

Introducing A People's Academy into Higher Education: A coproduction approach

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<http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/business/expertise/health-wellbeing-institute/the-peoples-academy>

Engaging with a variety of stakeholder groups, as a means of ensuring our educational programmes reflect contemporary health and social care workforce needs, has led to the introduction of a People's Academy. Working as a coproduction innovation hub, the People's Academy celebrates inclusion of those with a lived experience of health and social care services into the academic community, as valued members of the teaching and learning team. The overarching aim is to ensure students are able to develop person-sensitive approaches to their professional clinical practice. A secondary aim, that has self-perpetuated arising from this initiative has been incorporating exposure to the arts and humanities role in health and wellbeing.

Our vision is to: Become a recognised resource for People Participation in Health and Social care that helps to tackle real live issues from the People who know first-hand about using those services.

Or, in other words:

To be known for tackling issues that matter to people who use health and social care

Summary of the notable practice

Teaching and Educational Input: The People's Academy (PA) has to date achieved input and influence at curriculum reviews, bringing in line theoretical content with real life activity and expertise by experience. This has provided an enhanced student learning experience, bringing the practical application of students' theoretical learning to life. For example, students have provided written and verbal feedback about their experiences of working with People's Academy members.

The utilisation of a values based recruitment process, plus the introduction of the multiple mini interview process for undergraduate nursing courses, has been informed and influenced by the PA members. Contribution has created an effective and robust recruitment process, where PA Members as interviewers are asking and gathering statements from candidates, often verbalising more personal views and uncovering unconscious bias, that other interview panel member are not eliciting. This process has been highly successful. For example, during the student interview process one candidate became upset at the question that sought a moralistic response to a health related situation. The member of the PA undertaking the interview responded with such sensitivity and was able to coach the candidate through an emotional reaction, leading towards a greater understanding of aspects of compassion and resilience that the nursing programme they were seeking admission too, would undoubtedly raise for them as a person. From these positive quality improvement experiences gained from engaging the PA members in student recruitment, the internal staff recruitment process has been altered to ensure members of the PA are included in all of the School's academic staff appointments.

PA members have been involved and engaged in planning and delivering seminars and engaging in tutor group discussions. The experience is being written up by PA members due for future publication. PA members have also been involved in building online resources, such as the Massive Open Online Courses, in physical health, mental health and intellectual disabilities the School has created, whether as actors, script contributors and as students

Connecting and Community: The People's Academy is a place where people with a common interest in radicalising health and social care, plus willing to share their personal experiences in order to benefit others, whether as health and social care consumers, workers, or commissioners. The introduction of an artist in residence programme has brought with it unexpected connections.

Research Advice and Scrutiny: The People's Academy members have input into research advisory groups, acting as important reality checkers and a reference point when devising and submitting bids to specific funding bodies, who require a recognised level of PPI.

Knowledge transfer and mobilisation: a resource site is in construction which will hold a database of information that other external partners can access. This will include information on legislation, models of engagement, specialist interest groups, focus groups, as a few examples of what the People's Academy can offer. Our next activity is to co create a manifesto for effective coproduction.

Political lobbying: as a group of service user, carer, NHS citizens and public participants in health and social care, the need to influence and inform policy and providers is a key outcome for the work of the People's Academy, and an ongoing aspect of the work as the evidence and evaluation aspects of the influence and ripples are taken beyond the walls of the HEI.