NCCPE: Helping universities to engage with the public

Developing the conditions, resources, training and evidence for public, community and civic engagement to thrive in the higher education sector
**Engage Conference**: Setting the agenda and sharing best practice

**Engage Academy**: Building capacity for public engagement

**Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)**: embedding this in all our work

**Engage Watermark Awards**: Celebrating and rewarding excellence

**Creating tools** and **resources** for the sector to assess and improve

**Public and Community Engagement in the KEF**

**Case Studies**

Working with decision-makers to **inform policy and funding** for engagement
"Public engagement describes the myriad of ways in which the activity and benefits of higher education and research can be shared with the public. Engagement is by definition a two-way process, involving interaction and listening, with the goal of generating mutual benefit."

Other terms people may use for public engagement: Outreach, patient-public involvement, collaborative research, citizen science, participatory arts, lifelong learning, civic engagement and more. What they share is an aspiration to better connect the work of higher education and research institutes with society.
What is an engaged university?

The Higher Education sector is undergoing transformation.

There is an increasing expectation from funders and policy makers – and from community partners – that universities should step up and reach out to connect their work better to society.

The NCCPE is at the centre of these developments, supporting university staff and policy makers to extend their ambition and creativity in how they respond.

The opportunities for engagement are many and various – and cut across all areas of a university’s activity. The NCCPE supports universities to develop more effective practice in all these domains – and to draw on the expertise and practices developed in other sectors.
Tools and learning to create change

Our work and projects have generated learning and a number of tools and resources to improve public engagement practice, and build the evidence base to enable effective support and funding for engagement.

They are aimed at those who do and support public engagement, and those with the power to effect change such as policy makers and funders. Some examples:

- **EDGE tool**: Self-assessment for public engagement
- **Lessons from the UKR SEE-PER Programme**
- **Public Engagement and the Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) review**
- **Museum-University Partnership Initiative**
We bring networks of people who do and support public engagement together, to share best practice and learn from each other. We also nurture and champion public engagement through internationally rewards and recognition such as the Manifesto for Public Engagement and the Engage Watermark award.

Explore examples of best practice on our YouTube channel:

- **Diverse examples of work and practice in action**
- **Watermark Awards: rewarding excellence in engagement**
The NCCPE team

The NCCPE is a team of 11 staff, based in central Bristol in the Arnolfini arts gallery, and hosted by the two Bristol universities.

The centre was set up in 2008, by the founding directors Sophie Duncan and Paul Manners. The core team includes highly experienced and creative project leads, and excellent professional support. We also have a team of expert associates who work with us to deliver many of our services. Please get in touch to find out more.

Centre Directors

A physicist by training, Sophie has extensive experience of delivering and evaluating successful high impact initiatives to inspire learning and to effect change, engaging the public through broadcast, online, exhibitions, events, and print. Sophie has worked in engagement all her career, including at the Science Museum in London; Science Year; and the BBC, where she managed the creation and delivery of national engagement campaigns.

Paul has a long track record designing and delivering engagement and culture change projects for organisations including the BBC, where he worked for 18 years. He trained as a secondary English teacher and after teaching in London for five years, joined the BBC at the Open University as a producer of educational television and multimedia, where he worked for 12 years. He is chair of the National Trust’s advisory group on Collections and Interpretation.
The National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) is internationally recognised for its work supporting and inspiring universities to engage with the public.

We work to change perspectives, develop evidence and learning, promote innovation, and nurture and celebrate excellence. We champion meaningful, equitable engagement that makes a real and valued difference to people’s lives.

The NCCPE is supported by the UK Higher Education Councils, Research Councils UK and Wellcome, and has been hosted by the University of Bristol and the University of the West of England since it was established in 2008.