

NERAP IMPACT REPORT 2024-25



NORTH EAST
RAISING ASPIRATION
PARTNERSHIP

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What Is NERAP?

An introduction to the North East Raising Aspiration Partnership, what we do, and the team that do it.

Our Reach

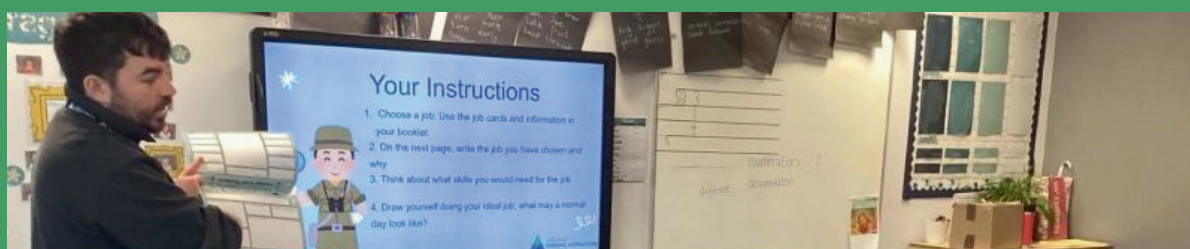
An overview of the reach of our visits this academic year including statistics about the number of students, parents and teachers we've worked with.

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INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to welcome you to this report which outlines the activity delivered by the North East Raising Aspiration Partnership (NERAP), and its impact, during the 2024-25 academic year.

It has been fantastic to see continued strong demand for in-person school visits, increasing our reach across the North East. NERAP engaged with a total of 37744 students, in the 2024/25 academic year. We also saw an increase in demand for our annual Higher Education Advisors and Teachers (HEAT) Conference, delivered to a total of 97 teachers, advisors and professionals.

We are really pleased that we could continue to expand our work with care-experienced young people via the Choices Together Progressive Programme which provides an immersive experience to support young people through their educational journey.

It has been a great year of increased engagement, supporting so many schools, young people, parents, carers, teachers and professionals across the region and we look forward to building on this work during 2025-26.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Harrison', is positioned below the main body of text.

LOUISE HARRISON
SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER
NERAP

WHO ARE WE?

The NERAP central team, acting as a shared resource for the five North East universities, engage directly with schools to organise and deliver programmes designed to introduce young people to the diverse opportunities available at each institution. This collaborative approach enhances the visibility of all five universities during school visits and streamlines staffing by pooling resources for joint representation.



OUR NEW TEAM

For the 2024/25 academic year, the NERAP Team brought on multiple new members of staff in delivery roles across the region. They have settled in well and continue to provide the high-quality sessions that are known by the schools that we visit – contributing to another record-equalling year.

OUR REACH

188

Visits

Our joint highest number of visits on record (with 2022/23)

45

Schools with

HLOD

Higher Levels of
Deprivation

7.85% of total in
area and a 41%
increase on
2023/24.

8.8%

of all North East schools

4.27%

Of all primary schools

20.79%

Of all secondary schools

103

Unique
Visits

85

Repeat
Bookings
within academic year

72

vs

108

Primary School visits

38% of all visits. Including **42 unique primary schools.**

Secondary School visits

57% of all visits. Including **58 unique secondary schools.**

The rest of our visits were Young Carers and Care-Experienced Students groups or Teacher CPD sessions.

627

Hours

The number of hours spent on school visits this year, similar to last year but with a greater reach.

