



# Portsmouth CITY COUNCIL

*Economic Development, Culture & Leisure*  
*Scrutiny Panel*

**'WIDENING STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CITY'**

**Date published: 23 March 2016**

**Under the terms of the council's constitution, reports prepared by a scrutiny panel should be considered formally by the cabinet or the relevant cabinet member within a period of eight weeks, as required by Rule 11(a) of the Policy & Review Procedure Rules.**

## **PREFACE**

The Economic, Development, Culture and Leisure Scrutiny panel (EDCL) looked at examples of good practice across Portsmouth from institutions that engage with volunteers and utilise their resource across the city-wide community. Our aims were to identify how pupils in schools, students at College and University are engaged and encouraged to maximise their opportunities within the locality.

At the EDCL meeting in September it was decided to follow an innovative approach in collating and establishing information about how Portsmouth engage volunteers within our communities. The decision was made to organise an event. Each organisation had an opportunity to discuss their work through an interactive and informative presentation. Good practice was shared and the ideas of how more opportunities could be created by linking aspects of each organisation's aspirations and objectives and by working more collaboratively together. We established provisions that are in place at present and where good practice can be connected and shared in the community of Portsmouth.

The event was organised and took place on the 24th November which proved to be very successful. In attendance were a range of participants across numerous sectors, representing the university, colleges, schools, training agencies, sport providers, museums, libraries and employment organisations. Each had an opportunity to discuss their work. Good practice was shared and the ideas of how more opportunities could be created by linking aspects of each organisation and by working more collaboratively together were discussed with respect to institutional objectives. The panel believe that this can be an effective format for certain scrutiny panel reviews and can facilitate the effectiveness of scrutiny by establishing and understanding the provisions that are in place at present and where good practice can be connected and shared within the community of Portsmouth by involving those individuals across the city who have the expertise in specific industries and areas.

I would like to personally thank Joanne Wildsmith for her proactive and extremely organised approach that has facilitated the delivery of very high standards throughout the production of this report. In addition to this, I would like to give my great thanks to my Portsmouth City Councillor colleague members of the panel: David Tompkins (St Jude), Scott Harris (Hilsea), Lee Hunt (Central Southsea), Matthew Winnington (Eastney and Craneswater) and Julie Swan (Fratton) who have been very involved, supportive and also taking the initiative in understanding the importance of team work in the thoughtful and dedicated way that they have approached this topic and produced an excellent set of recommendations that, if adopted, will serve Portsmouth well with reference to future developments within this area. I would also like to thank Councillors: Ryan Brent (St Thomas) and Simon Boshier (Drayton and Farlington) for their contributions in the meeting that they attended as standing deputies and Councillor Steve Hastings who attended and participated as the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Panel. My gratitude also goes to the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Councillor Frank Jonas, for the provision of the venue to facilitate the event.

I continue to receive consistently positive feedback from all of the participants who attended the event, both about its structure and process, and I know that they are all still linking together and looking for opportunities for the future which will enhance

many lives within the community of Portsmouth. It is important to note that there is a need for transparency amongst organisational objectives as well as a perspective to further work together to minimise any possible unnecessary duplication with services across the city – especially within the current economic climate of financial pressures on Local Authorities. I would suggest that the work that this panel has undertaken has further illustrated the good practice of services with regards to the subject matter of volunteering within the city and has further highlighted the need for a collaborative effort to raise efficiencies, effectiveness and outcome attainment in widening opportunities across the locality.

I commend this report to the Cabinet and the People of Portsmouth.

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Councillor Jennie Brent  
Chair, Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel  
Date: 23 March 2016

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## 1. Purpose

1.1 The Scrutiny Management Panel (SMP) on 31 July 2015 requested that the Economic Development, Culture & Leisure (EDCL) Scrutiny consider:

*'How to develop wider opportunities - especially to consider involving students from the University and those in other further education to the mutual benefit of the students and the City Council'*

The EDCL scrutiny panel decided to have one large evidence gathering event, which took place on 24 November 2015 (the guests are listed in appendix A). The panel received oral and written evidence with feedback sessions to look at the areas of interest within this review's draft scoping document which had set out 3 objectives:

- To understand the existing student base in further education and at the University of Portsmouth as part of the city's population
- To gather evidence on the positive contributions of students to community life in Portsmouth, not only in a voluntary capacity but in other ways such as participating in arts and community projects
- To be informed of the work of the council and other bodies in the city with students which are mutually beneficial economically and academically

The EDCL Scrutiny Panel membership for the 2015/16 municipal year comprised Councillors Jennie Brent (Chair), David Tompkins (Vice-Chair), Scott Harris, Lee Hunt, Julie Swan and Matthew Winnington.

### Summary

1.2 **Objective 1 - To understand the existing student base in further education and at the University of Portsmouth as part of the city's population**

The panel heard directly from the University of Portsmouth and Portsmouth College representatives and received written evidence from Highbury College, all outlining how they sought to promote educational, employment and voluntary opportunities to their students.

At Portsmouth College this includes motivational talks, placements and apprenticeships relevant to the study areas, using their sports expertise in coaching, and internships such as in health. Teaching placements take place in 10 local schools. The college also has an Enterprise academy and works closely with South Downs College.

Highbury College reported 1,169 apprenticeships in 2014/15 and has close links with large major companies in the Portsmouth area who offer work placements. An example of innovation is the purchase of properties for their construction students to renovate before sale. The 'Highbury Handover' is a large scale work experience event that is held at Port Solent where students take on roles of staff in various disciplines. There are also supported internships for students with learning difficulties and disabilities. There is

also LEP funding for business and social enterprise projects.

The University of Portsmouth has 18,000 full time students (with an economic impact of over £113m student expenditure). Volunteering opportunities will help develop the students' employability as well as benefiting the wider community. UoP's Purple Door co-ordinates structured experiences (with 700 volunteers on roll) and the Students' Union provide one-off type volunteering opportunities.

1.3 **Objective 2 - To gather evidence on the positive contributions of students to community life in Portsmouth, not only in a voluntary capacity but in other ways such as participating in arts and community projects**

'Pompey in the Community' delivers the National Citizens Service (NCS) scheme open to 16-17 year olds who are not necessarily in higher education, which runs positive community events through its volunteers, not only in sports projects but charity events and renovation works in community centres and gardens.

The local colleges also undertake community work through volunteer placements such as Highbury College students offering hair and beauty treatments in residential care homes, construction work for a scout hut and a garden for a local nursery.

The University works with 19 primary schools to promote higher education and with the city's 10 secondary schools to raise aspirations by mentoring and speaking to students and inviting them to visit UoP. There is also aspiration raising work with the local 6<sup>th</sup> form colleges (and Charter Academy) to give advice on progression routes and UoP hold workshops for prospective students.

Approximately 700 UoP students volunteer through Purple Door, thereby developing their employability skills relevant to their course, in a wide range of roles, many with charities as well as reading and numeracy schemes in 10 primary schools, the Kings Theatre, PCC roles at community centres, the museums service and code clubs in schools. The UoP Students' Union's VIP scheme also has 750 students giving their time to community projects ranging from Christmas parties for 100 older persons and 400 children, to soup kitchens, beach cleans and helping at school discos. They participate at public events in Guildhall Square such as the Good Deed Day, Feed the 5000 and also in the Great South Run at the seafront. The University's societies also give their time to community events.

The wide range of placements through the individual departments were detailed. Examples include: working with the police and criminology students working as special constables; The School of Education and Continuing Studies participated in the European Day of Languages at PFC (attended by 100 local language students delivered by 33 PGCE language trainee teachers) as well as revision days and Spelling Bee Competitions; the School of Languages and Area Studies provides translators for local events; The School of Social Historical and Literary Studies will have student participation in organising the Shakespeare festival 'Much Ado About Portsmouth' in 2016; Brazilian student architects have worked with 3 local

churches; CCI film students have worked locally to help improve the confidence of black and minority ethnic women; Portsmouth Business School collaborates with businesses to deliver services such as law clinics and auditing for charities; Biology students have worked on research projects at the Mary Rose and present public lectures; Sports students have placements in local sports clubs and schools and are involved in the Great South Run; Geography students work with the Farlington Marshes Committee and also make presentations to schools on Historical Geography; Pharmacy students are involved in development of the 'Healthy Living Pharmacy' with Laly's Pharmacy; Earth and Environmental Sciences provided a volunteer intern to PCC's Contingency Planning Team; Psychology students have placements at Queen Alexandra Hospital; Social work students liaise with both the health service and PCC working with Adult Social Care on research work and also mentoring Looked After Children, and the department works with the council on court skills; The Dental Academy gives the community access to dental treatment and also goes into residential homes to assist older persons; the UoP Ageing Network works closely with Age UK Portsmouth and the Portsmouth Pensioners; Cosmology students participate in the annual Stargazing Live event in the Historic Dockyard; Maths students work in local schools to gain teaching experience as part of an undergraduate ambassador scheme as well as technology students helping in school Code Clubs.

