

## Information for Parents

### Higher education activities and the UCP programme

Higher education outreach activities are aimed at showing students the higher education opportunities available at college and university, and how completing a higher education course can benefit their job prospects. The activities may also improve students' attainment. The activities are being run by HeppSY, Hepp, Sheffield Hallam University, The University of Sheffield and other approved partners.

The Uni Connect Programme's (UCP) aim is to increase the number of young people progressing to university and higher education by 2020. The HeppSY team and their partners<sup>1</sup> are being funded by the Office for Students (OfS) to undertake outreach activities with young people at your school or college to let you know about the benefits of going into higher education.

### Why do we need to collect data and evaluate higher education activities?

To make sure the activities we provide are useful and effective for young people, we need to gather certain information which we use purely for research and evaluation purposes. Under data protection law we are able to process this data because the activities are a task carried out in the public interest. It is also important to prove that what we do is working. We must:

1. ensure that the activities we offer are appropriate
2. identify the most effective activities and best practice
3. measure the impact of our activities

### Collecting individual information

We will ask your child's school/college to provide information about all of the young people in the school/college. We collect this information to identify participants for outreach activities, monitor and evaluate, and enable us to track individual young people over time to find out whether or not they eventually apply to any form of higher education. If students have not taken part in any activity from members of the partnership, their data will be securely deleted at the end of the next academic year. We may also ask students who have taken part in a HeppSY activity (face to face or digital) or used a HeppSY resource online to fill in a short form or register on an approved platform that allows us to monitor and evaluate what is used and by whom. The types of data we collect are outlined below:

Full Name	Ethnicity	Young Carer status	Details of activity attended/undertaken
Date of Birth	Disability	Looked after child/ Care leaver status	Year Group
Postcode	Free school meals status	Estranged status (if available)	School/College attended
Gender	Pupil premium	If first generation of Higher Education (if available)	

### HEAT

Secure storage of your child's data will be done using the Higher Education Access Tracker (HEAT). The HEAT service and database is a national database which is used to record the students attending outreach activities, with the aim of following their potential progression towards higher education. The data protection and storage processes set in place by HEAT ensure that the data is stored securely and not shared without your permission. For research purposes

<sup>1</sup> Sheffield Hallam University (SHU), the University of Sheffield (TUoS) and the Higher Education Progression Partnership (HEPP).

only, HEAT might share this data with educational organisations such as government departments or agencies (e.g. Department for Education, UCAS, OfS, CFE Research or the Higher Education Statistics Agency).

### **Data protection**

Data will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR, 2018) and Data Protection Act 2018, as well as all legislation enacted in the UK in respect of the protection of personal data. As the UCP is a collaborative programme, this information will be shared between HeppSY, Sheffield Hallam University (SHU), The University of Sheffield (TUoS) and the Higher Education Progression Partnership (Hepp). The safety of students is paramount, and we rely on the safeguarding provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 where concerns around safety and wellbeing are raised. HeppSY and its partners will **not** release individual information to anyone who is unauthorised. More details about this can be found on Sheffield Hallam University and The University of Sheffield websites:

<https://www.shu.ac.uk/outreach-data>

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/outreach/data>

All data will be stored securely and any reporting will be done so through collated data, meaning that individual students will not be identifiable.

### **Data retention**

Students engaging in outreach activity whilst under the age of 21 will have their data retained by the Universities on the HEAT database for 15 years after their graduation, or until they reach 30 years of age (whichever period is greater). After this point, data will be anonymised in bulk at the beginning of the next academic year. Personal data gathered through approved platforms and providers is reviewed regularly, and data deleted when no longer required for monitoring, research and evaluation purposes.

### **Questionnaires and Data Collection**

As part of the Uni Connect evaluation, we will ask students in Years 9-13 to complete a short questionnaire in the autumn term. The questionnaire is designed to collect information about each student's knowledge and attitudes towards university/higher education. The survey runs once a year so that we can capture any changes over time. Participation is entirely voluntary. Further surveys and questionnaires will be administered across the course of delivery to evaluate impact and effectiveness.

### **Your rights**

You have a number of rights under data protection law, including the 'right to object' or request for your child's data to be removed from our system. If you have a query, complaint or request about the use of your data please contact Greg Brown (details below). Further information can be found in our longer privacy notice held on our website: <https://extra.shu.ac.uk/heppsy/schools/dataandevaluation/>

You are also entitled to request copies of all the personal data that the Partnership holds about you, this is called a Subject Access Request. If you would like to make a request for any information held about you use the details below:

### **Contact HeppSY:**

Greg Brown

Evaluation and Data Manager

HeppSY

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