

Push-me, pull-me: discourses of ‘staying’ and ‘leaving’ in Cumbrian WP practice

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether or not to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve.

Why does the study take place?

A report recently completed for Hello Future (*Something to talk about: the impacts of peer conversation and relationships on the choices of young learners in Carlisle*) identified a strand in Cumbrian widening participation (WP) activity focusing on the question of whether young people should ‘stay’ or ‘leave’ the local area. The current study aims to explore this idea further.

We would like to hear from students who have had experiences of participating in widening participation activities organised by Hello Future and who are now learning in HE settings, in order to gather their views about the programmes and their impacts. This will help us to make proposals on how to better support young people in their future choices.

What is involved in the study?

It is up to you to decide whether or not you can/want to take part and there is no obligation on you to do so. If you decide to participate, you will be asked to take part in an online interview lasting around 30 minutes with a member of the research team. The interview will be conducted using a remote format and will be recorded (see below, How is my data protected?) Anonymised quotes from this research might be published in various formats, such as journal articles or as part of conference presentations. In order to thank you for giving up your time we would like to offer you a £20 Amazon voucher for participating.

How is my data protected?

All data will be anonymised and the recordings will be deleted after they have been transcribed. Recordings will be made using Microsoft Teams or, if it is not possible to use this service, another online meeting provider. Recordings, once taken, will be transferred to a secure storage location using procedures laid down by UCLan in its code for online research. All information collected during the study will be kept securely (subject to legal limitations) and your privacy will be protected by strict use of data protection measures. Data generated by the study will be retained in accordance with the University’s policy on Academic Integrity and kept on a secure server only

accessible to the researchers. Only authorised people working on the project will process the data. All data held by the researchers will be deleted after five years from the end of the project. The University of Central Lancashire's privacy notice can be viewed here:

https://www.uclan.ac.uk/data_protection/privacy-notice-research-participants.php

What are my rights?

You are under no obligation to participate in this study. If you decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and asked to sign a consent form. You do not have to answer any or all questions, and can stop the interview at any time. You are free to withdraw from the study without giving a reason until the data has been anonymised and transcribed (14 days after the date of the interview), at no detriment to yourself. If you choose to withdraw from the study, all your personal data will be deleted.

If you wish to participate in the study, please tick the 'I Agree' box on the consent form.

Who organises the study?

This research is organised by the Department of Widening Participation and Public Engagement at UCLan, in conjunction with Hello Future, the Cumbrian branch of Uni Connect. Results will be used internally to gain an insight into the role of peers and friendship groups, and may also be published in academic journals or disseminated at conferences. This research has been approved by the University Research Ethics Committee. If you have any concerns about the way that this study has been conducted, please contact OfficerforEthics@uclan.ac.uk. The potential benefit to this study is that its findings may improve the delivery of widening participation programmes in Cumbria and other areas of the UK; we do not anticipate any risks to participants of taking part, other than investing a small amount of their time in the research process.

For more information or to receive this information in any other format, please contact:

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If you would like to withdraw from the study please email: ccanovan@uclan.ac.uk.

Thank you for reading this information sheet!