1.4 **Objective 3 - To be informed of the work of the council and other bodies in the city with students which are mutually beneficial economically and academically**

The wide range of placement opportunities at PCC include: 16 student volunteers working with the Museum Service helping with research projects such as 'Lest We Forget' and on the funding submission for the D-Day Museum transformation; Literature students work with the Libraries Service on events such as Bookfest; there are Public Health research opportunities; the Strategy Unit also works with UoP students in joint research projects and funding applications; there are Business Enterprise projects with local college students; Human Resources co-ordinate work placements and apprenticeships which include placements for Social Work undergraduates in both Children's and Adults' Social Care and Legal Services help in the court skills training for social work students; Trading Standards host law students who assist in consumer protection activities (which counts towards their studies); PCC's Sports Officer works closely with local schools, colleges and UoP with many of the secondary schools running 'Sports Leaders' courses whose participants then volunteer in delivering sports competitions. Similarly UoP sports students help in the delivery of sports events in the community.

The Portsmouth Together project has close collaboration between PCC, UoP and Pompey in the Community in the co-ordination and advertising volunteering opportunities in community projects which links in with the government's social action agenda. Examples of opportunities include Code Clubs in primary schools and count champions for the Numeracy Challenge. There are areas to be expanded such as in public health and social care. Cities of Service funding for Portsmouth Together would run out in June 2016 so the harnessing of the enthusiasm of volunteers would need to be

sustained and co-ordinated to support the good work seen across the city.

## **2. CONCLUSIONS**

(These are in part based on section 6.3 on Feedback and Way Forward from the evidence gathering event of 24 November 2015. There are also references within the body of the report at the section and paragraph numbers stated.)

- 2.1 The panel was impressed by the extensive resource of talent and goodwill in the city with school, college and university students playing a positive part in community life, which needs to be harnessed and co-ordinated. (Sections 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, paras 6.2.7-10)
- 2.2 The City Council benefits from the activities of young volunteers and work placements and councillors can be further involved in encouraging participation in community events. (Section 6.1, paras 4.1.7, 6.1.10, 6.1.28-30)
- 2.3 Portsmouth students also value these skilled experiences which enhance their employability and confidence and which can lead to work opportunities locally, thereby retaining these skills in the city. (Sections 4.2, 4.3, 5.6, para 5.4.3)
- 2.4 The importance of the Portsmouth Together project (and its website) was recognised in making strong links between the council, university, colleges and local organisations such as Pompey in the Community. (Section 6.2, para 5.1.8)

## **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Efforts must be made to ensure the co-ordination of volunteering opportunities in the city for students, regardless of background, by continuing the work of Portsmouth Together to ensure a single point of contact and use of suitable branding and a single banner for volunteering in the city. (Linked to Conclusions 1 & 4)
- 3.2 The positive contribution of students to community life should be celebrated and publicised and there should be publicity for the National Citizen Service (NCS) scheme to encourage more volunteers to take part, with the use of PCC publications such as Flagship and Term Times and the use of social media (looking at a Facebook page and hashtag # for Portsmouth Volunteering which could be monitored by a student volunteer) and local community stations, hospital radio and Portsmouth Football Club. (Conclusions 1 & 4)
- 3.3 Councillors should help promote the role of young volunteers (including the university's VIP participants) in community events to extend the geographical areas covered. Councillors should also actively promote volunteering opportunities in their area city-wide to maximise attendance. Councillors should encourage engagement via attendance at college aspiration-raising events and by acting as mentors. (Conclusion 2)



- 3.4 To encourage younger participants to join in volunteer schemes as part of the social responsibility agenda, best practice elsewhere should be looked at, to get younger people into schemes such as the NCS. There should also be exploration of non-monetary incentives and a Portsmouth Young Volunteer of the Year Award organised in conjunction with partner organisations in the city. (Conclusion 1)
- 3.5 To further explore ways to encourage student placements in key areas of the council (where future customer demand will be high) such as in social care and public health, with the offering of training/qualifications/career enhancement as part of the experience, and monitoring of the pathways into employment at PCC. (Conclusion 3)
- 3.6 PCC departments to have a presence at Volunteers Fairs held for students by the university, colleges and partner organisations and encourage their expansion around the city. (Conclusion 2)

4. **Objective 1 - To understand the existing student base in further education and at the University of Portsmouth as part of the city's population.**

As part of their review of the existing student base in Portsmouth the panel members heard from representatives of the University of Portsmouth (UoP) and local colleges regarding the provision of further education and the encouragement given to higher education and employment opportunities in the city.

4.1 **PORTSMOUTH COLLEGE**

4.1.1 Tom Lloyd, Director of New Business Development, Enterprise & Employability, Work Placements, Volunteering and Sports Academy, gave a presentation to the panel. He had been asked to look at apprenticeships at the college where 50-60% of the students went on to higher education. His role is therefore to look at the provision of exit routes from college for the students.

4.1.2 *Portsmouth College's Mission Statement: "To embed a provision into students study programmes that actively enhances their work readiness skill set and presents them with a pathway to Employment, that also allows them to achieve to the level their ambition desires"*

4.1.3 The aim was to develop the study programmes to prepare for life after college either at university or in work placements etc. The college was undertaking their E4 programme with the university and working closely with South Downs College. The programme included an enterprise academy (which also had involvement from Councillor Dowling) seeking to raise aspirations, encouraging students to set up and run their own business with "Apprentice" style tasks. One of these students had won a regional Chamber of Commerce award through the 'Ignite' phase of the E4 programme in starting up their own businesses. The intention was to find professional mentors. There was also political engagement through the "Youth Speaks" programme (with debating competitions).

4.1.4 **Employability** - 'PEP'<sup>1</sup> talks were given and UoP provided insights regarding funding, and a day in the life of a student. There was also help on work preparation such as CV writing, interviewing techniques, neuro-linguistics.

4.1.5 **Experience** - There were two strands: generic and teaching placements. For teaching experience there is work with the university in schools and teaching assistant programmes. There were 10 pilot schools in the city, and this encouraged a pathway into primary education. It was noted that there had been a lot of male participants in this. The generic placements were relevant to their field such as media students going to Express FM etc. The college ensure that this is available to all students through the timetable.

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<sup>1</sup> PEP at Portsmouth College = create your **P**ackage, enhance your **E**mployability, follow your **P**athway

- 4.1.6 **Exercise** - As a sports academy there are team sports (men's and women's football, men's and women's basketball, badminton and rugby), personal fitness programmes and multi-sports options to encourage coaching skills.
- 4.1.7 **How can PCC help?** This could be through the delivering of the PEP talks and provision of mentors and tapping into available bursaries with work already taking place with Matt Birch, the Sports Officer on this.
- 4.1.8 **Apprenticeships** The college has a wide range of apprenticeships including: animal care, barbering, hairdressing, business administration, childcare, exercise & fitness, marketing, sports development. The placements of volunteers and apprentices could lead to paid positions.
- 4.1.9 **Health links** - The college was giving consideration to supported internships as advocated by NHS England to employ those with learning disabilities, with a dedicated member of staff looking into this and at provision of work experience for the Horizons programme. There was also linkage with the NHS on a dementia programme. Getting volunteers into the hospitals was more of a challenge than for the sports programmes, but a college governor is on the board at the hospital so this is helpful in the placement of health and social care students. The funding to have the hospital placements was included as part of their study programme based funding.

## 4.2 Highbury College

4.2.1 Helen Brennan, Managing Director, Highbury College had supplied written evidence to the panel on the range of apprenticeships, business links, enterprise programmes, work experience and volunteering opportunities on offer at the college.

### 4.2.2 Highbury Employment Service

The College also has its own Job Shop/Highbury Employment Services the function of which is to source apprenticeships and full and part time jobs for students.

4.2.3 In 2014/15 the service achieved the following outcomes:

| 2014-15 Learners                           | Number |
|--|--------|
| Students Placed in Full and Part Time Jobs | 435    |
| Students placed in Apprenticeships         | 120    |

### 4.2.4 Highbury Employment Space

During 2014/15, the College launched Highbury Employment Space; bespoke software which enables students to upload evidence of their employability skills and work experience. It also enables students to record and reflect on their work experience, and employers to feedback on student employability skills as demonstrated during work experience.

### 4.2.5 Work Experience

The College Job Shop/Highbury Employment Service is also responsible for sourcing student work experience placements. All Highbury College Study

Programme students (the Study Programme is for students aged 16 -19) undertake a work experience placement during the first or second year of their programme. In 2015, 506 students completed work experience with external organisations/employers. Employers placements include:

- Santander
- Barclays
- Southern Cooperative Head Office
- Kier Construction
- First Wessex
- PMC Construction
- Thomson
- Mary Rose Museum
- Premier Inn
- Ralph Lauren
- Parkwood Leisure
- Southwest Trains
- Red Funnel
- Holiday Inn
- MacDonald Hotels
- Blake Morgan

4.2.6 The College has also purchased two houses in need of renovation; HC **Construction** students use their vocational skills to modernise them before sale.

4.2.7 Highbury also organises large scale work experience events; for instance 99 students took part in the “Highbury Handover” at Port Solent. Students from a range of different academic and vocational disciplines took part, “taking over” roles normally carried out by employed staff. Catering students worked in the restaurants, Performing Arts students gave street performances and Media students made a film about the event.

4.2.8 Students also gain work experience in the College’s restaurant and hair and beauty salons.

#### 4.2.9 **Supported Internships**

In 2014/15 the College introduced Supported Internships for students with learning difficulties and disabilities, who have progressed through Foundation Studies programmes, and are seeking employment. Supported Internships enable students to enhance their employability skills via supervised (by Job Coaches) and independent work placement opportunities.

