

**University of
Northampton**



**Social Impact Report
2015-2016.**

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Welcome to the Social impact Report 2015-2016.



Social Impact is embedded in our institution-wide strategy, 'Transforming Lives + Inspiring Change'. We work extremely hard to ensure that through our socially innovative activities and initiatives we have a positive effect on the communities that we serve locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

We provide a supportive environment for our students and staff to develop the necessary skills and knowledge they need to succeed in a socially innovative world, as well as enabling them to set up their own social enterprises or businesses to make a positive difference to the communities in which they operate.

We underpin our social impact activities with research in order to evaluate what we are doing, learning from what is being achieved, and driving our ambitions forward.

We are pleased to report that our first ever social impact report for 2014-2015 was very well received and was commended for showcasing the breadth as well as the depth of our social impact activities and initiatives.

In this report, we are continuing to further highlight the positive difference that we have made in the past year, and how we have applied our resources and effort in ways that make the most impact.

We hope you enjoy reading it.

Professor Simon Denny
Executive Dean: Research Impact and Enterprise

Professor Nick Petford
Vice Chancellor of the University of Northampton



News in brief.

Students embark on the Balloon Ventures volunteering programme.



Photo: Our Balloon Ventures participants for 2016. Left to right - Mohammed Alkhafaji, Stephanie Nixon, Rosalie Tshimanga, Brian Waweru, Miguel Pascual Acheson, Kimberly Nquyen and Alysha Burrell

As part of the Balloon Ventures programme, seven of our students have spent six weeks of their summer in developing countries including Kenya, Ghana and the Philippines, helping local communities to devise, develop and launch new businesses that will improve their community wellbeing as a whole.

This unique experience helps students to develop their entrepreneurial skills. The students who took part learnt how to be more creative and innovative, while tackling social issues and helping to change lives in developing countries.

£1.4 million worth of funding has been secured by the University to support people back into employment.

The University has been successful in securing £1.4 million worth of funding from the European Social Fund and the Big Lottery Fund to run a new back to work scheme across Northamptonshire.

The Working Progress programme will offer a wide range of support, including skills training, CV workshops, and interview skills. Working with Commsortia, a consortium of charities, social enterprises and community organisations, the University will be able to provide support to over 700 people in the county who are not currently working.



LOTTERY FUNDED



European Union
European Social Fund
Investing in jobs and skills

Our graduates team up to form the Socially Awkward Theatre Company.

Two recent graduates and best friends, Millie Hunt and Caroline Avis, are running their own theatre company with funding from Santander.

The name 'Socially Awkward' doesn't just represent the social faux pas of the two-piece comedy duo, but also the subjects of their shows.

Describing what the company does, the duo who graduated in 2016 say: "We devise ridiculous stories whilst also tackling and raising awareness of society's views of young women, including: body image, feminism and support of the LGBT community. We want to prove that women are funny, and can create hilarious pieces of theatre, whilst at the same time commenting on topics we are passionate about."





Northampton team fly to Iceland to spread the word on social innovation.

Our pioneering social innovation work is being noted across the globe, and as a result a team from the University went to Iceland for a three-day partner meeting to plan the future of social innovation.

Dr Richard Hazenberg and Dr Meanu Bajwa-Patel from the Institute for Social Innovation and Impact (ISII), joined Wray Irwin, Head of University Centre for Employability & Engagement, at the event in September, as part of the Erasmus+ project.

Focusing on 'Building the Culture of Social Innovation in Higher Education', the team met with partners from Collegium Civitas, Warsaw, Ashoka U, and the University of Iceland to discuss the structure of forthcoming planned outputs.

Incorporating a number of presentations from the hosts on social innovation in Iceland, the support available for social innovators, and how they innovate with technology in Higher Education teaching, the trip was a highly successful exercise for all involved and has strengthened relationships with international colleagues.



Photo: ISII Team in Iceland for a partner meeting on social innovation

University named HEI of the Year in the SEE Change Recognition Awards.



Photo: Kulwinder Kaur (middle) and Dr Hiten Vyas (right) from the University of Northampton collecting the 'HEI of the Year award 2016' from Nickala Torkington (left) from UnLtd.

The University has been awarded Higher Education Institution (HEI) of the Year 2016 in UnLtd's prestigious annual SEE Change Recognition Awards, for its wide-ranging and successful work in the areas of social enterprise, social impact, and social innovation.

The University came ahead of significant competition to win the award, which was judged by a panel comprising of senior managers from Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), UnLtd, and Universities UK, as well as wider strategic partners from across the higher education and social enterprise communities.

Celebrating Changemakers across the University.

Student and staff Changemakers were recognised at a glittering 2016 Changemaker awards ceremony on 13 October. The Changemaker Awards brings together students, graduates and staff members from across the University, as well as local businesses and community members, to celebrate the positive social impact we have on the community around us.

A number of local social enterprises joined the festivities; sponsoring tables at the event, sharing their stories of successfully setting up social enterprises; including Ghostdavaland Originals, Northamptonshire Credit Union, School of Life, Pacesetter Sports, ProjectFEM and many others.



Photo: Staff and Students receiving their awards at the 2016 Changemaker awards ceremony

Key areas of activity.





Community Engagement.

- The University was awarded £150,000 from the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to support community organisations to develop innovative and enterprising public safety initiatives. A total of 20 organisations working in six areas were supported through this programme.
- Over 470 students worked on the Changemaker Certificate
- Over 4,200 students were engaged in activities as part of the Changemaker Week
- 65 students from around the world spent three days at the University's Changemaker Summit 2016
- Over 100 young people from nine schools across Northamptonshire were awarded the Changemaker Schools Award
- In Summer 2016, 1,200 pupils from 22 secondary schools and 500 pupils from 50 primary schools visited the University as part of the 'Aspire Me' programme



Knowledge and Skills.

- The University's Enterprise Club supported the start-up and growth of 52 new social enterprises and businesses
- An Enterprise Club supported start-up successfully attracted £150,000 of private investment

Research institutes:

- The Institute for Social Innovation and Impact (ISII) evaluated the social impact and effectiveness of 22 projects across the county as part of the Race To The Top programme
- ISII worked with 11 European partners as part of the European Commission funded FP7 project
- The Institute of Health and Wellbeing (IoHW) managed over 40 research and evaluation projects
- IoHW Dementia Academic Action Group provided Tier 1 dementia awareness training to 1,400 staff within the NHS
- The Institute for Public Safety, Crime and Justice (IPSCJ) engaged with over 2,422 victims of crime for the Northamptonshire Victim Experience Report; and over 4,200 residents in the county for the Public Perceptions Report



Sustainability.

