



# Let's talk about ...

## Social work for everyone

### Project summary

HEFCE funded project (now Office for Students);  
Focus on widening participation in social work degree apprenticeships.  
Developing guidance and support for employers to redress the balance of under representation of staff with different backgrounds in the workforce.

### Engagement

National employer online survey  
Focus groups across the country  
Employers as co-producers of resources  
Employers as critical friends.

### Findings and lessons learned

Need to co-create spaces where conversations and support take place to have open dialogue.  
Engagement with large organisations, scope to develop focus groups in communities.  
Career development pathways beyond social work degree apprenticeships.  
Fear of (potential apprentices) academic engagement.

### Outputs

Employer guidance, best practice  
Website – employers and potential apprentices  
Preparation and support  
Poster  
Organisation structures for targeted recruitment.

### Next steps ...

Conferences

Blogs

Tracking individuals through the process.

### References

1. A 'home-international' comparative analysis of widening participation in UK higher education. Donnelly, Michael; Evans, Ceryn. *Higher Education*, Mar 2018, pp.1-18
2. INTERSECTIONS, DIVISIONS, AND DISTINCTIONS: Exploring widening participation and international students' experiences of Higher Education in the UK. Taylor, Yvette; Scurry, Tracy. *European Societies*, 01 September 2011, Vol.13(4), p.583-606
3. Disadvantaged by Degrees? How Widening Participation Students Are Not Only Hindered in Accessing HE, but Also during—and after—University. Budd, Richard. *Perspectives: Policy and Practice in Higher Education*, 2017, Vol.21(2-3), p.111-116
4. Raised aspirations and attainment? A review of the impact of Aimhigher (2004–2011) on widening participation in higher education in England. Doyle, Michael; Griffin, Martyn. *London Review of Education*, 01 March 2012, Vol.10(1), p.75-88
5. The Open University offers a range of Higher and Degree Apprenticeships [www.open.ac.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.open.ac.uk/apprenticeships)