#### 4.2.10 **Enterprise/ Self Employment**

Highbury is a proactive member of the Gazelle Colleges Group; a network of colleges transforming the ethos, values and culture of learning through innovation, enterprise and entrepreneurship. The group has local, national and international connections with employers and entrepreneurs. Currently there are 10 Gazelle colleges across the UK all of which are committed to equipping students with the skills to make or take a job through student enterprise initiatives. At Highbury 51 student businesses have been set up in the past 3 years with active support from the College. In 2014/15 6 students were given £29,000 by the LEP to set up their own businesses/social

enterprises and a further team of 5 students were awarded funding to set up their own social enterprises by NACUE.

### 4.3 UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH (UoP)

4.3.1 Bernie Topham, Chief Operating Officer represented the University of Portsmouth at the evidence gathering event and she stressed that the directorate recognised the importance of students having volunteering opportunities in the city. The University is keen to be a key player in the city.

4.3.2 Background statistics for the University of Portsmouth (UoP):

- 22,000 + students (including 3000 international)
- Approx. 18,000 full-time undergraduates
- The 25th largest university by numbers enrolled
- Income – over £200m per annum
- Economic impact on the city of Portsmouth – in excess of £200m per annum, with student expenditure estimated at over £113m

4.3.3 The average distance from home that students at the University travel is 63miles (although there are a growing number of international and overseas students) with a high proportion of our undergraduates being recruited from local colleges, the largest number coming from South Downs College.

4.3.4 **Why volunteering is important** - this is not only good for the community but it helps develop students' employability skills and confidence. This university strategy will contain a commitment that all students have career enhancing opportunities and the UoP want this to have a 100% take up by 2020 - there is a variety of choice for regular or one off commitments. It is important in how students present themselves to future employers not just a boost on their CV but this also links in with the social responsibility agenda. This shows a broadening approach which is valued by employers:

*80 % of HR Executives said they would be more likely to hire a graduate with skilled volunteer experience – Deloitte 2015*

4.3.5 **Purple Door** deal with volunteering experiences and have recorded 700 students volunteering (in the 2014/15 academic year) in addition to those taking part through their own courses such as sports and recreation and the Students Union run their own volunteering programmes (as explained in paragraph 5.5.7 onwards). Sport Coaches go out into the community and there is also a dance programme linked to the community. The faculties work to provide opportunities at building into the curriculum real life experiences. These include (and are expanded upon later by the individual faculties in Section 5.6) :-

- Criminology - Students acting as special constables with UoP enjoying good links with the Police
- Journalism with links to Pure FM and other media opportunities
- The Shakespearean Festival involvement and the Shakespeare

### Sonnet Competition

- Science Without Borders
- Architectural studies have links with local churches
- CCI students work with retired service personnel
- Business School links with small businesses to give support and develop skills
- Dental School - Kings College project in the community
- Pharmacy students work with the Guildhall Walk-in Centre and the Healthy Living Pharmacy.

#### 4.3.6 **Benefits of Volunteering** for the UoP students include:

- Developing new skills such as communication, teamwork, confidence and self-esteem.
- This is also a positive way of getting references and can lead to direct employment opportunities.
- The university looks for a structured experience but also looks to give back to the community.

5. **Objective 2 - To gather evidence on the positive contributions of students to community life in Portsmouth, not only in a voluntary capacity but in other ways such as participating in arts and community projects.**

The panel heard from Portsmouth in the Community as well as the local colleges and university on how students contribute positively to community life in Portsmouth.

**5.1 POMPEY IN THE COMMUNITY**

5.1.1 Clare Martin, Director of Community Projects explained the role of Pompey in the Community, its delivery of the National Citizens Service scheme and how many of its participants are young people (not necessarily in higher education) who are benefitting and interacting with the wider community.

5.1.2 Pompey in the Community is a charity affiliated to Portsmouth Football Club. It has expanded from its initial coaching department and works with 2 to 96 year olds and with local schools. The coaching in term-time reached up to an estimated 7500 participants per week with 35,000 in the wider area. They also provide learning, education and health promotion through the Pompey Study Centre. Projects included:-

- Your Street Project funded by Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner, to reduce anti-social behaviour and engage in positive activities - such as sports at Bransbury Park
- The Rugby Volunteering Project
- Inclusion - Volunteering Pathways with 1354 individuals last year
- Southwest Trains volunteers

5.1.3 There are success stories of individuals who had come from difficult backgrounds who have succeeded, e.g. Tyler who had started through a refereeing course and who now worked in the junior league as a referee and Louis who had become a Beyond Sport Ambassador. There were also examples of participants joining apprenticeship schemes with the Pompey Centre who have now been taken on as paid staff, as well as volunteers helping to run schemes.

5.1.4 As well as health programmes (including hard to reach groups such as men's health and dementia work) Pompey in the Community runs many other innovative projects, which include: adult social needs football, cerebral palsy football, amputee football sessions (1 of 5 nationally), a national level power-chair team and the walking football project, which is run by two students. Portsmouth in the Community also has a scheme for learning disabled groups to be accompanied to the ground (but not yet for individuals).

5.1.5 **The National Citizens Service (NCS)**

Pompey in the Community is the sole provider of NCS in Portsmouth. The NCS scheme in Portsmouth is for years 11 and 12 for 16 to 17 years old, although there is a limit of up to 19 for disabled and exception categories.

This is a four-week course which is free to those receiving free school meals otherwise at a cost of £35. The first week is set in Dorset for outdoor activities and then a week at Fort Purbrook where participants had to self-cater and then later go into the community, undertaking fundraising projects including raising money for the Homeless Shelter, renovation and decorating schemes (such as brightening up play centres and gardens), sponsored walks, work with Friends of the Museums, a collage at Stamshaw Community Centre, raising funds for the homeless and providing them with suits so they could attend interviews.

- 5.1.6 After the four weeks NCS participants could be a graduate co-ordinator who could offer further volunteering opportunities. The PFC players were also involved in encouraging graduate opportunities. There is also the International Citizens Service giving opportunity to participate through an interview and fund-raising, with previous participants going to a Capetown township to help in Children's Homes and Aids educational projects.
- 5.1.7 The Pompey Centre now had cooking classrooms to teach young people to cook so they could go on the self-catering courses. There is also involvement in a Recovery Kitchen which is helped through donations from Tesco.
- 5.1.8 **The future:** A problem identified for the NCS scheme is the initial engagement, with not all schools knowing of the scheme and Portsmouth in the Community would like to get more youngsters involved. To help ensure there is capacity to expand a co-ordinator now records volunteering hours with will help in expanding volunteering opportunities. The Pompey Centre advertises via social media and is linked to the Portsmouth Together website. It was stressed that to get people involved initially in projects this may not be seen by the participants as 'volunteering' but as asking for help, then this can later progress into more formal volunteering, as supported by the Cabinet Office's Social Action Agenda.

## **5.2 Highbury College - Volunteering programme and community work**

- 5.2.1 The panel received written evidence which illustrated how many Highbury College students make a contribution to the local community by volunteering their time and skills. Students often use the skills they have learnt at College to support disadvantaged members of the community. Examples include:
- Hair and Beauty students visit residential care homes to offer hair and beauty treatments
  - Computing students have assisted staff at a local community centre to install and make the best use of its IT system
  - Construction students have helped to build a Scout Hut and a garden for a local nursery school
  - Helping a local junior school to landscape its grounds
  - Building a sensory room for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities



- Cleaning and decorating care homes
- Supporting Southsea Fashion show
- Supporting the Victorian Festival of Christmas (in the Dockyard)

5.2.2 The College also hosts an annual Volunteering Fair attended by organisations such as Christian Aid and Projects Abroad.

### 5.3 UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH (UoP)

5.3.1 The University of Portsmouth provided both written and oral evidence to support the positive contributions made by UoP students to their community, including the schemes run through Purple Door (responsible for recruitment and formal placements), the individual faculties and departments interacting with the community and the volunteering opportunities offered by the expanding Students' Union's Volunteering in Portsmouth (VIP) scheme.

5.3.2 **Education Liaison and Outreach work in Portsmouth, via Purple Door** - written evidence had been provided by Chris Martin Education Liaison Manager at Purple Door.

5.3.3 **Primary Schools** UoP works with 19 primary schools in the city each year to raise aspirations and increase knowledge of higher education. In-school workshops are offered for Year 5 pupils as well as an all day visit to UoP in Year 6. It is estimated that UoP worked with almost 2000 children in 2014/15. Some departments such as the Dental School and Cosmology also run in-school subject workshops (covered later by the individual faculties at Section 5.6).

5.3.4 **Secondary Schools** - UoP works with all 10 of the secondary state schools to offer aspiration raising and attainment raising activities. It is estimated that the 186 events in 2014/15 involved 8500 pupils, which include:

- "Why Higher Education?" days run on campus
- 3 day residential visits to UoP (100 pupils attending)
- 10 week mentoring scheme delivered by undergraduates (100 pupils)
- "Up for Uni" holiday workshops (180 pupils)
- A wide range of subject specific workshops across the 5 faculties

5.3.5 **Post 16/Colleges** - there is aspiration raising work with Charter Academy, Portsmouth College and Highbury College, including:

- Progression routes from vocational courses
- Access to the professions sessions e.g. Architecture, Law etc.
- Student finance sessions for parents
- Wide range of subject specific workshops

- Catch 22 workshops for young people in training

#### **5.4 PURPLE DOOR UoP - Volunteering Opportunities**

5.4.1 Written evidence had been submitted by Jane Howe, Volunteer Co-ordinator at Purple Door. Volunteering at UoP is growing, with 700 students recorded as volunteering by Purple Door in the 2014/15 academic year. This is in addition to those volunteering via the Sport & Recreation Department and the Students' Union (covered separately at sections 5.5.7, 5.6.8 and 6.1.25). The focus for Purple Door is offering longer term volunteering roles to help students to develop employability skills relevant to their course or future career path, rather than the one of projects offered by the Students' Union or the coaching and dancing projects provided by the Sports & Recreation Department.

