



UNIVERSITY OF  
**WINCHESTER**

Working with young carers to persuade them to think about entering higher education has become a priority for the University of Winchester.

During 2014-15, it engaged 172 of them through outreach sessions across Hampshire and through on-campus events.

An average of 94.5 per cent of participants said that the on-campus projects had helped to inform their decision about higher education.

Winchester worked in partnership with external organisations to raise awareness of the needs of young carers in higher education by being a major contributor to a toolkit produced by the Carers Trust and the National Network of Universities Supporting Young Adult Carers, and hosting a symposium on the issue.

The university also worked with the Carers Trust to persuade the Office for Fair Access to recognise young carers as a disadvantaged group for the first time, and has introduced a £500 annual bursary for young carers to help cover additional costs, such as frequent travel home.

The judges said that Winchester's work "directly addresses" the needs of individuals who "too often find higher education difficult to access and hard to complete".

"The university has led a multi-agency approach to ensure that every opportunity is taken to encourage young carers to succeed," the panel said.

"The project has acted as a catalyst not only in making a difference for the individuals concerned but in securing wider recognition of the unique needs of these committed young people."