- The University reduced its CO2 emissions by 4.75% compared to the 2005-2006 baseline. Total scope 1 and 2 emissions were down to 7,689 tonnes in 2015-2016
- 67% of waste was recycled
- Water consumption down 17% compared to 2005-2006 levels
- A total of 152 solar panels helped the University deliver increased amount of renewable energy
- 56.4% of students and 23% of staff members travelled to the University by foot, bicycle, bus or train in 2015-2016
- Five University buses were upgraded with new efficient Enviro 5 engines in the past year, saving 18,000 litres of diesel and over 48 tonnes of CO2, the equivalent of planting 42,000 trees



Global Innovation.

- Seven of our students spent six weeks of their summer in developing countries including Kenya, Ghana and the Philippines as part of the Balloon Ventures programme
- ISII created Vietnam's first social impact measurement framework



Procurement.

Waterside Social Impact:

- Over 150 contractors and sub-contractors engaged in the direct delivery of social impact as part of the construction of the University's new Waterside Campus
- Over 280 local people are employed on site through the project supply chain
- 34 local suppliers are now engaged with the project
- New piling methods have reduced 95 tonnes of waste going to landfill



Partnerships and Commercial Activities.

- Inspire2Enterprise (I2E) and Northamptonshire Growth Hub (NGH) have supported a total of 2,403 clients
- First for Wellbeing Community Interest Company, launched by the University, Northamptonshire County Council and Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, is:
 - o serving 700,000 local residents across the county
 - o being evaluated by ISII to inform the design and delivery of nearly £50m of health and wellbeing services in the county over the next five years
- Our social enterprise partner, Goodwill Solutions CIC, supported 122 disadvantaged people through its vocational employment training programme

1. Community Engagement.

As a university, we believe we have a great responsibility to the community within which we operate. Each year, our staff and students get involved in various activities and initiatives to help benefit the local community and environment.

Positively impacting on local marginalised communities.

The University was awarded £150,000 from the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to support community organisations to develop innovative and enterprising public safety initiatives.

We set up a process to help organisations pitch for part of this money and then supported these organisations through our MA in Social Innovation, as well as providing them with the necessary guidance around written submissions and presentations to an investment panel. A total of 20 organisations working in six areas have been supported through this programme to help make their communities safer.

The University is also helping marginalised groups through various projects such as 'Skills to Succeed', which is focused around providing support to young people who are vulnerable to becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

We are also a part of the Universities in Support of Wounded, Injured and Sick (UNSWIS), which is a network of 36 universities across the UK providing short-term, unpaid, work placements, education and training advice for wounded, injured and sick personnel. These placements assist military servicemen and women in their transition to civilian employment by developing their confidence in working life.



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Case study:

How we are supporting young people to get the 'Skills to Succeed'



Supporting young people who are 'Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)' to enter the workplace is a key UK Government priority. Nationally 7.3 per cent of all young people aged 16 to 24 were classified as NEET in 2014 and figures show that of those categorised as NEET, 39 per cent have Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

Experts within the University's Faculty of Education and Humanities along with colleagues from the Changemaker Hub and Professional Services, student mentors and two external organisations have been running the Skills to Succeed project, which aims to develop opportunities to support young people aged 16 to 24 to enter employment.

Skills to Succeed has been designed specifically to widen and develop work based experience for young people who fall within the SEND and those who are leaving care in particular. The project aims to raise aspirations, develop skills and enhance the employability prospects of young people through traineeships within the University. Each young person is paired with a University student ambassador who mentors them throughout the project.

Student Mentor Emily Oakley, a second year Childhood and Youth student at the University, said: "I've been mentoring one young person as she undertook a work

Photo: The University's Skills to Succeed Project team. Left to right: Mark Blaber, Wendy Turner, Wendy Bannerman and Liam Norton

placement at the University's restaurant. It has been fantastic to see her build in confidence and develop her skills. Being a mentor has honed my skills set too, I've developed my communications skills, as well as my empathy skills."

The Skills to Succeed project works in partnership with the Northgate School Beehive Centre and Right Resolution Community Interest Company, two organisations which support young people who are vulnerable to becoming NEET.

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Case study:

Working with UNSWIS to provide opportunities to wounded, injured and sick military personnel

Ian James, an ex-serviceman from the Royal Air Force (RAF), spent a day at the University in April 2016 gaining experience within the Facilities Management department. At the request of UNSWIS, his placement was extended to a week and Ian gained vital experience in developing a facilities strategy. As the department was in the process of planning the move to our new Waterside Campus, it was felt Ian would be a unique addition to the team and he was offered additional work experience, which has turned into paid work.

Ian said: "Initially, I spent 16 years in the Royal Air Force, which included nine resource management and staff appointments and involved travel to the Arctic and Antarctic and many (western) countries in between. I managed a project to bring facilities to modern standards. For a time, I set up contracts for in-flight catering worldwide. This involved visiting the location and matching up what they could supply with what we wanted and keeping all within budget. I took Douglas Hurd, then Foreign Secretary, to Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, which involved revising an itinerary, that was subject to the times of votes in Parliament and when overseas leaders made themselves available, and several time zones and languages. After the RAF, I set up a new Grosvenor House building and rectified a cleaning contract for Imperial College, consulted on services at Goldsmiths and Heythrop colleges (a post-graduate college of the University of London teaching philosophy), University of Bedfordshire, LSE and UCL."

He continued: "I am here now (at the University of Northampton) to revise the Facilities Management Strategic Operations Plan, the Facilities Policy for the new Campus and other sites, which the University will operate at the same time. The existing Infrastructure Policy deals with the Facilities services that were current at time of its writing, for the sites that existed then. It is good to get back into the working environment. This placement has enabled me to start contributing again by getting to know what exists and the location, size and use of the future estate. It would not have been possible as an outsider to have contributed usefully to planning for the future. At the same time my extensive knowledge and experience will be of great value to the University, which will help rebuild my confidence for work. It is quite a shock to become disabled and for one's post to be made redundant. I am very grateful to the University of Northampton for giving me the chance to get back to the world of work again."



Raising funds for vital causes.

Our Students' Union reported a record-breaking year for fundraising activities for various local and national charities.

The Rowing Club completed a staggering 1,029,119 metre, 24-hour row and raised £2,000. £1,000 was donated to the Hope Centre, with the remainder used to buy new equipment.