5.4.2 Purple Door operates both a paper based volunteering bank as well as on-line applications. Purple Door assess if the application is for a placement or academic credit. As at November 2015 there were 204 volunteering roles on line (the highest number so far recorded). These are often to offer support to charities (200 charities are partners) and the voluntary sector, with examples of roles including:

- Reading scheme volunteer at 10 Portsmouth primary schools
- Mentor with the Portsmouth Family Intervention Team at Barnardo's\*
- Jobseeker Support Volunteer with the Shaw Trust
- Videographer at the Kings Theatre

\*The Volunteer Coordinator at Barnardo's said of a recent volunteer:  
*"She has proven to be a great asset to our organisation and we hope she continues to be an ambassador for Barnardo's"*

5.4.3 **PCC and areas to expand** - In partnership with Portsmouth City Council there have been roles at Hillside & Wymering Community Centre, the Independence and Wellbeing Team (Community Connector Project) and the city's museums. Some areas to expand had been identified which include supporting the Fostering Team in Hester Road which is being pursued, and there is a desire for further collaboration to provide student volunteers in other departments at PCC such as Property, Planning, Finance, Environment and Health & Safety.

5.4.4 There are links with Brian Bracher, Chief Service Officer (Cities of Service) PCC, on many projects - with involvement in the America's Cup World Series and the Code Clubs in schools.

5.4.5 Purple Door co-host an annual volunteering awards ceremony with the Students' Union and Sport & Recreation Department, and an annual volunteering fair takes place in October each year to promote the range of opportunities to students so that they can commit to a decent length of volunteering prior to the end of the academic year.

## 5.5 UoP STUDENTS' UNION - Volunteering Experiences

5.5.1 Brendan McCarthy, Student Experience Manager reported that the Students' Union supports the student lead group Volunteering in Portsmouth (VIP) to encourage 750 students to give their time to community projects. VIP aim to give students the flexibility they need to commit to their studies as well as volunteer within the local community. Key initiatives (later expanded on by Waqar Younas at 5.5.3 onwards) include:

- Older Persons' Christmas Party - last year 21 students supported local charity Personal Choice with their event at the Oasis Centre for 75 guests- decorating the venue, preparing the food, running a raffle, serving food and tidying up after the event and there were performances by 3 societies singing and dancing.
- NUS Green Impact Week Scavenger Hunt - inviting school children (aged 9-11) to Ravelin Park where 20 volunteers ran an educational scavenger hunt and seed planting event.
- Soup Kitchen - linking with local churches in Southsea who run weekly soup kitchens, serving meals to the homeless
- Beach cleans - these are popular events, in 2014/15 there were 2 events with 100 participants contributing over 400 hours of volunteering, work is taking place with PCC to promote future ones.
- Big Move Out/Big Move In - in conjunction with PCC's Big Recycle Scheme, with those moving out of student accommodation donating unwanted items instead of throwing them away and these can be offered for reuse by students in the next academic year.
- Great South Run - providing stewards and being official charity ambassadors supporting participants in the race
- School Disco - helping the event at Solent Junior School

5.5.2 **Future Plans** - The Student Experience Department in the Union are promoting skills recognition, by launching a skills badging initiative to ensure that students understand the skills they are gaining when working on projects. Outlining the number of hours that the VIP volunteers undertake will be part of the focus on recognition.

5.5.3 Waqar Younas, President of UoP Student's Union Volunteering in Portsmouth (VIP), and their Young Volunteer of the Year gave a presentation to the panel. VIP is the Student Union's largest voluntary group which tries to offer one-off events around timetables to be flexible and encourage involvement.

5.5.4 The VIP mailing list has 1,000 students on it (last year there were 800 participants). Recruitment takes place at the Fresher's Fair and over 800 hours of volunteering had been accrued over the year so this year they were aiming to deliver 1000 hours. VIP also advertises opportunities on their website.

- 5.5.5 The focus for volunteering is educational, community based and charitable. There is work with schools, national and local charities and churches across Portsmouth (including Solent Junior School, The Rowans Hospice, Buckland United Reformed Church and Food Cycle). Whilst events are mainly in Southsea, where most of the students were based, there is the intention go further north in the city.
- 5.5.6 **Funding** of the opportunities is mainly by the university with some external funding from local businesses and the VIP does receive sponsorship.
- 5.5.7 **Events organised by VIP** - these included seasonal parties for children with 300 children attending the Christmas party, scavenger hunts which were used to teach participants about the environment and one-offs such as school discos and school summer fairs (if students were still available as some stayed on in the city to volunteer for these).
- 5.5.8 **Environmental projects** included beach cleans which were very popular and Waqar wanted more contacts for such projects. 10 students had helped PCC out at with tree planting in the north of the city. Other projects include Southsea Greenhouse, with redecorating and planting projects and the setting up of a garden polytunnel.
- 5.5.9 **Older Persons** - there is work with Personal Choice at the Oasis Centre with students helping out at the lunch club there. There is also involvement in cake decorating competitions, tea dances and cultural lunches. The biggest event is the Christmas party with 20 volunteers and 75 participants at the Oasis Centre and 3 societies help perform with singing and dancing, to use all the talent available.
- 5.5.10 **Community events** included Good Deed Day with a marquee being set up in Guildhall Square with face painting etc. Soup kitchens are regular events giving once a week interaction with the homeless. Students also take part in the Great South Run, sponsoring Dementia UK and help Food Cycle with the redistribution of food from supermarkets to the homeless. Students were also participating at the Feed the 5000 event.
- 5.5.11 At the time of the review meeting, plans were being made for the 2015 Christmas party at the Mountbatten Centre, for 400 children with 15 students volunteering. Also planned for 9<sup>th</sup> December was a Christmas party for 100 older persons, with 4 societies performing. There were also events to help the RSPCA - with redecoration of kennels at The Stubbington Ark, and work with the animals there.
- 5.5.12 These volunteering opportunities are facilitated with the help of others, such as Purple Door especially with placements for sports and recreation, after school clubs, coaching (sports, dancing and cheerleading) and during the RAG (raising and giving) week £220,000 had been raised.
- 5.5.13 **Outreach work** included first aid provision at the Guides and science outreach with sixth formers being invited to under experiments at the university laboratories. There is mentoring involvement in the city of numeracy project within local schools.

5.5.14 **University Societies** are a way of harnessing talents, giving experience such as writing for a paper, presenting on radio, captaining in sports clubs etc. and 6000 students are members of societies.

## 5.6 UNIVERSITY FACULTIES

Written evidence was submitted from individual faculties, detailing their local placements and volunteering opportunities for students which include:

### 5.6.1 Institute of Criminal Justice Studies (ICJS)

ICJS Links with the local police in Portsmouth - it is estimated that between 100-150 students will have spent 3 shifts each with the police this academic year and provide constructive feedback on their experiences to feed back to senior police officers.

There are criminology students who are special constables with Hampshire Constabulary, the British Transport Police and Sussex Police. Some students are also engaged in volunteering activities within the community dealing with vulnerable adults and victims of crime.

In autumn 2015 the ICJS and PCC staff held an event at Portsmouth Museum called "Sherlock Holmes to modern CSI" attended by 16 local families and a group of young carers.

Every other year ICJS hold a partnership day with their forensic and policing partners to showcase their work with UoP and their research. The students attending discuss the opportunities available to them and the experience gained from sandwich year placements and internships.

### 5.6.2 School of Education and Continuing Studies (SECS)

A variety of placement opportunities are offered through local schools, colleges, nurseries and other educational/non educational settings. These placements provide invaluable supported experience for students, this also helps them to decide if they would like to go into teaching and at which level (Early Years, primary, secondary or further education) and other students to consider a career in areas such as social work, youth offending or health.

