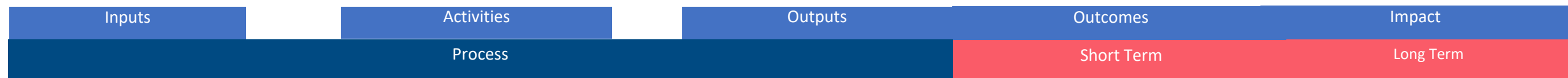


# Future U Programme: Theory of Change

Learners from disadvantaged and underrepresented backgrounds are less likely to know about the potential educational future options available to them, and may lack access to the sources of knowledge, range of support, personal confidence and skills to support them in considering their future education / employability / career prospects. Area based partnerships have been put in place to help drive widening access and participation to increase participation for disadvantaged and underrepresented learner groups.

- To provide leadership, planning and coordination across a partnership to help drive and increase access and widening participation for disadvantaged and underrepresented learners
- To support learners to be able to make an informed choice about their options in relation to the full range of routes into and through higher education
- To provide and support access to knowledge, resources and interventions that help equip learners with the key knowledge and skills to support their future education, employability and career prospects



- Committed Host Organisation
- Annual Uni Connect Funding Grant
- Matched Resources (Actual Investment/In Kind funding)
- Central team, with specialist knowledge and expertise
- Partners with specialist knowledge and expertise
- Committed network of schools, colleges & community organisations
- Access to sources and use of relevant national & local intelligence
- Access to specialist database and associated systems
- Relevant use of policy, protocols and frameworks

### Engagement

- Intelligence and data to plan and prioritise engagement
- Structured approaches to engage, identify and meet priorities for benefitting schools/colleges and community organisations

### Central Team Function Design, Development and Delivery

- Resource development & production
- Central delivery of a range of interventions such as Mentorship, Pathways Mapping, Growth mindset etc
- Partnership support in delivery of a range of interventions such as Campus Visits

### Partnership Managed Activities & Projects

- Resource allocation
- Project identification & development
- Student Ambassadors/Industry Advisors
- Partnership delivery of projects
- Supported engagement & evaluation

### Research, Evaluation & Reporting

- Utilise evidence based approaches
- Evaluation plan
- Evaluation methodology
- Data collection, inputting and management
- Report and Dissemination

- A relevant, diverse and impactful programme is provided
- Benefitting organisations know how to access and maximise the Future U offer
- Maturation of effective partnership working
- Young people more able to know why, where and how to access relevant knowledge and support.
- Increased evidence of efficiency and programme impact is produced
- Contribute to shared aims and share best practice with other Uni Connect Partnerships

- There are stable partnership relationships, commitment and working capacity to drive widening participation
- The majority of prioritised schools/colleges are activity engaged with the Future U partnership
- Stakeholders are confident that the programme is effective and helps contribute to known local & national education and career priorities
- More students from disadvantaged or under represented groups are engaged and are accessing knowledge and support to enable informed choice and decision making regarding their future options

- There is an increase in the number of learners progressing to and accessing Higher Education within the Lancashire region

- ### Assumptions
- Widening access and participation in higher education remains a education policy priority
  - The Future U central team has the sufficient capability and capacity to support and meet agreed partnership priorities and expectations
  - Sufficient partners commitment and resource support is maintained
  - Evidence from research and evaluation demonstrates specific impact which is recognised and appreciated by key stakeholders

### Evidence Linking

United Kingdom Government: **Statistics: widening participation in higher education** <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/widening-participation-in-higher-education>  
 Office for Students: **Uni Connect**  
<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/promoting-equal-opportunities/uni-connect/how-uni-connect-works/>