The UN Testicle Team, formed in October 2015 by our graduate Harry O'Sullivan, following his own diagnosis and treatment of testicular cancer, has raised over £1,000 for charity 'Checkem Lads', which Harry found useful throughout his experience.

The Northampton Uni Boob Team raised £700 and donated 500 bras to the 'Against Breast Cancer' charity, which led to founder Gabrielle Deacon winning the Students' Union Society Volunteer of the Year award.

Case study:

The Northampton Uni Boob Team was founded by graduate Gabrielle Deacon and a group of students who felt that a large number of their peers - particularly first year school leavers - were not aware of how to check themselves for potential health problems. To ensure such checks became part of their regular routines, they formed the Boob Team to create an on-going awareness campaign around the topic and to raise funds for the national CoppaFeel! charity.

The team raised £700 and donated 500 bras to 'Against Breast Cancer'. Gabrielle explained: "The bras you no longer wear could also be helping to support small businesses in Africa. Together with our recycling partners, our textile recovery project prevents these bras going into landfill and gives them a new lease of life in developing countries where bras remain too expensive to produce locally. For every tonne of bras collected, Against Breast Cancer receives £700 to fund our research. With over 30 million women in the UK you could really help make a difference."

The team was presented with the 'Volunteer Project of the Year' award, while Gabrielle received 'Volunteer of the Year' award at the University's Students' Union Society and Volunteering Awards 2016.

Photo: Gabrielle receiving 'Volunteer of the Year' award at the Students' Union Society and Volunteering Awards 2016



Changemaking in all that we do.

As an AshokaU Changemaker Campus, we are committed to creating positive social change through our Changemaker activities and initiatives. We prepare students and staff to develop the skills and knowledge required to make a positive difference in their communities.

Changemaker Certificate.

Our Changemaker Certificate is awarded to individuals who provide socially innovative solutions to long-standing problems. Over 470 students are working on their Changemaker Certificate, transforming lives and inspiring change in the communities in which they live and work.

Changemaker School Awards.

We actively engage local school children in social change by helping them build their skills as Changemakers through innovative, self-designed projects in their schools and wider communities.

Over 100 young people aged between six and 12 from nine schools across Northamptonshire have been awarded the Changemaker Schools Award.

Launched in 2015, the University of Northampton Changemaker Student Awards programme supports and celebrates students as they develop life skills and empathy whilst making positive changes in their school community and beyond.

Changemaker Schools Credit Union.

Our Changemaker Schools Credit Union is an innovative collaboration between the Northamptonshire Credit Union, the University of Northampton and local primary schools. The schools-based, children-led, weekly sessions encourages children to become members, develops their saving habits and supports the development of basic numeracy skills and financial literacy. They explore the importance of building relationships with a local financial institution, which is ethically run and values-based.

Changemaker activities.

Our 2015-2016 Changemaker Week saw over 4,200 students engage in activities, including volunteering and taking-up internships in community groups and social enterprises.

The Changemaker Summit 2016 brought together students from around the world who have a passion and drive to create real sustainable change in their local communities and globally through innovation and creative leadership.

Organised by the Students' Union, 65 students from China, USA, Turkey, Poland, Mexico and the UK spent three days in Northampton, taking part in various activities considering social impact and changemaking.

- The first day of the summit focused on a discussion of inequality which included differing perspectives on inequality; delegates' experiences of inequality; key issues and themes in how inequalities are addressed across the countries the delegates attended from (through open conversation and hypothetical group exercises). Linda Bellos, Chair of the Institute of Equality and Diversity Practitioners, was the guest speaker.
- The second day was a crash course in project planning, business case development, and pitching, and ended in a Dragon's Den. This was facilitated by Social Innovations Exchange (SIX).
- The last day was about how to communicate your proposition to business stakeholders and the public. This included the creation of marketing communications plans, clear communicated objectives, and the production of a small video by each delegate with a film crew.



Changemaker Aspire Network and Aspire Me days.

Aspire Network is based at the University, and includes county colleges, the Library service, and schools amongst its members. The initiative is designed to raise aspirations amongst young people in the county by sharing knowledge and skills of higher-education subjects.

Aspire Network events include a six-week schools 'Aspire Me' programme held on both campuses. This year, the programme attracted 1,200 pupils from 22 secondary schools - whilst a further 500 pupils from 50 primary schools attended a creative writing festival at the University.

Morning and afternoon sessions in subjects such as podiatry, psychology, occupational therapy, law, music, environmental science, computing, art and drama are led by University students, and are designed to spark interest in the subjects, with the aim of encouraging more pupils to pursue these subjects at A-level and into Higher Education.



Case study: Changemaker Awards

Five Northamptonshire primary schools received awards from the University in July 2016. They were given in recognition of pupils initiatives to make improvements for their school and wider community.

Greenfields Primary School in Kettering received the Changemaker Ruby award for their campaign to improve road safety outside the school, following a number of accidents. Greenfields Primary School went on to win the 'Changemaker Schools Award', which was presented at the annual Changemaker event held on 13 October 2016, for their total commitment to the Changemaker ethos.

Kings Heath Primary School in Northampton was awarded all three Changemaker awards - Ruby, Emerald and Sapphire - for a number of pupil-led projects which were designed to improve playground facilities, create a school recycling project and promote inclusive behaviour through anti-bullying initiatives.



Bridgewater Primary School received the Sapphire award in recognition of the health and wellbeing initiatives they introduced, which included a 'Park and Stride' scheme; getting parents and pupils out of their cars and walking for 10 minutes on their way to school; as well as a healthy eating campaign, which resulted in funding to refurbish kitchen facilities.

Sixty Year 6 pupils from All Saints Church of England School were awarded the Ruby Changemaker award for their £380 fundraising campaign 'The Fiver Challenge', which will leave a legacy for other pupils as they join secondary school. The 'Fiver Challenge Fund' has been created to subsidise school trips for pupils during the next school year, as well as fund an end of term party.

2. Knowledge and Skills.



We enable and support entrepreneurs to set up their own social enterprises and businesses, and work with partners to deliver world-leading and applied research projects.

Entrepreneurs making a difference.

The University's Enterprise Club has supported staff, students and graduates to set up 52 new social enterprises and businesses in the past year. One of these - a special educational needs school called Riverside Education - has attracted £150,000 of private investment in its first year.

The Enterprise Club has been working closely with the University's Social Venture Builder (SVB) programme and offered positions to seven graduate and staff social entrepreneurs, which included cash grants. Four of these entrepreneurs used this opportunity to start their own social enterprises while three used the programme to help expand their businesses.