Events include:

- European Day of Languages at Portsmouth Football Club on 25 September 2015 which was attended by 100 local year 9 pupils (French & Spanish) and delivered by 33 PGCE<sup>2</sup> language trainee teachers<sup>3</sup>
- Year 11 Revision day for French, Spanish, German and Italian 22 January 2016 - inviting 200 local year 11 pupils to UoP for a revision day to develop listening, reading and memorisation skills<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> PGCE = Post Graduate Certificate in Education, a 1 year higher education course for graduates to train to become teachers in maintained schools

- Spelling Bee Competition - the regional competition will take place at Brighton University on 20 April 2016 for local year 7 pupils of any language<sup>5</sup> - this is delivered and supported by the PGCE MFL course leader and her 33 trainee teachers.
- Global Campus Year 8 international event - 7 May 2016 - 33 PGCE MFL trainee teachers deliver half hourly sessions based on cultural themes for their countries e.g. Spanish Salsa, African Drumming<sup>6</sup>
- Adopt a Class - this is an ongoing 3 year rolling programme where classes of Year 8 pupils are adopted by a second year undergraduate student with contact maintained during the year abroad and classes revisited in the students' final year when the pupils are in Year 10, to prolong an interest in languages and encourage GCSE take up later on.<sup>7</sup>

### 5.6.3 School of Languages and Area Studies (SLAS)

- A level 6 Applied Languages student works part time as a Bilingual Learning Assistant (Hungarian) for Portsmouth City Council, and example of UoP's 'Learning Through Experience' opportunities (arranged through the LiFE Unit). This was mutually beneficial for the student's employability and for local Hungarian pupils accessing the national curriculum.
- There is community involvement of MA Applied Linguistics and TESOL<sup>8</sup> programme with a high proportion of the students being local Portsmouth teachers so there is upskilling of the local workforce.
- There is provision of translators and interpreters for local events - e.g. 12 languages students volunteered to help at the 52<sup>nd</sup> International Submariners Congress at the Guildhall in May 2015 which was also supported by PCC.

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<sup>3</sup> This has 'Routes into Languages' funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the scheme runs from August 2013 to July 2016

<sup>4</sup> This has 'Routes in Languages' funding

<sup>5</sup> Arranged via the 'Routes into Languages' co-ordinator at Brighton University

<sup>6</sup> Part funded by 'Routes into Languages'

<sup>7</sup> Funded by 'Routes into Languages'

<sup>8</sup> Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages

#### 5.6.4 School of Social Historical and Literary Studies (SSHLS)

- Journalism students contribute to university media such as Pure FM which is also accessible by the local community.
- There is coverage of local events such as the Great South Run and Council meetings, including publications in student papers and their journalism website The Hub, the hyperlocal About My Area website and The News, as well as YouTube and Twitter.
- Journalism students also work with local companies and start-ups to create press packs to promote their businesses, which are done free of charge and some of which are used commercially.
- Some Politics and International Relations students work as volunteers with the local Red Cross, the armed services, local judiciary and within local politics.
- Students from SSHLS are involved in the organisation of the Shakespeare festival - Much Ado About Portsmouth 2016, in particular with the promotion and delivery of the sonnet competition with schools and the schools' library service. Students are also involved in the Designers Tudor Fashion Show at the Square Tower.

#### 5.6.5 Faculty of Creative and Cultural Industries (CCI)

- There is an annual Faculty Graduate Show, the latest preview night attended by 2142 people and 1000 tuned in to watch on line, the VIP Research and Innovation launch was attended by 1000 VIP guests
- 'Science without Borders' - Brazilian architecture students collaborate with CCI student architects and have analysed and re-imagined use of 3 Portsmouth church spaces (26 students looked at Christ Church at Portsdown, St. Michael's at Paulsgrove and St. James' Church at Milton). Bishop Christopher said *"They have inspired us to think more about the impact of our buildings and the way they engage the local community"*
- Open lecture delivered on the theme ' Port City: Narratives of Migration' aiming to dispel the notion that the city is mono-cultural
- 'Far from Home' public exhibition, book and documentary, which were researched with retired service personnel (including local residents at Greenwich Court Retirement Home).
- 'New Educators' workshops with local schoolchildren; 12 students worked with 240 pupils, in collaboration with Aspex Gallery
- Illustration students collaborate with local iconic company Anglepoise in 'The Great Reveal' event. Simon Terry of Anglepoise said *"Going round the room and talking to the students about their work it was clear just how much time and effort had gone into this from each and every one of them... For many of them the process had really taught them a great deal on how to approach future projects which was great"*

*to hear".*

- 'Design thinking in practice' - Creative Technology students designed an interactive mobile app to guide foster parents, in collaboration with IBM and Catchpoint charity
- TV & Film Production students make films in collaboration with the police and PCC to help improve the lives of minority women in the region to try to improve the confidence of black and ethnic minority women, covering the themes of forced marriage, 'honour' based domestic and sexual violence.
- Big Screen broadcasts of CCI Live TV in Guildhall Square with a weekly show interviewing members of the community
- Navy liaison - Computer games and animation students work with the Navy reproducing 3-D models of military hardware (ships etc.) which are embedded in computer simulators reflecting real combat situations. The project has been running since 2011 and has recently expanded to include smartphone apps for the Royal Marines School of Music.
- Collaboration with the Portsmouth Cultural Trust displaying reactive work in the Guildhall's Freda Swain Business Lounge, in a dedicated gallery space for work of students and alumni. Quote from Catherine Harper, Dean of the CCI Faculty on the value of the CCI students *"Many remain here as part of Portsmouth's creative workforce, incubating their ideas, generating, innovating, producing, and making significant contributions to the city's culture and economy, while others travel out across the globe as ambassadors of this community of design businesses, creation collaborations, entrepreneurial partnerships and creative practices."*
- 'Stina and the Wolf' feature animation film being made in Portsmouth involving dozens of students from the School of Creative Technologies for students to gain experience on real projects as part of a UoP not for profit company.

### **5.6.6 Portsmouth Business School (PBS)**

There are collaborations with local large and small businesses and delivering 'pro-bono' (i.e. for free) services in the professions.

- PBS Schools of Law and Accounting and Financial Management run clinics offering expertise and support both within the university and external in the local community in Intellectual Property, Employment Law and Debt Management. There is involvement in law clinics, Citizens Advice Bureaux and police support volunteers.
- Large firm development - there is a successful collaboration with Hewlett Packard with approximately 20 students (MSc Strategic Quality Management) taking part each year on an 18 month programme, supporting regional development.
- SME Development - PBS was awarded Silver Small Business Charter



recognition for work to promote small businesses growth. In the last 2 years over 1100 PBS students have engaged in live client projects with 196 local small businesses. Projects have included accounting students auditing local charities and social enterprises and law students working with charities on corporate governance projects. Many final year students choose to work with local firms and to take up the opportunity to write up a project completed on their small business placement.

### **5.6.7 Faculty of Science (SCI)**

- Biology students have worked on research projects at the Mary Rose (e.g. preservation of timbers), participated in the Langstone Harbour Board fish survey and in public lectures (including Café Scientifique). They have also helped in aspiration raising in education especially among females into STEM<sup>9</sup> subjects, hosting visits with local primary and secondary schools and colleges.

### **5.6.8 Sport & Exercise Science**

There is collaboration with PCC and the School Sport Networks to increase physical activity rates for young people, with students organising events in the community and school settings. Examples of interaction with the council and wider community include:

- Consultancy work on the PCC Physical Activity Strategy
- Support for the 'City of Football' bid to Sport England and student placements and liaison with Portsmouth FC
- Student placements in local sports clubs and work with the seafront events team such as the Great South Run
- Student projects in the local community including the John Pounds Centre and the Mountbatten Centre
- Work with the Sport & Recreation Dept to place students in leadership and sports coaching opportunities across the city.

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<sup>9</sup> STEM subjects are Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

### 5.6.9 Geography

- There is a strong connection with the Mary Rose Museum.
- Research has formed an important part of several TV documentary films
- There are links to PCC's Farlington Marshes Committee and over 20 years involvement in the study of the intertidal archaeology around Portsmouth and its harbours.
- **Public lectures** contribute to the cultural and educational activity of the city, including on the topic of the Mary Rose as well as presentations to schools on Historical Geography.

### 5.6.10 Pharmacy and Biological Sciences

- The School of PBS is working in partnership with Laly's Pharmacy to develop 'Healthy Living Pharmacy Live', to combine the ethos of a Health Living Pharmacy providing advice and support to health and wellbeing as well as an immersive education experience for the pharmacy students on their MPharm degree. Students will be learning while contributing (under supervision) to the care of patients in the city centre, by providing advice on medicines and health as well as responding to patients' symptoms for minor ailments.

### 5.6.11 Psychology

- Researchers work in partnership with PCC to gain funding for projects to benefit the city e.g. Education Endowment Foundation 'Changing Mindsets' project, and Autism Employment Centre.
- Have provided help with PCC's promotion of the National Numeracy Challenge, and trained national numeracy champions.
- Involvement in the Solent Maths hub to promote increased Maths attainment for local school children.
- Student placements in the community as part of courses accounts for about 60 students a year, with placements having taken place at Portsmouth Educational Psychology Team and Solent NHS Trust Neuropsychology at QA hospital.

### 5.6.12 Earth and Environmental Sciences

- The Crisis and Disaster Management MSc course has worked with PCC in providing a volunteer intern to the Contingency Planning Team, carrying out research for PCC on aspects of emergency planning.
- A PhD research student looked at ways of mapping and monitoring flood vulnerability and risk along the coast of Portsmouth.

### 5.6.13 Health Sciences and Social Work

The department educates and trains health and social care practitioners who go on to support the local community, working alongside the NHS and PCC Social Care partners in evaluating the city's priorities and needs as well as contributing to the solutions. There is involvement in:

- Care home staff training and development
- Training solutions for the ambulance service
- Open day and outreach activities to educate and motivate the younger population in emergency life support and careers in health and social care
- Research on alcohol misuse (working with the police, PCC and substance users) fed into a citywide strategy to manage and reduce misuse
- Research this academic year evaluating the needs of military veterans moving to civilian life.

