

THE AWARDS 2020

Widening Participation or Outreach Initiative of the Year

Institution name	Kingston University
Submission title or project name	Encouraging Forces families to thrive within education and higher education
Nominee/key personnel	Professor Alison Baverstock; Claire Jackson, Kingston School of Education; Hattie Gordon, Reading Force; Elaine Boorman, Reading Force; Fiona Maxwell, Reading Force; Jackie Steinitz, Kingston University; Clare Beckett, Kingston University; Keith Brennan, Kingston University; Jenni Woods, Kingston University; Anastasiya Stravoleмова, Kingston University; Laura Bryars, BSI Group; Kelly Squires, Kingston University
URL	https://medialibrary.kingston.ac.uk/Browse/Tag/UFF
Submission	<p>The number of young people from a Forces background who attend university is significantly fewer than within the population as a whole.</p> <p>By investing in the prior experience of staff and students, its location and connections, Kingston University embedded an institutional appreciation of the Forces community in teacher-training and outreach programmes, ensuring an understanding of the needs of Forces pupils as exists already for other groups with specific educational/social needs.</p> <p>Initially timetabled within Kingston's PGCE-curriculum, subsequently the bedrock of wider outreach into the Forces community, this highly transferable provision is now being actively shared, sector-wide, as a model for wider HE development and delivery; impacting recruitment, retention, and wider organisational cultures.</p> <p>The initiative depended on harnessing a broad range of interests/organisations: the Forces; HE policy-makers; social services/charities; educators and students. Collectively, this promotes optimum educational experiences, opportunities for future HE-participation, life-long learning, social cohesion, empathy and tolerance.</p>