Case study:

How the University helped a student to set up a special educational needs school in Birmingham

Dr Abide Zenega, who gained a PhD from the University of Northampton in 2015, has launched a new school called 'Riverside Education' in Birmingham to educate and promote the employment and independence of vulnerable young people with special needs.

Abide explained: "I formed the school with my business partner Anthony Copeland in 2015. I have a passion to promote the independence of young people with Autism having worked in the field for the past 19 years. Anthony is a successful businessman with a passion to help vulnerable young people in and around the Birmingham Community. The combination of the two gave birth to the school as a way of giving back to the community."

Riverside Education promotes the employment and independence of young people aged 14 to 19 through individualised education, which incorporates creativity and entrepreneurship. The aim is to help these vulnerable young people get into gainful employment, achieve their potential and make a positive contribution in their communities.

Abide added: "Our aim is to create an autism friendly school that promotes creative thinking and entrepreneurship. This is done through individualised teaching that meets the needs of each individual young person. Our curriculum is very practical, involving the study of animals and horticulture, with small animals and trees in the classrooms. There is also a student-run tuck-shop to help the children develop entrepreneurial skills as part of their business studies. The school

has secured sound financial backing from a local business person and all local authorities. The community has also supported its ideals. Within a year, we are full to capacity with 40 students and eight on the waiting list. This is way beyond what we had initially expected when setting up the school."

"The University of Northampton has provided us with tremendous support. The University's Enterprise Club provided us with some initial funding to cover some of our start-up expenses for the school. The University has also provided me with advanced training in social entrepreneurship through its Social Venture Builder programme, offering continuing coaching and providing further contacts in the social investment space, which can help us to expand and scale the school," said Abide.

Delivering social impact through high quality and applied research.

In line with the University's strategic aims and Changemaker+ Challenges, our internationally-leading research retains a national relevance and local focus.



Institute for Social Innovation and Impact.

Our Institute for Social Innovation and Impact (ISII) evaluates and measures the social impact of social innovations in the UK and around the world.

During 2015-2016, ISII published over 20 research outputs, which have been disseminated to a wide-variety of stakeholders including academic networks, local authorities, the British Council, the European Commission, and third sector support organisations.

The Institute has developed its own bespoke framework (the Social Impact Matrix ©) for social impact measurement that is GECES (Group of Experts of the Commission on Social Entrepreneurship) compliant that seeks to provide a simple yet robust tool for social enterprises (and other organisations) to use.

Key projects.

Big Lottery Big Potential programme

The Big Potential programme seeks to increase the investment readiness of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector in order to improve the deal-flow in the social investment market. The ISII team has been involved in evaluating the project and exploring how such programmes can increase the sustainability of, and the social impact delivered by, the VCSE sector.

Race to the Top (RTTT)

RTTT is a set of bespoke school-based projects that enable school staff to deliver high quality teaching and learning to all levels and groups of students, including vulnerable students. ISII experts are evaluating the social impact and effectiveness of the 22 projects across the county, and will report on a wide range of performance indicators including work preparedness, emotional resilience, and achievement.

FP7 Enabling the Flourishing and Evolution of Social Entrepreneurship for Innovative and Inclusive Societies (EFESEIS)

This European Commission funded FP7 EFSEIS project seeks to explore the origins, structures, needs and future of the social economy across eleven European partner countries. ISII researchers are leading the English element of this research which aims to understand the social economy through biological evolutionary theory.

Combined Cadet Force and Sea Cadets

ISII has been commissioned by the Ministry of Defence to undertake a four-year study to examine the social impact of the cadet (RAF, Army and Royal Navy) organisations across the UK. As part of this project, the ISII will also be evaluating both the social impact of the Cadet Expansion Programme (CEP), an ambitious Government initiative to increase the number of cadet units in schools across the UK to 500 by 2020; and the impact that a range of qualifications, run by the Cadet Vocational Qualification Organisation (CVQO), have on cadets. The research results will be shared at regular intervals with head teachers across CEP schools, service chiefs, and Ministers.

Erasmus+ project

The ISII team is working on the Erasmus+ project in partnership with Collegium Civitas and the University of Iceland, which will see the development of online, open education tools that can be used by Higher Education Institutions across Europe to support the growth of social innovation.

Photo: Erasmus+ 'Driving Social Innovation through HEIs across Europe' project meeting, which was held in February 2016 at the University's Park Campus





Institute of Health and Wellbeing.

Our Institute of Health and Wellbeing (IoHW) aims to improve both the physical and mental health of the population, addressing inequalities through new and innovative interdisciplinary research, education and enterprise.

During the past 12 months, the Institute has published over 50 research outputs, which have been circulated to a wide-variety of stakeholders including the European Commission, Alzheimer's European conference, American Diabetes Association and other national and international arenas.

The IoHW is currently managing over 40 research and evaluation projects, commissioned by a broad range of funding partners, including the Big Lottery Fund, the Economic and Social Research Council, and NHS England.

Key projects.

Sharing Stories for Wellbeing (SS4W)

SS4W works in hospices to encourage patients towards the end of their lives to share their life stories. These are shared through weekly group workshops and captured for the patient and their family to keep. The IoHW evaluated this practice and discovered that the workshops increased the feeling of independence and offered patients the opportunity to explore their self-identity, leading some of them to explore new activities and reduce social isolation.

Dementia Academic Action Group (DAAG)

DAAG, funded by the Health Education England Thames Valley, developed Tier 1 dementia awareness training based on an extensive scoping and needs analysis, led by IoHW. The training was delivered to 1,400 staff within the NHS across the Thames Valley region between May and December 2015. Evaluation demonstrated improved knowledge pre and post training and increased the confidence of those working with people with dementia. The training is now being rolled out to care homes across Thames Valley and a 'train the trainer' package is being developed to ensure the continuing availability of the training in the region.

Photo: Members of the Dementia Academic Action Group, with the team from Health Education England



Motor Neurone Disease (MND)

MND is a devastating and fatal condition that affects up to 5,000 people in the UK at any one time. IoHW was selected by the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA) as their national partner to evaluate the impact of specialist wheelchair services. Findings and recommendations will be used by the Association to assist them to improve quality and to secure additional funding for services.

Exploring the effect of resilience in young people with type 1 diabetes

Many young adults with type 1 diabetes struggle to successfully adjust to the condition and experience high blood sugar levels, putting them at risk of complications such as blindness and kidney disease. Research by the IoHW, funded by the Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation, involved the study of 41 young adults with either good or poor blood sugar control. Initial findings suggested a strong link between resilience and blood sugar levels, with higher levels of resilience associated with better blood sugar control.