### 5.6.14 Social Work - Adult Social Care

Over the last 2 years there has been a collaboration with PCC's Adult Social Care including working together on two 'Research and Practice' seminars that have focused on live issues with input from practitioners and researchers, which also benefits PCC staff gaining CPD<sup>10</sup> accreditation, so this will become an annual event.

**Social Work court skills** - Collaborative work with PCC on the 'Court skills expert witness presentations within a simulated court context' drawing on the expertise of PCC's Legal Services who act as judges and advocates for the simulation. This is valued by PCC's Social Services management as part of the learning process.

**Mentoring LAC** - There is also liaison with PCC Looked After Children's (LAC) Services in developing a focused mentoring project for first year BSc (Hons) Social Work students to be matched with young persons in local authority care, to maintain contact between the young person and mentor during the 3 years of study.

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<sup>10</sup> CPD = Continuing Professional Development

### **5.6.15 Dental Academy**

Work benefitting the local community includes:

- Opportunities for children and parents to access dental treatment through supervised brushing and fluoride varnish programmes and Children's Centre visits.
- Working alongside carers in residential homes for older persons to encourage improved dental health.
- Promotion of oral health messages
- Offering treatment to the homeless
- Supporting recovering drug/alcohol users and offenders at Portsmouth Probation Services
- Community open days attendance to encourage attendance at dental facilities
- Offer NHS primary dental care services on the premises at UoP to the local community.

### **5.6.16 University of Portsmouth Ageing Network**

- Evaluating and supporting local services such as Age UK Portsmouth, Portsmouth Pensioners Association (helped create their new website), with health partners and PCC.
- Community outreach activities have included involvement in the Portsmouth 60+ Festival, public talks, lab tours and stands which has helped increase the social activity of older members of the public.
- Supporting external services engage with members of the public - impacts have included shaping decisions around commissioning community services for residents living with dementia and the setting up of a new dementia walks service, and UoP is a dementia friendly institution.

### **5.6.17 Faculty of Technology**

- There is an annual School of Engineering Project Day to showcase student work to employers, local schools and colleges. The April 2015 Project Poster Day had 345 projects on show with students and staff on hand to answer questions.

- **Stargazing Live** - an annual event at the Historic Dockyard run over the last 4 years linking in with the BBC's event, which is open to the public and attracts around 450 people (over 5500 when the BBC were present in 2014) with the involvement of staff and postgraduate students from the Institute of Cosmology and Gravitation (ICG). ICG students also help with other public events and outreach work. 11 Physics undergraduates also help with the delivery of activities in primary schools in the city. ICG students also run 'Astronomy in the City' in the Guildhall Square to engage with members of the public and encourage interest in Astronomy and Space.
- **Computing at Schools hub** - is run by UoP with regular events aimed at anyone teaching computing in schools, partly delivered by PGCE Computing students, attracting over 30 teachers at each event who share good practice.
- **The School of Mathematics Undergraduate Ambassador scheme** with students gaining teaching experience at local schools; in 2015/16 academic year 19 students work in Portsmouth schools for 10 half days per academic year, and this has been rolled out to computing students with 10 in local schools in 2015.
- **Placement students in local companies** - students have the opportunity to undertake a 36 week placement with a company or a shorter summer placement. In 2014/15 academic year 26 companies placed students in Portsmouth (one at PCC) and in 2014/15 there were 49 students at 27 local companies (one at PCC).
- In 2014/15 there were 57 students taking on volunteering roles in the city (6 helping to deliver computing code clubs in local schools), others working as visitor guides at Boathouse No4 in the Dockyard, and some working with the local branch of the Alheimers Society.
- **Outreach work** by students to encourage the take up of STEM subjects; last year 70 activities were run with local schools and colleges e.g. the Greenpower Challenge to build and race an electric vehicle at Springfield School.

**6. Objective 3 - To be informed of the work of the council and other bodies in the city with students which are mutually beneficial economically and academically**

The panel received evidence of PCC's involvement with local students and how the Portsmouth Together project is harnessing students' enthusiasm to help in local projects as part of the social action agenda.

**6.1 PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL (PCC)**

The panel received evidence from a range of Portsmouth City Council departments which interact with university and college students in the city in a variety of ways, and it was noted that there is a need to ensure that a quality experience is offered to benefit both parties.

**6.1.1 Museums** - Jane Mee, PCC's Museums & Visitor Services Manager provided information on the interaction with UoP and other students for her service.

**6.1.2 Museum Volunteers** - 16 students volunteer with the Museums Service - university students outside term time and the further education students at the weekends. These students are mostly from UoP, but some are from Portsmouth and study at university elsewhere. There are some one-off volunteering opportunities - e.g. a UoP student filmed the Museums' 3 community showcase collectors (part of a Hard Choice). In addition there are 3 long term student volunteers who work on collections.

**6.1.3 Research at the Museums** - history students from the University of Portsmouth use the D-Day Collections as part of their coursework (i.e. on an annual basis) and present their work to visitors at the Museum. The History Department also provided students to help research the WW1 exhibition 'Lest We Forget' (in 2014). The D-Day students, and a group of students from the University of Wolverhampton on their way to Normandy, were consulted as part of PCC's Heritage Lottery Fund D-Day project. As part of the D-Day Museum project it is proposed to work with students from 4 UK Universities in the future. PCC's Museums Service also supports a Doyle PhD student funded by an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award (to the UoP).

**6.1.4 Libraries** - Lindy Elliott, PCC's Libraries & Archives Service Manager provided evidence that this service has run joint projects with the university, including a "One City Read" as part of the WW1 commemorations with the Literature Department, including supporting their conference "Visual Libraries" with the Arts and Creative Technologies. The Libraries & Archives Service has offered project opportunities for Year 2 students based on practical library issues with the Business School and these have formed the basis of a Year 2 project. There had also been involvement in Bookfest with students helping with the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection.

- 6.1.5 Public Health** - Dr Janet Maxwell, Director of Public Health has met with Dr Chris Markham, the Head of the School of Health Sciences and Social work to discuss student links as well as research opportunities. She is also working closely with David Hutchinson, Manager of the University of Portsmouth Environmental Network UPEN. She is also involved in meetings with Bernie Topham at the UoP and David Williams (PCC's Chief Executive) to discuss closer links with the University.
- 6.1.6 PCC's Strategy Unit links with UoP** - Paddy May, PCC's Corporate Strategy Manager, had submitted evidence on the Strategy Unit's interaction and use of the University as a resource as well as joint work with them, e.g. meeting with Professor Tara Dean to discuss whether research projects from the University could support some of Strategy's knowledge programmes. Generally the UoP were interested in funding to do research but they were happy to share some of the findings from their student projects. There has been a Tackling Poverty initiated research project with the Psychology Department looking at whether an approach to learning with increased expectations improved school results.
- 6.1.7** Advice has been given to the UoP Business School looking for real life projects to help develop individual Voluntary and Community Sector organisations. The Strategy Unit has worked with UoP on delivery of the Growth Hub - UoP were the lead accountable body for an application by PCC as part of City Deal and this was about working with the University to promote business growth in the Solent area. This helps support the financial viability of the University and departments and so has an indirect impact on students. PCC also make joint bids with them e.g. a new European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) bid to support SME competitiveness (support for small and medium sized enterprises).
- 6.1.8 Business Enterprise** - Alison Heselberth, SME Development Officer (Culture & City Development) had been asked by Kevin Stroud at UoP to be part of the Business Enterprise Unit, providing a brief for a project for which students bid for work and then deliver by Spring 2016.
- 6.1.9** Linda Taylor PCC's Employment Initiatives Manager, monitors the Employment and Skills Plans for development sites in Portsmouth. Some of the outputs for this include links with colleges, schools, back to work projects etc.
- 6.1.10 Human Resources (including work placements)**  
Roland Bryant from PCC's HR department provided information on how HR co-ordinate a number of work placements and there is a dedicated member of staff looking after Apprenticeships and Work placements (in 2015 she placed 8 UoP students in a range of services).
- 6.1.11 Social care placements** - HR has a long standing relationship with the University of Portsmouth Social Work Degree course as PCC provide placements in both Children's Social Care and Safeguarding and Adult Social care as these placements require a Practice Educator to oversee and pass/fail the student whilst in placement.

- 6.1.12 HR also works with Highbury College and Adult Social Care to try and increase the number of work experience placements in their area but this is in its early stages.
- 6.1.13 Court skills training** for PCC's social workers involves PCC's legal team and the University and is a really good example of collaboration where PCC Legal Service provide the legal experts, and the 'raw recruits' in newly qualified social workers and the University provides the venue and legal students who can practice and support the whole process. No money changes hands with this as both parties contribute resources in kind.
- 6.1.14 PCC also provide Occupational Therapy placements to the University of Southampton in Adult Social Care.
- 6.1.15 School work experience placements** have been supported in the past through the EBP (Education Business Partnership) but this has reduced since they started charging schools (and in some cases the individuals) because this is no longer a mandatory requirement to broker placements. HR do get requests for placements from schools, PCC staff and directly from parents and always endeavour to accommodate these. HR also receives requests from language schools in the city and has been able to accommodate some of these. HR itself also regularly has students on placement and has built up a good relationship with the UoP Business School where HR are able to influence the projects the students carry out so that they provide both a good resource for PCC and a beneficial piece of work for their course.
- 6.1.16 Trading Standards** over 8 years the department has worked with 3<sup>rd</sup> year UoP law students, completing 100 hours work experience in place of a dissertation, assisting in consumer protection activities and interventions, participating in national campaigns such as Rogue Traders Week, and assisting officers in underage sales work.
- 6.1.17 Sport**  
Matthew Birch, Portsmouth City Council's (PCC) Sports Officer, had submitted a written overview of programmes in the city which seek to engage more people in sport through educational settings, whether that is as participants or as coaches, officials, organisers and sports professionals. None of this is run directly by PCC but is a vital part of the overall sports programme which is run across the city and by various organisations working in partnership.
- 6.1.18 Sport in Schools**  
The majority of sport in Portsmouth schools is organised by the Portsmouth School Sport Partnership (PSSP) which is supported by PCC. PSSP organise a range of in-school opportunities seeking to improve the competency and confidence of staff to deliver PE and school sport as well as delivering opportunities for pupils to take part in recreational and competitive sport.



