Knowledge Exchange Framework

Public & Community Engagement

Narrative Template

For submission to KEF@re.ukri.org by Friday 16 October 2020*

Max words: 2,000 (plus 120 word lay summary).

*The original deadline of 29 May 2020 was extended in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Submissions must use the KEF narrative templates, but either this template or the version with the old submission date will be accepted.

Public and community engagement narrative statement

Institution name	Leeds Beckett University
UKPRN *(www.ukrlp.co.uk)*	10003861
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Total word count *(including summary of approach)*	2051

Please note a word limit of 2,000 words applies across the five 'aspects' of this statement. The summary of approach (below) has a separate word limit of 120 words. Diagrams and images may be included, providing they can be extracted for online display and the total statement (excluding cover page) does not exceed ten pages.

Summary of approach

Summary

Please provide a short (max 120 words) summary of your approach to community and public engagement. This should be in the style of a 'lay summary' and provide a succinct and accessible overview of your approach.

Leeds Beckett University's approach to community and public engagement is shaped through our strategic plan, our role as an anchor institution in the city of Leeds and our long history of partnership work.

We provide practical support for public and community engagement and our Schools and Support Services work together to identify and support the public and local communities' ability to engage with us.

We use our knowledge, skills and expertise to make a positive difference to people, organisations and communities and measure our success based on the difference we make.

We recognise that we are accountable to the communities were engage with and regularly seek feedback so that we can continue to improve our community and public engagement.

Word count: 119

Aspect 1: Strategy

Developing your strategy

Information on your existing strategy, planning process and allocation of resources, including how you identified relevant public and community groups and their needs, and facilitated their ability to engage with the institution, as a means to help understand intended achievements.

Refer to the supporting guidance document for examples of evidence you may wish to include to corroborate your self-assessment (page 15).

Our strategy for public and community engagement is informed through our role as an anchor institution in Leeds and the wider Leeds City Region and through our own Strategic Plan which sets out that we will use our knowledge, skills and expertise to make a positive and decisive difference to people, organisations and communities. We work closely with employers and partners to help our graduates become ready for work and ready for life.

Our Research & Enterprise Strategy focusses on three innovation areas: Health and wellbeing, Sustainability and Culture. Our research is frequently co-created with users and focused around the REF Units of assessment which broadly map to schools and led by Directors of Research who have responsibility to grow research and innovation, KE and public and community engagement.

Our city campus is based the heart of Leeds Innovation District and is fully accessible to public. Our new Leeds School of Arts building is due to open at the end of 2020 and will include a number of specialist facilities that will available to students, staff and the public such as: a 184-seat performance theatre; state-of-the-art TV and film studios; and spaces that will foster inter-disciplinary collaboration, creative talent and knowledge sharing. Our Headingley Campus is home to our Carnegie School of Sport building, which will provide a focus for the School's undergraduate, postgraduate and research and enterprise programmes, and it will also act as a hub for elite athletes, sports and industry partners, and the general public.

We have a long history of partnership working which is a core part of our strategy. Examples include partnerships with: Public Health England (PHE); BUPA UK; Leeds Community Healthcare Trust; West Yorkshire Police; Ministry of Defence; Rugby Football Union; Yorkshire County Cricket Club; Leeds Rugby; HM Prisons; the Royal British Legion; the Youth Hostel association; and a number of local authorities in the Leeds City region.

Word count: 314

Self-assessment score			
Self-assessment score Developing your strategy	**3**	←	*Insert score between 1 – 5 here Refer to guidance document for scoring criteria (page 12-14).*

Aspect 2: Support

Practical support to deliver your strategy

Provide information about the practical support you have put in place to support your public and community engagement, and recognise the work appropriately.

Refer to the supporting guidance document for examples of evidence you may wish to include to corroborate your self-assessment (page 16).

Our Communications team leads on internal and external communication and public affairs. They lead initiatives for public and community engagement, including:

- Transform programme which promotes how our academics inspire, challenge, listen and innovate, inspire students and demonstrate how our research impacts the way we and our community lead our lives;
- LBU and the city initiative which provides news articles on how the University engages with the city of Leeds and its community;
- Members of the public can contact relevant academic experts directly via our media centre.

Our University has also launched a new external website that improves our interaction with students, partners, public and the wider community. Our social media activity promotes and communicates to a wide range of stakeholders as evidenced via 50 years and LBU Together.