Findings were reported at the Scientific Meeting of the American Diabetes Association (June 2016) and to people with type 1 diabetes in London (June 2016). Further research is under way to look at factors which may shape the link between resilience and blood sugar levels.

The Personalised Cancer Risk Study

The IoHW worked in partnership with the University of Cambridge and the University of Manchester on this project, which was funded by Cancer Research UK and aimed to calculate the personal cancer risk for individuals based on lifestyle factors.

Findings from health professionals found the word 'cancer' was considered an important motivator for lifestyle change, more so than 'cardiovascular disease' or 'stroke'. Members of the public generally viewed the concept of personalised cancer risk positively and were keen that it be provided more widely. As a result, a risk tool has been developed as part of the project.



Institute for
**Public Safety
Crime and Justice**

Institute for Public Safety, Crime and Justice.

Our Institute for Public Safety, Crime and Justice (IPSCJ) delivers high quality academic research across victim experience, citizens in policing and organisational development, focusing on delivering positive change through policy development and improved practice.

The IPSCJ is working with a number of partners and stakeholders in the public safety field, including the College of Policing, the National Police Chiefs Council, and the Home Office.

The IPSCJ also leads the East Midlands Policing Academic Collaboration, which includes the five Police Forces, five Police and Crime Commissioners, and eight universities in the region.

Key projects.

Police Special Constables and volunteers

Working with the National Police Chiefs Council, the IPSCJ supported the delivery of the first-ever national survey of Police Special Constables and volunteers in policing in April 2016. Alongside this, the Institute also delivered the first national benchmarking exercise of the field, which collated data across all forces in England and Wales to provide a national picture of the numbers, activities, training, investment and outputs of volunteers and cadets in policing. The results of these projects informed the National Citizens in Policing Strategy, which will be adopted by all forces in England and Wales.

'BeNCH'

A review of 'BeNCH' (Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire) Integrated Offender Management was undertaken across all four counties. Its recommendations have informed the Office of the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable about their investment in this key area.

Victim Experience

The IPSCJ's Victim Experience Report drew on surveys conducted with 2,422 victims of crime in Northamptonshire over a twelve-month period. Recommendations were made that helped the Northamptonshire Police Victim Services Improvement Group and Voice for Victims and Witnesses support services to improve the way they work.

Public Perceptions

Northamptonshire Police's new police service delivery model is supported by IPSCJ's Public Perceptions Report, which spoke to over 4,200 residents of the county. The survey features the public's views, experiences and priorities for policing in the county.

Teen Intimate Relationships

The IPSCJ's Teen Intimate Relationships research provided insight into healthy and unhealthy behaviours in relationships between children and young people in Northamptonshire. This aim of this work is to help local public safety agencies to prevent and tackle domestic abuse, stalking and harassment.

Northamptonshire Special Constabulary Review

The Northamptonshire Special Constabulary Review studied how Specials were recruited, trained and managed and is informing the next steps in the improvement of training, support and retention of Specials.

Mental Health Triage model

An evaluation of the Mental Health Triage model in Northants Force Control Room was delivered in March 2016, informing the design of future templates and ensuring successful collaboration across policing and health colleagues. The aim of this work is to reduce demand in policing and improve the care provided to those in need.

3. Sustainability.

As a University, we work hard to ensure that we manage our resources in effective ways in order to have a minimal impact on the natural environment.



Environmental impact.

Carbon



The total scope 1 and 2 emissions of CO2 emissions were 7,689 tonnes in 2015-2016 - a reduction of 4.75 per cent compared to the 2005-2006 baseline.

Waste



In 2015-2016, 67 per cent of waste was recycled

Food waste collected from halls of residence and restaurants is used to generate energy, with zero waste sent to landfill

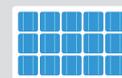
This food waste is used in an anaerobic digester, which captures the biogas and burns it in a generator to create renewable energy. It also creates a nutrient-rich fertiliser for agriculture. This significantly reduces the carbon emissions compared to landfill and saved 40 tonnes in 2015-2016.

Procurement



The University paper procured is EU Ecolabel rated, which is the official EU mark for greener products. This ensures low air and water pollution during production, and use of certified fibres from sustainably managed forests. There is a planned transition to move to paperless working at the new Waterside Campus.

Renewable Electricity



Renewable Electricity is generated through the photovoltaic solar panels on the Sulgrave building at Park Campus and St John's Hall of Residence, with a total of 152 solar panels providing power

The University generated 20,132 kWh of renewable electricity in 2015-2016

The new Waterside Campus will have an efficient district heating system and 995KW biomass boiler to support renewable energy. This builds on the current array of 152 solar panels and two energy efficient new CHP boilers.

Water



There was a 17 per cent reduction in water consumption in 2015-2016 compared to the 2005-2006 baseline.

Travel



56.4 per cent of students travelled to the University by foot, bicycle, bus or train in 2015-2016

23 per cent of staff travelled to the University by foot, bicycle, bus or train in 2015-2016

The University's UNO buses continue to provide group transport for students and reduce single occupancy car journeys. In 2016, five of these buses were upgraded with new efficient Enviro 5 engines that save 18,000 litres of diesel and over 48 tonnes of CO2 every year, which is the equivalent to planting 42,000 trees.

National recognition for our environmental initiatives.

We have been recognised nationally for our efforts to improve environmental performance.

Great Green Star Award.



The University was recognised at the 2016 Investors in the Environment Awards by being awarded with a 'Great Green Star Award' for going above and beyond expectations for environmental improvement and exceeding the requirements of the top level Green Award.

Energy efficiencies, accuracy of reporting, sustainable management of resources and the creation of a sustainable travel plan were all areas where Investors in the Environment felt the University had excelled.

Photo: Simon Pole, Environment Adviser, collecting the Great Green Star Award at the Investors in the Environment awards Ceremony.

Green Apple Environment Award

The University won a silver award for Environment Best Practice in the Green Apple Environment Awards 2016 for continued improvements in waste management, including a 514 per cent increase in recycling glass and food recover, and sending zero waste to landfill compared to the 2005-2006 baseline.



Environmental initiatives for improved wellbeing.

The University's Step Into Action challenge was introduced to reinforce our commitment to promoting staff health and wellbeing and show that staff didn't need to be particularly sporty to lead a healthy lifestyle.