- 6.1.19 PSSP receive a government grant under the School Games programme and also from individual schools who 'buy-in' a range of services. PCC support PSSP in creating partnerships with other providers, supporting the delivery and hosting events, accessing external funding and management and policy support.
- 6.1.20 Many secondary schools offer Sports Leaders as an option for pupils to undertake either within the curriculum, after school or during school holidays. Students undertaking Sports Leaders are equipped with skills to support the organisation and delivery of sport within school and community settings alongside more experienced and qualified staff. Sports Leaders is one of the first steps into volunteering. Sports leaders from several schools support the delivery of PSSP and gain real event experience by volunteering and helping to deliver a range of competitions and events.
- 6.1.21 PSSP also give funding to deliver Change 4 Life Clubs in primary schools. These offer after-school sports provision aimed at everybody within the school and not just the most gifted. There is also training for pupils to become playground leaders to help ensure more children from the school take part in activities during break times.
- 6.1.22 Sport in Colleges**  
Portsmouth College has developed a growing focus on academic and participation in sport (working closely with Tom Lloyd). The college offers BTEC qualifications in sport and health and also offers a range of additional vocational courses such as NVQ, Sports Leaders and sport specific coaching courses. Portsmouth College also has a growing number of apprentices with Portsmouth School Sport Partnership delivering two apprenticeships to learn and develop within the industry and also aid the development of PE and sport in schools.
- 6.1.23 Students undertaking sports qualifications will also be active in supporting the delivery of community and school based sports opportunities, festivals and competitions. Members of the college's Sports Academy will also be encouraged towards volunteering and leadership within their sports and to support college and community delivery.
- 6.1.24 Students from Havant and South Downs Colleges also support the delivery of school sport opportunities within Portsmouth. (At present Highbury College does not offer any academic qualifications in sport.)
- 6.1.25 Sport at the University of Portsmouth**  
The University has over 300 students per year undertaking qualifications in Sport and Exercise Science. Additionally, thousands more students take part in sport weekly for recreation or competition.
- 6.1.26 The University organises a range of sports coaching courses throughout the academic year open to both students and staff and the wider population. Many of the students undertaking these courses will do so in order to volunteer in local schools and community clubs to gain real world experience. The University operates a sports volunteering database to

connect volunteers and community opportunities.<sup>11</sup>

6.1.27 Additionally, some sports related academic courses require students to actively participate in community opportunities delivering sports coaching, development and event management. Students help to deliver various programmes such as coaching in schools, inter school competitions and festivals and various activities around the Great South Run series of events. Students on some courses are also required to undertake industry placements.

#### **6.1.28 UoP Directorate**

Bernie Topham, Chief Operating Officer for UoP in her presentation to the panel explained the benefits of the existing links with PCC. Placement opportunities lead to personal development through work with PCC's Human Resources Department for a structured development and the chance to interact with other council departments. Examples of collaborative work include the Seafront Strategy and pier restoration, and the Carers' Strategy. A further advantage is that learning about Local Government gives a broad experience which can lead to permanent employment with talent being retained in the city.

6.1.29 There would be further expansion of the current 185 different volunteering roles and more liaison with PCC to develop links with Victorious Festival and further involvement in the Volunteering Fair.

6.1.30 At the EDCL scrutiny panel meeting on 24 November 2015 Julia Hughes from UoP's Purple Door undertook to make contact with Honorary Alderman John Attrill as PCC's Learning Disability Champion to discuss further links on learning disabilities areas.

## **6.2 PORTSMOUTH TOGETHER**

6.2.1 Brian Bracher Chief Service Officer, Portsmouth Together (PT) explained the collaborative nature of this project, with him representing the City Council (along with Janet Maxwell, PCC's Director of Public Health who chairs PT), the PT board and steering group also include representatives from the University of Portsmouth (Bernie Topham and Julia Hughes respectively) as well as the Students' Union.

6.2.2 The Portsmouth Working Together website links to and from the University of Portsmouth and Students Union.<sup>12</sup> A students' volunteering week takes place in February each year, details of which were circulated to 120 organisations last year. There had not been a proper website in place for volunteering opportunities due to lack of funding and Portsmouth Together had filled this gap and as at November 2015 there had been over 1300 enquiries since the website had launched on 1st October 2014. It was known that potential students looked at the website from abroad when they were considering Portsmouth University as a possible destination, so they

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<sup>11</sup> The UoP website and its Sports Volunteering Hub can be accessed at <http://www.sportportsmouth.co.uk/> this advertises volunteering opportunities

<sup>12</sup> The Portsmouth Together website has over 2000 visits a month.

were looking into volunteering experiences. Brian was also meeting with the Students' Union lead on Community Engagement to discuss further publicity on volunteering carried out by UoP students in Portsmouth. Facebook and Twitter are also used for the advertising of volunteering opportunities<sup>13</sup>. DBS<sup>14</sup> checks should not be prohibitive (costing £10 for a volunteer) and these are not always needed, depending on the type of work being undertaken, and there is clear guidance regarding safeguarding issues.

- 6.2.3 The Cabinet Office now use the term '**Social Action**' to better explain the full range in which people and businesses can give their time. The Portsmouth Together Steering group is developing a 'Portsmouth Social Action Framework for 2015/20', which encompasses a huge range of opportunities. The PT team is trying to cover the key areas to co-ordinate work in the city to encourage volunteering.
- 6.2.4 Examples of collaborative work offering opportunities and mutual benefit include:
- \* **Code Clubs** in primary schools' afterschool clubs. Portsmouth Together are in touch with Purple Door and the libraries so that 200 children in the city are now involved.
  - \* **Numeracy Challenge** - UoP had provided some of the count champions for this.
- 6.2.5 **Future work of PT** - As well as UoP, Brian Bracher also worked closely with Clare Martin at Pompey in the Community regarding volunteering opportunities. He planned to meet Highbury College teachers in December, regarding the benefits of volunteering and had also been to local college volunteering fairs.
- 6.2.6 **Areas to expand** - PCC's Public Health Department was looking for more placements and a lot of research work was taking place within Sports Psychology and Geography. There were also opportunities to be expanded with Adult Social Care and there were early discussions taking place on how students could help here such as expanding social care practical experience in the dementia and learning disability areas. However there is a need to manage expectation regarding timing as the students were not available over the summer or at exam times.
- 6.2.7 Janet Maxwell, PCC's Director of Public Health was keen to engage further with Portsmouth University and the colleges as there was recognition that many faculty leads do have contacts at the city council but there is no single point of contact except for formal work placements.
- 6.2.8 Brian Bracher would be liaising with Purple Door regarding the UoP recruitment and volunteering fair, and had been contacted by a local company who wanted smaller companies to be invited to these events.

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<sup>13</sup> As at November 2015 PT reported over 400 likes on Facebook and over 700 Twitter followers

<sup>14</sup> DBS replaces former CRB checks disclosing criminal records

6.2.9 **Future Funding for PT?** The EDCL panel members asked whether there is future funding available to make all these efforts sustainable? Brian Bracher reported that the funding for Portsmouth Together ran until June 2016 from the Cabinet Office Cities of Service; this also funded the website which was valuable in helping those in the city find out about volunteering in the city e.g. the 'Feeding of the 5000' event in the Guildhall Square in December had received a lot of enquiries.

6.2.10 The EDCL panel members were concerned about what would happen if the funding for PT was not found and there was a need to look further at the Third Sector. It was also reported that Love Your Street was harnessing support of neighbours in the community. So there were some very passionate volunteers out there but there is a need to co-ordinate and harness this.

### 6.3 **FEEDBACK**

6.3.1 As part of the EDCL Scrutiny Panel's evidence gathering meeting on 24 November 2015 a feedback session was held with discussions taking place with the attendees and the following issues were identified:

#### 6.3.2 **Benefits**

- Participants were impressed by how much volunteering is going on in the city already, as evidenced at the EDCL event.
- The value of volunteering in helping the city grow and develop was recognised and the positive contributions by students to the wider community such as PCC's Museum Service have 100 volunteers (20 of whom are students, mainly from UoP), and whilst this has an impact for training up there is a great benefit to the service and many of these stay on for several years to help the service.
- It was evident from this event that volunteering is embedded at the University of Portsmouth, and local colleges have the potential to widen participation.

