

## The University of Nottingham Community Engagement Strategy 2009-14

### Mission statement

The University of Nottingham is committed to active engagement with its local communities. We aim to do this in a constructive and mutually beneficial way in order to improve access to the University, its facilities and resources, to exchange knowledge and skills with others, as well as to engage on local issues and community agendas.

### Background

The University of Nottingham has been part of the City of Nottingham since 1881, gaining its Royal Charter in 1948. While we have expanded both in the UK and overseas we remain committed to constructive engagement with our local community. We recognise that via our 7,000 staff our 37,000 students<sup>12</sup> and the research we undertake that we provide major contributions to the social, economic, educational, environmental and creative life of our City and Region. We also acknowledge that, alongside these benefits, there may be challenges associated with integration, understanding and access.

We wish to demonstrate our firm commitment to our local communities by setting out this strategy which lists our short, medium and long term priorities. We do this with the intention of driving continuous improvements in our engagement with and contribution to our local communities in the future.

### Principles of working

- We believe in mutual exchange and dialogue – this includes working actively to consult with local people, schools and colleges, community groups who interact with us in terms of interest or geography, local business and local authorities
- We believe in embedding community engagement in our planning, people, resources and strategic infrastructure across all Academic Schools and Administrative Departments
- Community engagement will be supported via an over-arching strategy, creating a mechanism for review, best practice and communication

### The strategy

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<sup>1</sup> Approximately 30,000 at the Nottingham campuses (2008-9 figures)

<sup>2</sup> Of the students at the Nottingham Campuses 3181 live on University park, 750 on Jubilee campus and 521 at Sutton Bonnington. A total of 1168 live at Raleigh Park, 2055 at Broadgate Park and 801 at St Peter's Court. The remainder (21,524) either live in private houses, other developments in the City (Cotton Mill, Riverside, Manor villages etc) or at home (2008-9 figures).

The strategy focuses on key constituencies that staff and students have identified as being core to our work and mission. These include:

Our neighbours, local people who reside near the University

Early years provision, Schools and Colleges within the City and Region, with a particular focus on the area within a 20-mile radius

Community, voluntary and charitable organisations in the City and Region (sports, arts, culture, faith, health and social care etc)

Local government and Regional bodies

Local and regional businesses

Other strategies which are also of relevance to the community engagement agenda and where we share common ground include: Research and Knowledge Transfer and Business Engagement, Schools Engagement, Widening Participation, Student Volunteering, Student Accommodation, Sports and the Centre for Career Development.

## **Strategic themes**

We present five key themes in promoting and enhancing our community engagement, within our broader mission:

### **1) *Opening up our physical environment and resources***

Aims:

To promote public access to our campuses

To support appropriate use of our facilities by the public, schools and charitable/voluntary groups

### **2) *Sharing and exchanging knowledge and skills***

Aims:

To support local research partnerships

To support student placement opportunities in a variety of workplaces (Public/Private and Voluntary Sectors) to support the development of employability skills

To support staff and student volunteering in a range of settings and with a range of organisations

To provide workplace experience for individuals and groups under-represented in the organisation

### **3) Contributing to key civic agendas**

Aims:

To contribute to key civic agendas in the following areas: Social Cohesion, Neighbourhood Management, Business and the Economy, Sport and Culture, Early Intervention, Crime and Safety.

To contribute to civic and regional partnerships via senior staff representation e.g..  
*One Nottingham, EMDA*

### **4) Being good neighbours**

Aims:

To foster positive relationships with individuals and community groups in the immediate locality of our campuses

To promote and support students as active and responsible citizens

To be proactive in managing student accommodation issues

### **5) Promoting and supporting education**

Aims:

To promote and support:

- educational aspirations and an interest in education
- educational attainment
- progression to higher education