

LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY

Corporate Social Responsibility Statement

Introduction

At Leeds Beckett University, our mission is: *To ensure we use our knowledge and resources to make a positive and decisive difference to people, communities and organisations, with a vision to be an excellent, accessible, globally engaged University contributing positively to a thriving Northern economy.* Our mission and vision, with the four core elements of our strategic plan, demonstrate our commitment to being a socially responsible and sustainable organisation. Using the HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England) definition of corporate social responsibility; *'how we take account of the impact of our work on the economy, society and the environment'*. This statement goes beyond our legal obligations to demonstrate how our University applies knowledge, skills and resources for the wider public benefit as a socially responsible organisation. In so doing, we both achieve our strategic objectives and collaborate with our many stakeholder and partner groups.

1 An Excellent Education and Experience

Our students are at the heart of our University and to how we operate in a socially responsible way. Working with our many stakeholders and partners, we will:

- a) Continue to operate fair and accessible admissions to all our programmes of study;
- b) Grow our engagement with schools, colleges and charitable voluntary groups to promote higher education for the benefit of all, promoting equality of access and supporting diversity;
- c) Continue to enhance our academic and pastoral support for our diverse student population, to support individual progression and success;
- d) Produce graduates who will make lifelong professional, social, and economic contributions to the regions they live in and the organisations in which they work;
- e) Work in partnership with regional organisations to ensure our student and staff communities maintain a positive impact on the northern economy.

2 Leading Research and Academic Enterprise

Through the creation and application of knowledge, and our partnership working with public and private sector organisations, we will ensure:

- a) Continuing growth in enterprise partnerships with socially responsible organisations which make a positive social and economic contribution within the communities where such activities are based;
- b) Continuing growth in blue-skies and real-world research which benefits society and the economies in which our research expertise can be applied;

- c) Appropriate ethical policies and frameworks are in place to support our approach to corporate social responsibility.

3 A Community of Great People

Our University community encompasses our students, staff, governors and collaborative partners. We will continue to:

- a) Ensure our staff recruitment and selection processes are fair and transparent;
- b) Ensure staff are supported to maintain an appropriate work/life balance;
- c) Enhance, through best practice, our equality and diversity policies, and dignity and respect codes of practice ensuring they fully support those individuals who declare any of the following protected characteristics (under the Equality Act 2010): age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation including whether they are lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender; as well as those who do not;
- d) Support schemes through which staff and students can volunteer to contribute to regional, national and international charitable activities, where appropriate;
- e) Support staff with charitable giving through payroll deductions, where requested;
- f) Work in partnership with regionally based organisations to support local and national charitable activities, where appropriate;
- g) Promote open and accessible events across our local community.

4 Sustainable Resources

Our University relies on the effective interaction of our staff to deliver an excellent education, research and enterprise offer to our students as well as to the many groups and organisations with which we work. We will:

- a) Support students and staff to be aware of their contribution as socially responsible citizens;
- b) Apply transparent procurement policies and procedures to ensure value for money for all stakeholders;
- c) Engage with suppliers who share our approach with respect to sustainable and socially responsible business practices;
- d) Engage with the local community when considering major campus infrastructure developments;
- e) Apply sustainable construction criteria in all new build and refurbishment projects;
- f) Continue to manage our carbon footprint responsibly and seek to reduce it wherever possible;
- g) Maintain the ISO 14001 standard achieved for our environmental management systems;
- h) Promote sustainable transport options for staff, students, governors and partners;
- i) Provide services for our stakeholder groups and to the wider community, for example, on-campus post offices and sports facilities.

Communication, Monitoring and Evaluation

This statement will be accessible publicly through our website. Through the provision of our annual *Financial Statements* document from 2016, activity updates and evidence of impact concerning our corporate social responsibility statement will be provided.

Relevant Leeds Beckett University Documents:

- a) Academic Principles and Regulations (including Admissions)
- b) Leeds Beckett University Access Agreement (published annually)
- c) Equality and Diversity Policy and associated Codes of Practice
- d) Public Sector Equality Duty Statement
- e) Strategic Plan 2016-2021
- f) Financial Regulations
- g) Financial Statements (published annually)
- h) Carbon Management Strategy
- i) Sustainability Policy

Victoria Sanderson
Head of Strategic Planning Support Service
12th May 2016