#### 6.3.3 **Possible Restrictions**

- A possible barrier for host organisations is the need for insurance for under 16s and it was noted that DBS checks are £10 for a basic volunteer check but £60 for enhanced ones.
- Age restrictions for the NCS scheme - it is important that young people don't get disillusioned if they are not able to join schemes at a young age.
- The co-ordination and communication channels for volunteering have an accompanying duty of care to ensure safety

#### 6.3.4 **Future/Way Forward**

- **A single point of contact** for volunteers was needed with a central database and hub, to facilitate the matching of individuals to suitable opportunities, with a better structure across the city for volunteering to

improve co-ordination.

- The work of **Portsmouth Together** should be built on. There was concern that if the PT Chief Service Officer role goes (with planned funding coming to an end in June for Portsmouth Together) PCC will need to consider its importance and impact on outside parties if it is not continued or replaced.
- **Promotion** of opportunities through the most appropriate channels to reach students: websites and social media (including Twitter), and regular contact (e.g. emails) about new opportunities (e.g. at local community groups, the school Code Clubs to help build children's digital skills).
- **Encouraging younger volunteers** - could the NCS/Social Responsibility opportunity (for 15-17 year olds) be rebranded to encourage involvement and promote fun? This would encourage less formal involvement in early stages to show how volunteer hours can be mutually beneficial by asking the question "can you help?"
- There is a Youth Social Action Conference in the Spring of 2016 for 16-20 year olds
- As reported by Highbury College, encouraging participation in group volunteering settings helps to build the confidence of those who may not otherwise volunteer on their own and this will then get them into the habit of volunteering.
- There is a need to look at how students can further help in the area of high future demand in Adult Social Care.
- Consideration should be given to building pathways for volunteers to progress into paid work if they want to continue and the offering of training/ qualifications to enhance future career prospects.
- The UoP's Students Union Volunteering in Portsmouth (VIP) scheme deals with a lot of one-off events and is trying to extend into more parts of Portsmouth, (with their current focus on Southsea); ward councillors could invite them to participate in local events e.g. Fratton Family Festival.
- The 'Adopt a Railway Station' scheme where volunteers spruce up stations could be further explored.
- There could be improved co-ordination between PCC and the University of Portsmouth, with a raft of links already identified between the organisations.

- PCC's SME Development Officer already has good contacts with businesses for placements.
- Awards - to encourage young people's volunteering there could be an 'air miles' type system, with prizes (such as free tickets) and a Young Volunteer of the Year Award.
- Volunteering groups could be brought together at a Volunteer Fair, inviting the University, PCC services (such as museums, libraries), the NHS, Victorious, Great South Run, BAR etc.
- Umbrella Day - the participants recognised the value of cross-pollination of ideas and strategies, with exchange of information about what is already happening. Participants could see the value of groups and individuals coming together to be involved in group discussions, learning from each other how colleges, schools, the University and other student and community groups are involving and promoting the good work of the wide range of students across Portsmouth and how to harness the student resource to an even greater effect.

## **7. Equalities Impact Assessment**

A preliminary Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required as no new services are being recommended and there will be no negative impact on the protected characteristic groups. There will continue to be work with the voluntary and community sector to achieve the aims set out within the recommendations.

## **8. Legal Comments**

There are limited legal implications with respect to the proposed objectives, this said it is appropriate to note that the volunteers are not employees and as such when placements are facilitated it would be appropriate for any establishment taking such volunteers to note with their respective liability insurers this status and risk assess accordingly.

With respect to any potential Equality Act considerations these have been addressed as stated above. With respect to equal opportunity and inclusion the Public Sector Equality Duty is applicable to any facilitation organised by the Authority.

## **9. Finance Comments**

Financial implications arising from the recommendations will be contained within existing budget provision as outlined in Paragraph 10. There is now written agreement from the Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care that the Public Health grant held in the corporate reserve will fund Portsmouth Together (Cities of service) for 16/17 and 17/18. The funding is £82k 2016/17 and £100k 2017/18.

## 10. BUDGET AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The following table highlights the budget and policy implications being presented by the panel's recommendations.

| Recommendations   | Action by   | Policy Framework   | Resource implications  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p>1. Efforts must be made to ensure the co-ordination of volunteering opportunities in the city for students, regardless of background, by continuing the work of Portsmouth Together to ensure a single point of contact and use of suitable branding and a single banner for volunteering in the city</p>  | <p>Director of Public Health</p>  | <p>Within Budget &amp; Policy Framework (BPF)</p>  | <p>There is confirmed funding for the continuation of Portsmouth Together for 2 more years</p>   |
| <p>2. The positive contribution of students to community life should be celebrated and publicised and there should be publicity for the National Citizen Service (NCS) scheme to encourage more volunteers to take part, with the use of PCC publications such as Flagship and Term Times and the use of social media (looking at a Facebook page and hashtag # for Portsmouth Volunteering which could be monitored by a student volunteer) and local community stations, hospital radio and Portsmouth Football Club.</p> | <p>Director of Public Health<br/><br/>And<br/><br/>Director of Community &amp; Communication</p>        | <p>Can be contained within existing budgets for publicity if due notification is given</p> | <p>Occasional articles in PCC publications can be supported where space allows (at no cost if not using advertising space).<br/><br/>The promotion of NCS is part of the Portsmouth Together Strategy.</p> |
| <p>3. Councillors should help promote the role of young volunteers (including the university's VIP participants) in community events to extend the geographical areas covered. Councillors should also actively promote volunteering opportunities in their area city-wide to maximise attendance. Councillors should encourage engagement via attendance at college aspiration-raising events and by acting as mentors.</p>  | <p>Director of HR, Legal and Procurement<br/><br/>and<br/>Director of Community &amp; Communication</p> | <p>No extra costs envisaged so within existing budgets</p>                                 | <p>Councillors can expand governorship roles or groups could provide "champions" to fulfil this role. This can be included as part of member development.</p>  |

| <b>Recommendations</b>  | <b>Action by</b>   | <b>Policy Framework</b>    | <b>Resource implications</b>   |
|---|--|----------------------------|--|
| 4. To encourage younger participants to join in volunteer schemes as part of the social responsibility agenda, best practice elsewhere should be looked at, to get younger people into schemes such as the NCS. There should also be exploration of non-monetary incentives and a Portsmouth Young Volunteer of the Year Award organised in conjunction with partner organisations in the city. | Director of Public Health  | Within BPF                 | Portsmouth Together will continue the promotional work and to increase the number of awards for young people.  |
| 5. To further explore ways to encourage student placements in key areas of the council (where future customer demand will be high) such as in social care and public health, with the offering of training/qualifications/career enhancement as part of the experience, and monitoring of the pathways into employment at PCC.  | Director of HR, Legal & Procurement                                | To be contained within BPF | There is on-going work with various departments. However monitoring of pathways is not currently undertaken so there may be some capacity/resource implications. |
| 6. PCC departments to have a presence at Volunteers Fairs held for students by the university, colleges and partner organisations and encourage their expansion around the city.  | Director of HR, Legal & Procurement plus Director of Public Health | Within BPF                 | Portsmouth Together will continue to have presence at fairs around the city.   |



## **Appendix A – Attendance List from evidence gathering meeting**

### **Participants at 24 November 2015 EDCL event**

#### **Widening Student Opportunities in the City**

##### EDCL Panel (& other councillors)

Councillors Jennie Brent (Chair)

David Tompkins (Vice-Chair), Scott Harris, Lee Hunt, Julie Swan

& Matthew Winnington

(& other interested councillors - Steve Hastings, Ryan Brent & Simon Boshier)

##### University

Bernie Topham

Purple Door - Julia Hughes - Head of Employability

Students Union - Brendan McCarthy & Waqar Younas

##### Colleges

Highbury Helen Brennan & student Nam Kanram

Portsmouth - Tom Lloyd (& student placement Tom Tabner observing)

South Downs - Debbie Smith, accompanied by students - Luke Perman and Aimee Murphy

##### Schools

John Lomas, Springfield School

Peter Newton, King Richard School

##### Training Providers

PCMI - Liz Crate

PETA (Training & Consultancy) - Gavin Smith

##### Other agencies

Clare Martin, Portsmouth in the Community

Kings Theatre - David Cooper

Mary Rose Trust - James Rodliff

Tracey Jones (Dial-a-ride) observing

Honorary Alderman John Attrill, Learning Disability Champion for PCC

##### PCC (officers)

Brian Bracher, Portsmouth Together

Amanda Percy & Mike Stoneman - Education

Jane Mee - Museums

Lindy Elliott - Libraries

Alison Hesseberth (SME development)

Matt Birch, Sports officer

Apologies sent by:

Professor Graham Galbraith

Peter Mellor - Portsmouth Hospitals Trust

Dr Janet Maxwell - Public Health

Paddy May, Strategy

Linda Taylor (Employment & Skills)

### **Appendix B - Glossary of abbreviations used in the report**

|      |   |
|------|---|
| EDCL | Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel                            |
| HC   | Highbury College  |
| LEP  | Local Enterprise Partnership (The Solent LEP operates locally)                    |
| NCS  | National Citizen Service  |
| NHS  | National Health Service   |
| PCC  | Portsmouth City Council   |
| PSSP | Portsmouth School Sport Partnership   |
| PT   | Portsmouth Together   |
| SME  | Small & Medium Enterprises  |
| UoP  | University of Portsmouth  |
| VIP  | 'Volunteering in Portsmouth' run by The University of Portsmouth's Students Union |