Resources to support engagement are provided to schools. All quality related research funding (QR) is managed by Directors of Research in each school and is used to resource public and community engagement relating to research and its impact. Much of our research is user led and examples include: our work with Public Health England (PHE) supporting the uptake of community-centred approaches to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities; and our work with charities and local organisations who support people affected by dementia.

Our Business Engagement Team supports student employability and through careers and training and events matches our best student and graduate talent with business needs.

The University established an External Advisory Group in 2018 with representation from a number of partners from a broad cross section of the community including Leeds City Council, Leeds Civic trust, East Street Arts, major key employers, secondary schools and Leeds Beckett Board of Governors. Members are regularly presented with updates on our university's activities and asked for feedback. The group also have a remit of discussing collaborative opportunities to link into the Leeds Anchor Network and other common objectives. Key senior colleagues from across the university are in attendance enabling the resourcing of agreed activity.

Members of staff from the University sit on number of local and national advisory groups (e.g. Our Professor of Healthy Communities is an expert advisor for Public Health England and our Professor of Exercise and Obesity sits on the Strategic Council of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Obesity).

Recognition and reward of our staff contributions to public and community engagement are delivered through a range of measures including:

- Encouragement of community engagement being supported through deployment allowances and reported to school management teams;
- Agreement of objectives recorded in annual performance and development reviews;
- Allocated time to undertake voluntary activities in the community (e.g. working as a Magistrate and local and community volunteering projects) all of which enrich our organisation through the experiences and diversity of our staff;

• Our Vice Chancellor regularly updates staff and students at the University about our public and community activity and formally recognises the work undertaken by our colleagues. Word count: 485	

Self-assessment score Support structures and recognition	**3** ⟵	*Insert score between 1 – 5 here* *Refer to guidance document for scoring criteria (page 12-14).*

Aspect 3: Activity

Delivering your strategy: activities

Provide information on the focus of your approach and describe examples of the activity delivered. How do you know activities have met the identified needs of public and community groups? Please focus on the last three years of activity.

Refer to the supporting guidance document for examples of evidence you may wish to include to corroborate your self-assessment (page 17).

The focus of our approach to public and community engagement is set out in our University's mission to use our knowledge, skills and expertise to make a positive and decisive difference to people, organisations and communities. A significant proportion of our research is user led and includes a high level of public engagement activity, designed to meet the needs of the groups we are working with.

We run an annual guest lecture series open to businesses, professionals, students, alumni and staff. Industry experts, leading business figures and entrepreneurs are invited to speak across a range of subjects including business and management, leadership, marketing, PR, economics, finance, accounting, and human resource management.

Key public and community engagement programmes are often co-designed with the communities involved to meet local community need. Each example below includes a link to a case study with full engagement details.

- The aim of our MoreLife programme was to "Be the Healthy Lifestyle Provider of Choice in Suffolk" and reduce health inequalities in Suffolk and to mirror the County Council's ambition to be the 'most active county' in England.

- Our collaboration with PHE has supported national and local public health systems to undertake community engagement, build social connectedness, and help people and communities have greater control over their health and lives.

- We have worked with charities and local organisations to support people affected by dementia, evaluate their work to attract impactful investment in capacity and resources and to assist them to develop evaluation capabilities over the longer term.

- The *Story Makers Press:* programme encourages children and parents to create stories together, through an interactive online community. It reaches out to people, building confidence, communities, and a bridge to a lifelong enjoyment of storytelling, learning and development.

- The *CINAGE/Live:* project championed an arts-based approach to active ageing delivering cultural, social, and well-being benefits for participants who created live film and theatre projects between 2015 and 2020. They demonstrate how creative practice mobilises minds, renews autonomy and emotional connectedness.

- Our *TEDx* event aimed to evoke and inspire discussion about our changing world. Four academics offered transformative ideals and impactful research that explored prejudice, stereotypes, use of language and identity

- Research into *Caribbean Carnival Cultures:* has engaged the local African-Caribbean community with the University.

- *We brought LGBTQ Heritage into the Mainstream through our* research that shifted policy and practice of national history organisations and actively engaged thousands of people in identifying and preserving LGBTQ heritage.

- Our partnership with CLG, National Trust and housebuilders Redrow and Bryant Homes increased energy efficiency in homes and lead to Building Regulations changes to reduce heat loss from homes. These changes have saved 5 million tons of CO2 and resulted in lower fuel bills for hundreds of thousands of new build homes.

- Multidisciplinary research work conducted by us with organisations including Malawi Polytechnic, Innovate UK, Mantic, and the Government of Malawi, has improved water supplies for 10,800 rural people in southern Malawi.