The aim of the four-week challenge was for participants to increase their walking activity to improve wellbeing so that by the end of the challenge they would be walking the recommended 10,000 steps a day.

48 teams (241 people) took part in our Step into Action challenge in 2016. A total of 53,130,145 steps were taken equating to 25,156 miles. Many said that they would be taking part again and that they feel the challenge has contributed to leading a healthier lifestyle.



Photo: University staff participating in the Step Into Action organised walk.

4. Global Innovation.

The University works with partners across the globe to deliver social impact through innovative solutions and relevant research.

Supporting people to become socially innovative.

By working with organisations such as Balloon Ventures, we support our students to create practical solutions to long-standing problems in developing countries to improve community wellbeing.

The University, with continued commitment from Santander, is able to sponsor the cost of participants by paying the full cost of the programme, with students only needing to cover the cost of flights. Seven of our students have spent six weeks of their summer in developing countries including Kenya, Ghana and the Philippines as part of the Balloon Ventures programme.

Our students gain valuable experience by working with people from different cultures to develop new skills and improve their employability.





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Case study:

Kenya experience leads to student co-founding charity in remote African villages

When Pamela Basikiti signed up to volunteer in Kenya, little did she know it would be the trip that would transform two lives – including her own.

The University of Northampton Law undergraduate spent six weeks on the Balloon Ventures volunteering programme in summer 2015, coaching an 18-year-old man from a disadvantaged community, who wanted to start his own business.

“He enjoyed baking and wanted to sell his products, but needed support to realise his dream,” said Pamela. “We helped him road-test his recipes, source bakeries and to understand the business processes. He started with absolutely nothing and now he’s running his own business – he’s turned his life around and it was a great feeling to know I played a part in that. That confirmed this was something I wanted to do with my life: to help people transform their lives for the better.”

As a result of her experiences, Pamela has launched her very own charity. Founded with fellow Zimbabwean, Rutendo Nyatsine, the Ekhaya charity aims to provide young people in remote villages in Zimbabwe and other African countries with the skills they need to be self-sufficient for life, in collaboration with students from the University. Launched in

April 2016, the Northampton-based charity is recruiting volunteers aged 18 and over who will be trained on delivering business workshops – before travelling to Zimbabwe to help young people devise and develop their business ambitions.

Pamela, who moved to the UK with her family from Zimbabwe, aged seven, said, “Volunteering will give people the opportunity to make a real difference to the lives of those who need a helping hand, while also providing the volunteers with new skills. Hopefully, their experiences of volunteering will have a similar impact on them, as it did on me.”

Pamela and Rutendo have ambitious plans for Ekhaya, which they hope will eventually operate in other African countries and have its own skills headquarters in Zimbabwe.

Also, another of our students has developed the 'Ghana Twins Foundation' - an organisation that works with families in Ghana to provide possible solutions to improve the lives of twins in the country.

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Case study: Improving the lives of twins in Ghana

Zeena Abou-Jaoude Wilson, who gained her MBA from the University in 2016, has set up an organisation which aims to improve the lives of Ghanaian families with multiple births.

Zeena said, "My concern for the welfare of hundreds of deprived twins on the streets of Ghana motivated me to set-up the Ghana Twins Foundation. The foundation aims to increase awareness of the special needs of twins and multiple births families; improving the social and economic wellbeing of twins in Ghanaian society; and offering support for parents facing challenges in raising twins and other multiple births. Many families with twins and a number of children are forced to turn to begging on the streets to survive."



Zeena was awarded with a Silver Changemaker Certificate by the University for her organisation. Zeena continued: "I believe that every child has a fundamental right to basic education and health care, which often these children are deprived of. I have spent time on the streets of Ghana with these children, developing my understanding of why they are forced to beg, as well as working with their families to support them to take steps to help them out of a life of begging. My project also includes a campaign to collect donations for the families, including clothing, educational toys and books, food and supplies. In my opinion, there is nothing more rewarding than doing something that brings a smile to someone's face. For the past decade, I volunteered for a number of organisations to help underprivileged children, particularly twins, being used to beg on the streets. I believe that I have the ability to help transform and fulfil these vulnerable children's lives through my foundation, the Ghana Twins Foundation."



Development of Social Impact framework in Vietnam.

In 2015, Dr Richard Hazenberg from the University's Institute for Social Innovation and Impact (ISII) travelled to Vietnam as part of a British Academy-funded research project. The purpose of the visit was to assist the Vietnam National University (VNU) to create the country's first social impact measurement framework. This research involved interviews with over 20 Vietnamese social entrepreneurs to explore their needs, as well as participation in workshops and conferences held at VNU and other Hanoi based universities.



Photo: Dr Richard Hazenberg from ISII delivering a presentation in Vietnam on Social Impact Measurement and Social Impact Matrix©

The ISII's research with VNU is paving the way for the development of social value-focused policies in Vietnam. This has been further strengthened by the Institute's sponsorship of a Vietnamese PhD student studying at the University of Northampton to explore the implications of UK social value policy for Vietnam. As VNU is the only University in Vietnam affiliated and funded directly by the Office of the Prime Minister, the research outputs produced in the PhD will have direct impact on policy.



Making a difference to the lives of children, teachers and families in India.

Alumni from the MA in Special Education and Inclusion, which has recently recruited its fifth cohort of students in Bangalore, continue to have a significant positive impact on the lives of children, teachers and families in India. Several of our students have taken senior positions in schools following graduation and some are undertaking work that is already transforming lives for the better. Champa Saha, from our first cohort, is working with an organisation that is committed to providing an education for some of Bangalore's poorest children who live on the streets of the city.

Roopa Kiran has opened a school which is educating children with disabilities and special educational needs alongside their typically developing peers, and Reikha Iswardas has become Principal of an inclusive school addressing the needs of a diverse range of students.

A particular success of the course has been the progression to research degree study by several of our students - Pooja Haridarshan, Sulata Ajit, Sumathi Ravindranath and Maitreyee Buragohain - who have all registered for PhD study with the university and are committed to conducting research to bring about change in the lives of marginalised learners. Their work is already attracting interest and will be disseminated at a forthcoming conference in Mumbai.

Several of our students have published papers in peer reviewed journals, making a significant contribution to the shortage of literature related to inclusive education in India.

We are currently in discussion with Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey (SNDT) Women's University in Mumbai - which has a long history of commitment to promoting equality and social justice - and Tamil Nadu Open University, to promote further opportunities for the development of inclusive education.

