



Annual Report

2024-25

This report summarises activity delivered to support learners by Future U and its partners during the academic year. It also summarises the impact of key projects delivered to learners.

Since the programme launched in 2017 we have reached 53,906 learners



Our Year in Numbers



366

Activities delivered



11,581

Learners reached



65

School, colleges and partnerships where we delivered activities



8

Projects where we have invested in the design and delivery of the activities

Activity Participation

Number of individual learners from each year group that took part in at least one activity:



Year 7



Year 8



Year 9



Year 10



Year 11



Post
Secondary

Number of Interactions

The total interactions of learners who took part in one or more activities:



Year 7



Year 8



Year 9



Year 10



Year 11



Post
Secondary

Stand Out Activities and Number of Participating Learners

3538

Learners engaged with at least one of our industry-specific Pillars of Growth boxes

2052

Learners benefitted from our Pathways Mapping workshop

1809

Learners benefitted from our Work Readiness and Professional Skills workshop

484

Learners visited a FE / HE campus

Contact Hours

We delivered:



745.5

hours to Learners

12.5

hours to Parents/
Carers or Staff

The Different Indices for Deprivation:

Future U reaches learners living in postcode areas where traditionally there has been low progression to Higher Education (POLAR4). We also reach learners who live in the most deprived areas (IMD).

7094

learners participating in activities
live in a POLAR4 Q1 or Q2 area (62%)



learners participating in activities
live in a IMD Q1 or Q2 area (76%)

Reaching Underrepresented Learner Groups

Future U focusses on reaching learners who have personal characteristics that are associated with being underrepresented in Higher Education.

Based upon known data collected, we have reached a total of 4,567 learners from underrepresented groups. This includes:

Asylum Seekers

166

Disability
(inc. learning Difficulties)

527

Young Carers

22

Children from
Military Families

7

Young people from Care
Experienced backgrounds

39

Eligible for Pupil
Premium funding and /
or Free School Meals

3245

561 learners reached were from more than one underrepresented group

DataFace Lancashire: Evaluation Summary

Overview

Working with Cheltenham Festivals, Future U piloted the project DataFace in Lancashire. DataFace equips teachers and learners with the skills and confidence to interrogate data and present their findings creatively. The project focusses on developing an understanding of the role of data in everyday life and increase data literacy for those involved. DataFace includes teacher-led activity workshops, a team project showcasing skills learned and ending with an in-school competition.

Involvement

- 1 school
- 164 learners from Year 10
- 6.5 contact hours per learner

Evaluation Methods

- Collated insights / feedback from teachers and learners

Teacher feedback

"Pupils were very engaged and got a lot out of the process"

"Great to see them developing useful skills for their future"

"The lessons/sessions were easy to follow and teach, great use of videos"

"Good selection of interesting and relevant data....sparked great conversations"

Learner feedback

"Learnt loads about data and how to use it....never seen it before"

"Enjoyed making the designs and answering questions using the data"

"I feel these skills will make me more employable"

"I enjoyed the teamwork and being creative"

Cost

Total cost: £1,750

Cost per learner: £11

Recommendations

- Optimise project timelines and logistics
- Ensure buy-in from subject teaches and senior leadership teams
- Integrate project content into the curriculum

Future Zoo: Evaluation Summary

Overview

The Future Zoo project offers learners an opportunity to learn about wildlife conservation and the variety of jobs available in zoology and other related careers. Students also develop employability skills such as teamwork and communication. The project aims to enthuse learners to pursue a career within the sector and allow them to take part in experiences that they would not otherwise have access to. The project involves undertaking bespoke workshops on college / university campuses and a visit to Blackpool Zoo. We delivered to a pre-16 and post-16 cohort.

Involvement: Pre-16

- 56 learners
- 3 schools
- 12 contact hours per learner

Involvement: Post-16

- 20 learners
- 3 colleges
- 13.5 contact hours per learner

Evaluation Methods

- Collated insights / feedback from teachers and learners

Teacher / Parent feedback

"Thanks again to you and all the team for arranging this project, the pupils have loved it."

"Hopefully we can be part of this project next academic year and build on our relationship for our pupils who wish to continue to explore opportunities at Blackpool Zoo"

"Thank you for giving my son this opportunity"

Learner feedback

"I have never been to the Zoo before, and I have really enjoyed it"

"It has been a brilliant day and I am going to tell my family all about it."

"I have been on a school trip, and this is definitely been the best"

"It has got me excited about looking at different careers working with animals"

Cost Pre-16

Total cost: £12,985

Cost per learner: £232

Cost Post-16

Total cost: £5760

Cost per learner: £288

Recommendations

- Optimise project timelines and logistics
- Continue to effectively engage learners with an interest in the sector

Digital Advantage: Evaluation Summary

Overview

Supported by Future U and Lancashire County Council, the Digital Advantage programme is specifically designed to encourage the development of core skills in young people with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and provides them with an understanding of careers in the digital economy. The programme includes five experience days with an additional campus visit.

