Vision for 2040: Community engagement

Discussion notes from SRS Staff and Student Workshop, Wednesday 8th March 2017

# Our Vision for 2040

**Common Themes**

* Major opportunity to scale up and improve outreach through community engagement.
* Community engagement can be used to support the student experience and the University acting as a fair employer.
* Efforts need to be undertaken to make the University more welcoming to the local community, ensuring all buildings are accessible.
* Better communication is required to raise awareness of current community engagement projects.

**Priority Issues**

* Joining the dots and networks.
* Provide guidance for staff on involvement in community engagement projects.
* Should be a focus on involvement of both staff and students.
* Efforts need to be undertaken to generate a better internal University community.
* Many current links with community groups are through individuals – this is not sustainable.

**How to get there**

* Learn lessons from the sector including UBC and the University of Manchester
* Develop more opportunities for the community to come into the University (apprenticeships, access courses, volunteering opportunities, events, grants)
* Utilise SLICCs and the Edinburgh Award.
* Undertake mapping of current community engagement projects and contacts to support a community of practice.
* Provide resource and support for community engagement projects to encourage more outreach.
* Enhance participation in access courses from the local community.
* Deliver more courses, projects and events in the local community.
* Develop a speakers/experts portal so community groups can invite staff from the University to their events/projects.
* Better targeting of local schools.

**2040 Goals**

* Provide every student with the opportunity to undertake a work based placement in the local community during their degree programme.
* Every academic school and support group to have at least one facility/resource, which could be used by the local community.
* Deliver a large scale ‘University Summer School’ programme for school children and their parents to introduce learning opportunities at the University.
* Dedicated time for staff to participate in community projects to support personal/professional development.
* University selects a local charity of the year.
* Every new staff and student has the opportunity to learn about the University’s values, SRS programmes and opportunities to get involved.