Pooja Haridarshan, who has registered to study PhD at the University, said: "Gender bias within the Indian sub context has always intrigued me as I feel societal expectations stifle women's capabilities. I believe that girls have an equal right to education and pursuing professions of their choice as they face specific barriers to access and achievement in education when compared to men.

Through my research, which is aimed at understanding the daily lives and influence of childhood experiences of women within a small community in Bangalore upon their socio-cultural and academic aspirations for their children, I hope to create awareness about the importance of providing education to their daughters thus empowering them to become self-reliant, independent entities. Closing the gender gap would increase gender equality and would have cognitive benefits for them as well, thus improving their quality of life."



5. Procurement.



As the UK's leading Higher Education Institution for social entrepreneurship, social innovation and social impact, the University of Northampton is committed to delivering greater social value and social impact through its procurement processes.

Social Levy initiative.

In 2015, the University introduced the Social Levy initiative to enable suppliers to contribute to our social impact aims. One of our social impact aims is helping people from less wealthy homes with their fees so that they are able to study for a degree at the University of Northampton.

The Social Levy initiative operates entirely outside of the University's contract evaluation criteria as we approach suppliers who have already won our contract to contribute towards providing bursaries for those individuals who, without its support, would not be able to come to University. There is no commercial pressure applied on the supplier.

The Social Levy Fund has raised more than £10,000 to support students to study at the University of Northampton.

Inclusion of social impact in Gateway Policy for the Innovation Centre.

The University of Northampton Innovation Centre has been a successful initiative to help local businesses establish a base and has a vision to be the county's hub for organisations that deliver social impact.

Founded by the University, the Innovation Centre hosts organisations that seek to deliver social impact. Organisations whose commercial success or development is focused around delivering social impact, addressing unmet social needs, and/or tackling long-standing social problems in enterprising ways, are considered favourably. This could be through the products and services the organisation delivers, employment and training policies it provides, the way it uses supply chains to deliver social impact, or the way it uses profits.

Organisations need to demonstrate the way they intend to deliver social impact and the way their social impact will be measured.



Case study:

Delivering social impact through world-leading wireless lighting control solutions



Organic Response - a technology-focused start-up company based in the University of Northampton Innovation Centre – has a mission to reduce the energy used by its clients. The company is involved in cutting-edge research and development of wireless lighting control sensors, using both infrared and Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) technologies to communicate securely between sensors. These systems enable simpler installation for contractors, reduce capital costs and deliver end-user reductions of up to 78 per cent in electricity usage.

Organic Response sensors make intelligent decisions by adjusting lighting output based on occupancy behaviour and ambient light as a result of wireless connections, which in turn enable smart building, campus or city initiatives. These have been independently

reported on by E.ON and ARUP (both multinational electric solution providers) as case studies for the UK. Article 8 of the EU Energy Efficiency Directive which the UK Government responded to with the Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS) aims to stimulate a step change in energy efficiency to set-up organisations for a sustainable future. Organic Response enables organisations to act on ESOS with immediate high-impacts on energy usage and overall environmental sustainability.

Organic Response has seen significant growth in the UK and has delivered social impact for environmental compliance in the UK for clients such as E.ON, Virgin Media, Transport for London, Edinburgh One and Leeds Central Square.

Paul Sage, Customer Sustainability and Innovation Director at Organic Response explained: "We needed a European office location in our largest growth market: the UK. Organic Response was delighted to base its new UK office at the University of Northampton Innovation Centre and invest in the Northamptonshire economy. The Innovation Centre has a central location, good public transport links in the county and we are able to source business support services from organisations in Northampton. Organic Response has seen significant growth in the UK and Europe, delivering social impact for environmental compliance in local government, university campuses, school classrooms, as well as commercial buildings."

Creating positive social impact through Waterside Campus.



Social impact is also at the core of the University of Northampton's construction of its new £330m Waterside Campus. Social Impact has been considered in all parts of the Waterside tendering process as well as in the contract (with robust and measured Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for construction.

Each of our main contractors has signed up to Social Impact Action Plans, which include key principles and KPIs to help deliver social impact through the construction of the Campus.

We've engaged over 150 contractors and sub-contractors in the direct delivery of social impact and are working with existing and new partners to develop and implement schemes that deliver as much social impact as possible.

Delivering positive impact.

Our Social Impact Action Plans have common aims, key principles and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that our contractors and the University use to help deliver the maximum social impact.

The University has been working with the Waterside contractors to ensure positive social impact is being delivered on site.

Employing local people

There are now over 280 local people employed on site through the project supply chain.

Delivering positive environmental impact

Significant positive environmental impacts are being realised through waste and other savings i.e. the pre-cast piling method being used to reduce site waste; new cabins delivered to site have double glazed windows, thermostatically controlled heaters, push taps and PIR lighting; and installing a defibrillator on the site which is also made accessible to local residents to use.

The site has started using a dry wheel wash, which reduces the quantity of water used on site.

Engaging local suppliers

34 local suppliers are now engaged with the project. These include suppliers such as Jewson, the UK's leading chain of builders merchants, and Herrongrange who have supplied the CCTV technology.

Engaging local schools

The opportunity for local primary schools to become more involved with the Waterside Campus is developing.

Throughout 2017, the University and Bowmer and Kirkland, the academic building contractor, have arranged for local school children to visit the construction site on the last Friday of each month. A total of 10 site visits for children from local schools has been planned for over the course of the year.

Providing work experience and apprenticeships opportunities

Six local people are now on work experience with the project.

Apprenticeship offers are currently being progressed with partners. The project aims to take a total of 15 students on work experience for two weeks each, during 2017.

Using the pre-cast concrete piling method to reduce significant waste.

Reduction of waste has been at the forefront of the Waterside Campus construction and different piling methods have been used in line with this.

Piling is the process which transfers the load of a building to the ground below. Using the pre-cast concrete piling method, which drives the piles in very small increments, has resulted in a reduction of 95 tonnes of waste going to landfill.



6. Partnerships and Commercial Activities.

We support all types of enterprise and entrepreneurship by providing practical solutions to help social entrepreneurs and business people to successfully start, build and run businesses.

The University supports the development and growth of social entrepreneurship and businesses through Inspire2Enterprise (I2E), a national social enterprise support service, and Northamptonshire Growth Hub (NGH), a gateway to business support services available throughout the county. I2E and NGH have supported a total number of 2,403 clients in 2015-2016.

I2E has been working with HMP Rye Hill prison to launch a new social enterprise by the end of March 2017.