- Our collaborative approach to research supported neighbourhood groups in England to change statutory planning policy and transform deprived areas of their inner city.

A further list of over 30 of our public and community engagement, including full details, can be found via the following link.

Word count: 531

Self-assessment score		
Self-assessment score Delivering your strategy	**3** ←	*Insert score between 1 – 5 here* *Refer to guidance document for scoring criteria (page 12-14).*

Aspect 4: Results and learning

Evidencing success

Describe the outcomes and/or impacts of your activities. How have you evaluated these individual activities to ensure you understand whether they have addressed your strategic objectives – and intended achievements for public and community? To what extent have you learnt from your approach and applied this to future activity?

Refer to the supporting guidance document for examples of evidence you may wish to include to corroborate your self-assessment (page 18).

We use knowledge, skills and expertise to make a positive and decisive difference to people, organisations and communities and how we measure and evaluate our efforts are based around the difference we make. The 3 KPIs embedded within our Research and Enterprise Strategy (number of staff with research responsibilities, number of PGRs and amount of income) measure our ability to engage in all activities including public and community engagement.

We take an impact-led approach which underpins our philosophy of making a difference and measure each of our programmes and activities independently against this.

- Through our spin out company, MoreLife Ltd, we engage with communities around the UK and beyond delivering obesity treatment to 14,000 clients per annum. Clients achieve on average 5% (clinically significant) weight loss, and 60% of clients are the 40% most deprived communities.
- Our Professor of Healthy Communities is currently on secondment to Public Health England (PHE) as an expert advisor on community-centred approaches for health and wellbeing which has led to their strategic approach to community engagement in health. Recently this has resulted in more than 30 local UK councils developing community-health strategy documents.
- Our engagement across a number of health and social care communities resulted in the defined national quality criteria for training as evidenced in Health Education England's Dementia Training Standards Framework.
- Engagement with patient groups has led to the first fertility preservation (FP) decision support intervention in the UK (Cancer, Fertility and Me) and Australia and has empowered women with cancer to make FP decisions.
- One of our social history projects left a lasting impact on LGBTQ heritage through partnerships and engagement. In addition to an extensive social media programme, managed via a website, the project mobilised the public and historians to crowdsource LGBTQ heritage through "Pinning Parties". There was a huge positive response, e.g., Ronald Wright, prominent in the 1950's London gay scene, said: '*So many of our traditions are disappearing. If it wasn't for something like this … the nation would be poorer in years to come*".
- Participants in our Community learning course enjoyed learning new things, meeting new people, and experiencing the university experience. Six participants enrolled as students and one has completed her degree. Others have gone onto college study, apprenticeships, or become community advocates.

Word count: 376

Self-assessment score		
Self-assessment score Evidencing success	**3** ←	*Insert score between 1 – 5 here* *Refer to guidance document for scoring criteria (page 12-14).*

Aspect 5: Acting on results

Communicating and acting on the results

How has the institution acted on the outcomes of activities or programmes to ensure it is meeting the wider strategic aims; to inform the development of this strategic approach; and to continuously improve and improve outcomes and impacts for public and communities? To what extent have the results of the work been shared with the communities involved, internally in the institution, and externally?

Refer to the supporting guidance document for examples of evidence you may wish to include to corroborate your self-assessment (page 19).

Leeds Beckett actively seeks feedback from stakeholders, partners and staff involved in our public and community engagement activity. We recognise we are accountable to the communities we engage with and regular feedback and continual improvement is a key part of our engagement strategy. A new Strategic Plan is due in 2021/22 which will be informed by a systematic consultation of public and community partners.

Annually, each school and service provide a report to the University Executive Team detailing their activities, which includes all engagement programmes. Supportive feedback is given to allow year on year improvements in our ability to deliver effective public and community engagement.

A new website was launched in September 2020 which has improved how we interact with our students, partners, public and the wider community. A key part of the development process was individual consultations with around 50 stakeholders to gain a clear view of the external needs of the website.

Our social media activity actively promotes the public and community engagement of the University which can be evidenced via 50 years and LBU Together. We communicate with and provide feedback to staff, students and the public, through our website and via social media. We disseminate our Research & Enterprise newsletter to staff and students and each academic School has a section on their homepage reporting on the impact of their external engagements.

Word count: 226

Self-assessment score			
Self-assessment score Communicating and acting on the results	**3**	←	*Insert score between 1 – 5 here* *Refer to guidance document for scoring criteria (page 12-14).*