to do post-academia."



## Looking Forward

This year has been interesting and exciting, though facing some difficulties in various areas, we have managed to grow several of our volunteering programmes; for the first time, we have placed over 100 students in long-term volunteering placements! We have also had the opportunity to pilot new projects. We have new school partners for Schools Plus, new extra care facilities for LinkAges, and have begun discussions with more community spaces about how we can reach even more people in Winchester.

We have a new, full committee, with many students entering their second year and stepping into leadership roles for the first time. We plan on supporting them with assigned personal development champions and alumni mentors who will help guide them through social action outside the university setting.

I'm thrilled to be joining Winchester Hub this year to gain first hand experience in volunteering and working with a new team of excited new students, and to watch how we and the surrounding community can grow together!

**Georgia Anderson**

***President 2018/19 and 2nd year Drama student***

### Our staff team this year;



**Lydia Green**

Projects Support Officer



**Daniel Usher-Barrass**

Programmes Manager



**Sim Dhanjal**

Hub Manager

You can get in touch with the team by emailing [hello@winchesterhub.org](mailto:hello@winchesterhub.org), calling **01962827624**, or visiting us in **MB116**, University of Winchester, Sparkford Road

## With many thanks to...



We would like to thank the University of Winchester, Professor Joy Carter and Professor Liz Stuart for their ongoing support and enthusiasm for Winchester Hub and Student Hubs nationally.

We'd also like to thank the advice and support of our advisory board, including; Liz Manning and the Careers team, Barry Hardwood, Kate Adams, Phillip Dent, Sarah-Louise Collins, Tali Atvars, and Terry Biddington.

We would also like to thank Liz Harris and the Environment team for their collaborative energy on many projects this year.

Winchester Hub would also like to thank the following members of the local community; Neal Allison and Osborne, FirstBite CIC, Jool Heller-Dixon and all the staff at the Carroll Centre, Trevor Lynas and Michelle Smith at Winchester City Council, Monica Gill, TACT and all the residents at Hyde Gate, Hyde Parrish, and Godson House, Councillor Jamie Scott, and Councillor Dominic Hiscock.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the schools, care homes, community centres and other community spaces that continue to work with us to create positive impact.

Lastly, we would like to thank all the student volunteers who have taken part in our activities this year, and a special thank you to our dedicated student committee, many of whom have graduated this year; Lydia Green, Lauren Bradbury, Anya Jessop, Sophie Pearce, Ellie Godfrey, Lizzie Mills, David Spokes, Ellen Kirk, Emily Clark, Natalia Purkiss, Laura Horsfield, Georgia Robins, Jessica Booth, and Ollie Watts .

