

Community Liaison Plan 2015-2020

University of the West of England, Bristol

Introduction

UWE Bristol is one of the leading modern universities in the UK, with a history built on partnerships, collaboration, and a strong bond with the local and regional communities, employers and civic institutions.

UWE's 2020 strategy aims to build on the University's long held strength in partnership working, to best serve the changing needs of its many stakeholders, including the community.

UWE and the University of Bristol together attract a large population of students that, normally in their second year, move into private rented accommodation throughout Bristol and South Gloucestershire. Inevitably there are larger concentrations of students in areas closer to the City Centre, around UWE Campuses and also along arterial public transport routes. This build-up of students, or the phenomenon known as 'Studentification', brings pros and cons to local communities and it is these issues that this plan seeks to promote and address.

UWE seeks to work with and to listen to its neighbours and neighbouring communities, in order to enhance and sustain good community relations.

This plan outlines our commitments for 2015-2020, based on the University's 2020 Strategy and the feedback we have received from local residents groups, statutory and voluntary organisations and the Students' Union at UWE. The commitments identified revolve around five key aims:

- 1 To build, support and maintain positive and healthy community relations
- 2 To encourage and promote responsible students and landlords
- 3 To help, guide and support students to lead responsible, safe and rewarding lives within their communities
- 4 To create and maintain a good working relationship with key partners and residents groups by listening to and responding to prioritised concerns
- 5 To enhance the student experience off of campus through help, guidance and support on their rights and responsibilities within their new community as well as enhancing their C.V.'s by encouraging volunteering and extra-curricular activities which benefit both student and community alike.

Planned Activities

A number of activities have already been completed to support delivery of the aims of this plan. These include, for example, promotion of the UWE sports centre facilities among the local community, a family fun day, production of the "[My Handy student living guide](#)" booklet, talks by the campus police officer on student safety and security, providing information to students about private rented accommodation e.g. what to look for and tenancy agreements, their rights and responsibilities. The setting up of the "[Love where you live Bristol](#)" campaign and web page and The Bristol Big Give campaign.

The following key activities outline the areas UWE is now focusing on to deliver the aims of this plan:

- 1 Promotion of the community fund to develop community projects, campaigns and welcome events for students and non-students alike to build and maintain good community relations. See the [Community Liaison webpages](#) for more information.
- 2 Working in partnership with The Students' Union at UWE, University of Bristol Students' Union, University of Bristol and Bristol City Council to create a new 2 year action plan for the [Bristol student community partnership](#)
- 3 Working with Neighbourhood Partnerships and forums across Bristol and South Gloucester to develop targeted campaigns aimed at promoting positive student/non student relations
- 4 'Love where you live Bristol' and 'Bristol Big Give' campaigns to raise students sense of belonging and responsibility for their neighbourhoods
- 5 'Have a Safe Night Out' and 'Late night. Get it right' (with The SU at UWE) campaigns to promote alcohol awareness and personal safety to students
- 6 Promotion of healthy living amongst students, staff and the local community. Bigger and better Family Fun Day.
- 7 Involvement of student volunteers in the campaigns to offer students an opportunity to engage with their local communities as active citizens and raise the profile of the positive contributions students make to society

Review and Monitoring

The Community Liaison Plan will be monitored and reviewed every six months. The feedback and progress made will be reported to the Director of Facilities. Any necessary changes or updates will be implemented by the Community Liaison Manager.

Annex 1 – UWE Policy and Strategy

This Community Liaison Plan is located within a broader framework of strategy and policy at UWE. The main documents relating to this plan are:

- UWE 2020 strategy
- UWE Community and Public Engagement Strategy
- UWE Bristol Sustainability plan 2013-2020 positive footprint

- UWE Student codes of conduct
- UWE Charter – Student Learning Contract

http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/Publications/Documents/studentification_guide.pdf

www.uwe.ac.uk/communityliaison