



# ASPIRE Aimhigher South East London, London East Thames Gateway Aimhigher Annual Conference

## Students - the ultimate sustainable resource?

University and further education students are used extensively in Aimhigher activities. The effectiveness of these students depends on a wide range of factors - a strong intervention could change a life but equally a weak one can also have long-term consequences.

With the current pressures on government funding and uncertainty over the future of projects such as Aimhigher, students may be a vital factor in ensuring the continuity and sustainability of projects. However, with the conflicting demands upon students, universities, colleges, schools and participants there is a question of whether this involvement can be managed in a way that meets the needs of all partners.

This student-led conference aims to bring practitioners, students and teachers together to discuss the roles that students currently fulfil and the possibilities and challenges they produce. There will be representation from ambassadors, associates, mentors and tutors who will give personal insights into the work that they do. Workshops and talks will give participants the opportunity to consider:

- What makes a 'good' student ambassador?
- How does / should an ambassador operate in a classroom setting?
- What are the difficulties in working with ambassadors - is there room for improvement?
- How do we develop ambassadors' skills?
- What is the future for student-centred projects?

## Conference Programme

- 9.30 **Registration and refreshments**
- 10.00 **Welcome**
- 10.10 **Keynote speech:**  
Sue Hatt, Regional Manager,  
Aimhigher South West  
'Helping others, helping ourselves'  
Results from a research project into the impact of HE students acting as outreach ambassadors
- 11.00 **Questions and discussion**
- 11.15 **Break**
- 11.30 **Workshop session 1**
- 12.30 **Lunch**
- 1.30 **Workshop session 2**
- 2.30 **Plenary and afternoon tea**
- 3.30 **Close**

### Themed Workshops

Workshops will focus on projects using student ambassadors and associates in the following areas, looking at aspects of current practice and identifying areas for improvement:

- Disabled learners
- Looked after children
- Associates schemes  
(including sports, generic, subject specific)
- Mentoring and tutoring in the classroom  
(including Student Associates)
- STEM (including the London Engineering Project)
- Professional development

A list of the organisations presenting and workshop information will be circulated to delegates at a later date.

## Conference Booking Form

Detach here

Name .....

Position .....

Organisation.....

Address .....

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Telephone.....

Email.....

Special requirements (dietary / access)

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For more information contact: **Emma Vandersteen**  
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**Admission Free**