Involvement

- 4 schools & 3 colleges
- 82 learners
- 5 Future U partners hosted campus visits
- 24 contact hours per learner

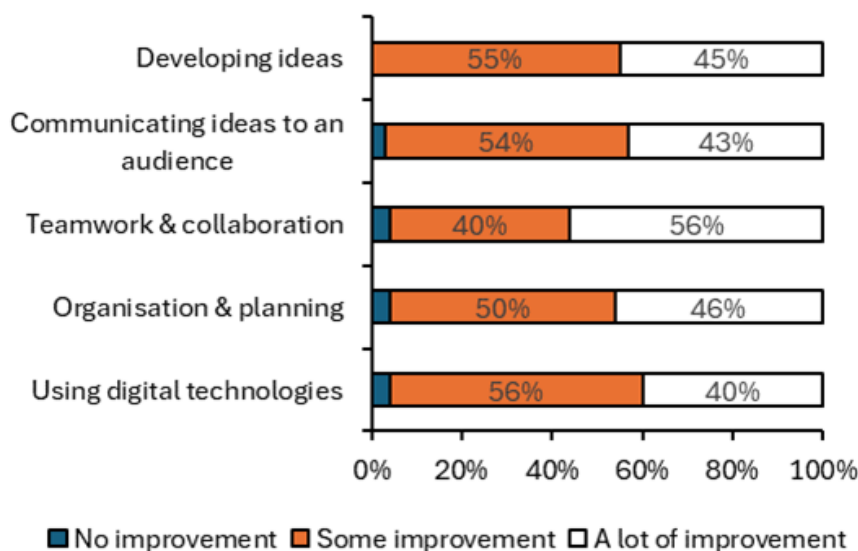
Evaluation Methods

- Post programme survey for learners and teachers
- Feedback collated from informal discussions with learners
- Direct feedback from teachers

Key Findings

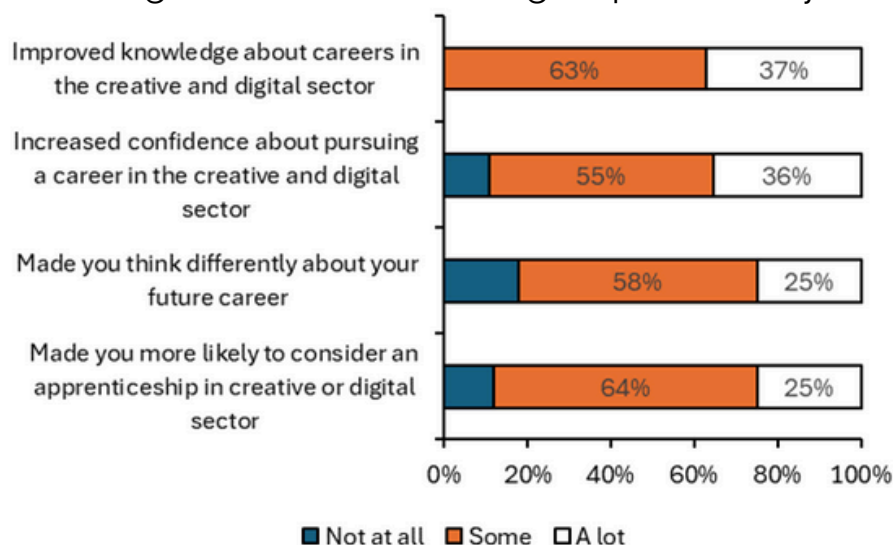
The programme clearly improved both learners' and teachers' skills and knowledge of the creative and digital economy.

Percentage of learners selecting responses for skills development statements (n=57)



Digital Advantage: Evaluation Summary Cont.

Percentage of learners selecting responses for your future statements (n=57)



Percentage of teachers' selecting positive ratings (some improvement / significant improvement) to each statement (n=9)



"Fantastic. The biggest added value is improving student's digital skills. A project for others to aspire to be part of next year."
College staff

"I have really enjoyed doing this course and learning to do new skills. I have also liked working with people I wouldn't normally speak to or know well."
Learner

Cost

Total cost: £24,458

Cost per learner: £298

Recommendations

- Continue to effectively target learners from mainstream educational settings
- Continue to engage a wide range of partners to host campus visits

Power Up: Evaluation Summary

Overview

Future U central team developed and delivered an attainment-raising programme for Year 7 learners. Power Up enables learners to achieve fundamental lifelong skills and encourages them to foster a love and enjoyment of learning, rather than viewing it as a mundane task. The programme consists of six-weekly sessions and uses an approach based on the 'Feynman Technique' that learners follow to improve their knowledge. Learners simplify information and present it in a structured way to an audience with the aim of developing a deep understanding of any specific topic.

Involvement

- 2 schools
- 40 learners
- 6 contact hours per learner

Evaluation Methods

- Pre and Post learner survey
- Structured wrap up session
- Insights from delivery staff

Key Findings

Participation in Power Up indicated a significant improvement for learners on knowledge and understanding of a specific topic. (Significant $p < .05$ denoted with *)



Power Up: Evaluation Summary Cont.

Word cloud of descriptive words that learners used for the programme



““The learners were able to recall clearly what they had learned and I felt confident that they understood the point of the programme and how they could benefit from it.”
Delivery staff

“Staff feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The year 7 teacher commented at the end of the programme that other year pupils had been asking when it was their turn to take part.”
Indirect teacher feedback

Recommendations

- Assign three delivery staff for effective implementation
- Streamline programme content based on feedback



Skills for Success: Evaluation Summary

Overview

Future U central team developed and delivered a programme specifically for post-16 learners. The programme consists of 3 sessions that aims to prepare learners for progression onto university, HTQ, apprenticeship or onto work and success within the next stage of their lives.

Involvement

- 2 sixth forms & 5 colleges
- 202 learners attended all sessions
- 3 contact hours per learner

Evaluation Methods

- Post survey via a QR code after programme completion. Learners rated statements on a five-point scale (strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree, not sure).

Key Findings

Overall, the results indicated a high level of positive feedback after taking part in the programme.

Percentage of learners selecting a positive rating (Agree/ Strongly agree) to each statement (n=33)



Recommendations

- Ensure learners are directed and encouraged to complete the evaluation form
- Continue to improve the programme based on learner feedback



Future U is part of the Uni Connect programme that brings together 29 partnerships of universities, colleges and other partners to offer activities, advice and information on the benefits and realities of going to university or college.

FutureU



[Lancashirefutureu.org.uk](https://lancashirefutureu.org.uk)