Case study: HMP Rye Hill 'Beehive Project'

Following an introduction by Public Health England and Northamptonshire County Council, Inspire2Enterprise (I2E) carried out a project to establish the feasibility of setting up a social enterprise within HMP Rye Hill.

The business has grown out of the work of the Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Team (DART) and manufactures natural beehives. The business has several social purposes:

.....
Engagement of prisoners in meaningful activity as part of their rehabilitation
.....

.....
Production of an environmentally-friendly product specifically for the preservation of bees
.....

.....
Accumulating an economic surplus to support prisoners on their release
.....

.....
As part of an initial three-month pilot project started in October 2015, I2E delivered a series of six workshops to encourage prisoners to engage with the enterprise and equip them with transferable skills as part of their resettlement support prior to release. The workshops focused on how to become

self-employed and set up their own business and were attended by 14 prisoners and six members of staff.

Following the initial pilot project, I2E was contracted to develop a business case and the new business plans to launch a joint venture Community Interest Company (CIC). The business support project continued throughout the next nine months in conjunction with three partners: G4S (Prison), Garden Organic (charity) and the Natural Beekeeping Trust (charity) who formed a community interest company - Rye Hill Organic Bee Hives CIC which will operate out of HMP Rye Hill with direct involvement of the prisoners and staff and with external support from Public Health England and I2E. It is planned for the enterprise to be self-funding and to be financially independent of the prison administration.



Photo: Some of the hives made by prisoners.



Photo: Once assembled and populated with a swarm of honey bees, the Sun Hive is usually hung at a certain height to mimic the natural location of hives in the wild. The project team at Rye Hill built special purpose wooden gazebos to house each hive.

Inspire2Enterprise has also helped an organisation called Pushing Change CIO to decide which legal structure to adopt.



Case study: Pushing Change Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Pushing Change CIO is a thriving peer-led recovery group in Portsmouth that helps people overcome substance abuse and other social issues. The group supports individuals who are experiencing struggles to integrate with society by providing peer-led support and mentoring, as well as a range of recovery focused groups. With over 40 members attending their weekly open forum and training opportunities to support individuals back into employment, their work largely contributes to the recovery community in the city.

Jamie Stevens, Team Leader says: "We support anyone who is looking for recovery support and provide a voice for those people. Making the recovery journey visible to our community is such a big part of our work as it helps empower people in recovery, removes stigma, offers them hope and inspiration for their future."

Originally funded by the local council since its inception nine years ago, the organisation had outgrown its constitution and the committee realised that they needed to formalise their legal structure to support their plans of becoming a training provider. Therefore, Pushing Change turned to Inspire2Enterprise to help decide which new structure to adopt while also exploring funding opportunities.

Inspire2Enterprise Specialist Adviser, Myles Cooper, guided Jamie through the complex legal landscape, introducing the idea of a CIO – a Charitable Incorporated Organisation – a relatively new form of legal structure.

Myles provided advice and support to help Jamie through the application process and also identified potential funding opportunities they could apply for as a CIO. He also provided a template for their business plan. Jamie said: "Before I contacted Inspire2Enterprise I was tempted to go down the route of registering the group as a Community Interest Company (CIC) as this was the easier option. However after speaking to Myles, who talked us through the different options available to us we began to consider becoming a CIO as this seemed like a better fit. It was so reassuring to be able to talk to someone every step of the way."

Pushing Change successfully received CIO status in October 2015 and it is now in the process of identifying suitable funding options which will allow it to scale up its work and reach more people, which would in turn create more employment opportunities for its members. To be able to reach more people requires staff and people who volunteer at the service – they are the best candidates for this for a wide variety of reasons. The principal reason being that sustained and meaningful employment is a major part of social inclusion. Myles is providing ongoing support and guidance to the organisation as it continues to move forward and grow.

"Inspire2Enterprise has been instrumental in supporting us to register as a CIO and I honestly don't think we would have had the confidence to do it without their support. Their support every step along the way has been invaluable to us and we will continue to draw on their support as our plans continue to develop," Jamie added.



Photo: Service users at Pushing Change CIO



Working with partners to provide health and wellbeing services in the county.



SUPPORTING YOU TO TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR LIFE

First for Wellbeing CIC is a Community Interest Company that was launched on 1st April 2016 and serves more than 700,000 local residents. The company is a partnership between the University of Northampton, Northamptonshire County Council, and Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and offers a more holistic approach to individual health and wellbeing.

Patients will be able to access a range of services including weight management guidance, stopping smoking support, financial management advice and emotional wellbeing help. The company is thought to be the first of its kind to deliver such a diverse range of services for an entire county.

The University's Institute for Social Innovation and Impact (ISII) is supporting Northamptonshire County Council in the evaluation of the social impact of First for Wellbeing. The data gathered in this research will help inform the design and delivery of nearly £50m of health and wellbeing services in the county over the next five years.

Joining forces with the County Council to set up a new International Unit.

The University and Northamptonshire County Council have set up a new Northamptonshire International Unit, giving Northamptonshire a worldwide reach to gain funding, investment and expert support.

Members from both organisations have come together to secure funding and opportunities for the county and will work with a global remit. This will allow Northamptonshire to not only benefit from the expertise of international partners, but to also have access to new funds to help improve the lives of people in Northamptonshire.

Photo: Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by Councillor Robin Brown (Top Left); Councillor Heather Smith, Leader of the Council (Top Right); Councillor Andre Gonzalez De Savage (Bottom Left); and the University of Northampton's Professor Simon Denny (Bottom Right).





Supporting social enterprises to deliver social impact.

Goodwill Solutions Community Interest Company (CIC), a logistics based business and a University of Northampton social enterprise partner, enables ex-offenders to get back into mainstream society through work programmes.

During 2016, 122 disadvantaged people were supported through Goodwill Solutions' vocational employment training programme. This four-week programme is designed to introduce those looking for employment to basic skills needed to work in a warehouse environment. Work experience is complemented with accredited and non-accredited vocational skills training with many course attendees going on to secure sustainable paid jobs.

Vocational skills include Fork Lift truck training to nationally accredited standards where clients receive five days instruction and practice in the use of mechanical handling equipment before taking a test to secure a licence.

Looking forward.



Social impact is central to what we do here at the University of Northampton. Therefore, we will continue to undertake projects and initiatives that help us make a positive difference to our communities and the environment.

The institutional commitment that we have to social impact provides us with an excellent platform to deliver even more impact through best practice models of support, and refining and testing new and improved models of support.

We will continue to link our research activities with impact to ensure we are measuring the impact that our wide-ranging research is having and how we can learn and improve to ensure we are being effective.

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