37744

Participants

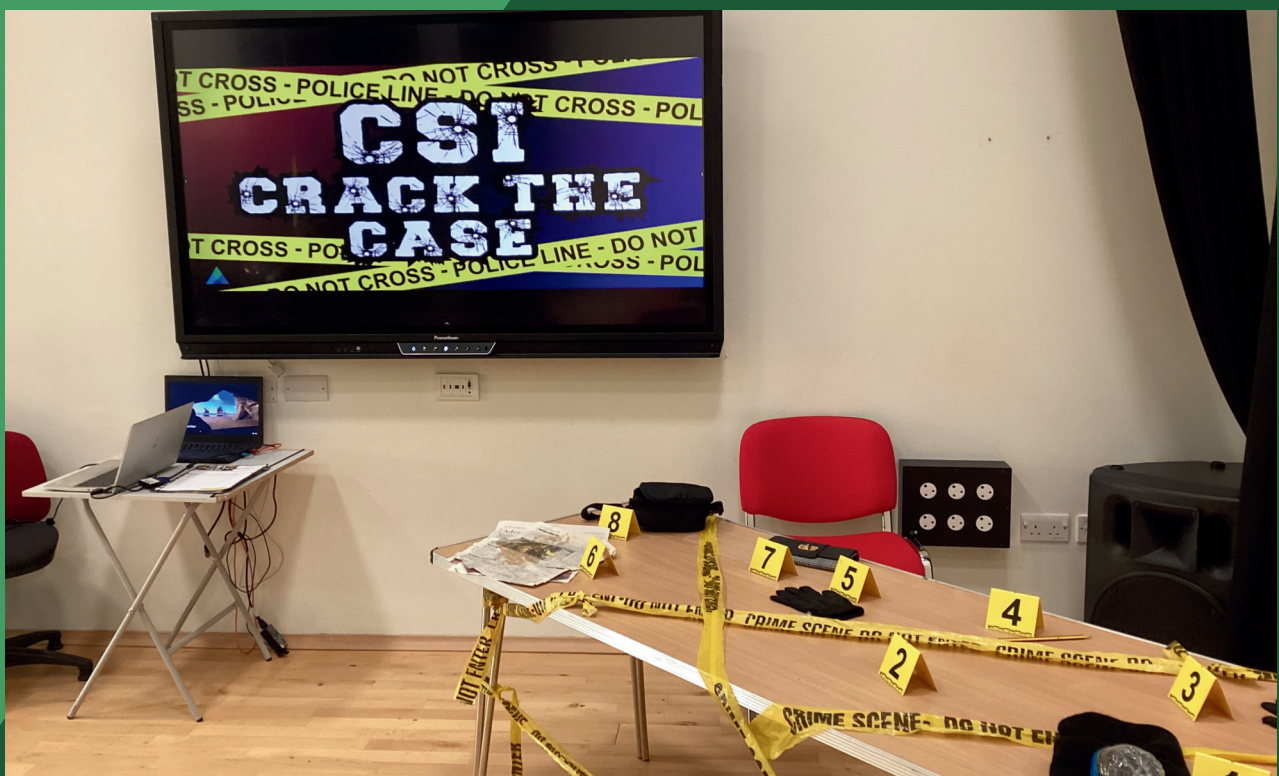
The total of students, parents and carers that participated in NERAP activities this academic year.

OUR VISITS

The NERAP Project Team continues to deliver outreach activity on behalf of our partner universities to primary and secondary pupils across the region.

All activity is mapped against the Gatsby Benchmarks for Good Careers Guidance, as well as the Regional Progression Framework and NERUPI Framework. Development and review of activity occurs every year to ensure activity is beneficial and impactful to the pupils that take part.

For the academic year 2024/25, the team optimised our current offer, with a new look to our popular Exploring Careers and Moving Up sessions in Primary Schools, as well as a new look Student Life presentation session in Secondary Schools.

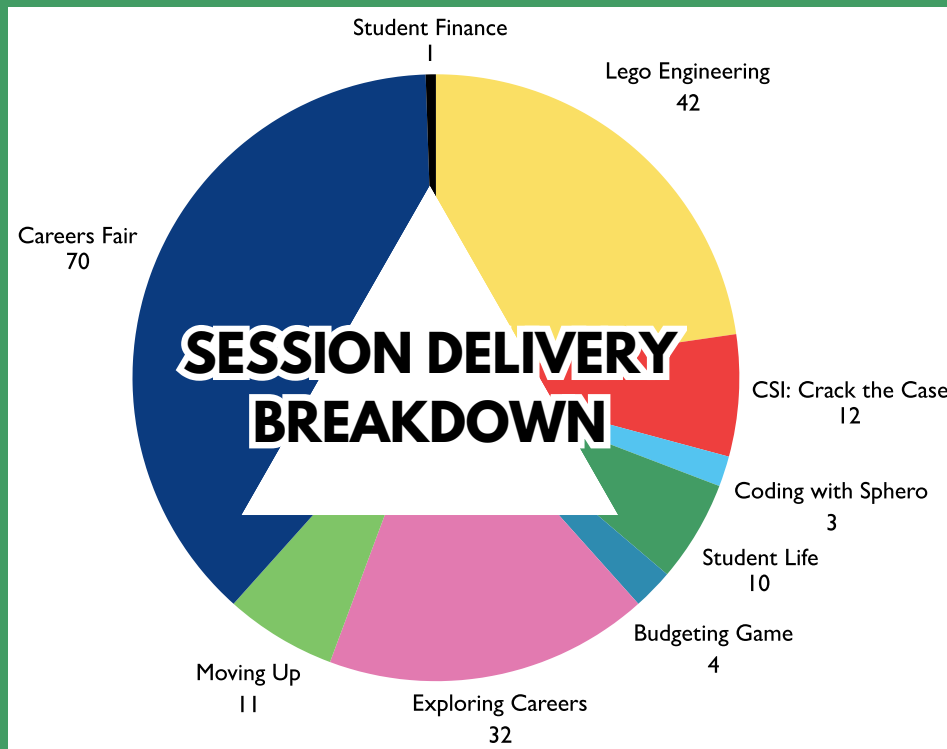


OUR SESSIONS

SESSION	DETAILS	DESCRIPTION
SUPPORTING PRIMARY		
Exploring Careers	Y2-6 60 Mins	This activity introduces the concept of university and encourages enthusiasm around further study and careers.
Moving Up	Y6-7 60 Mins	This activity is for pupils moving from Primary to Secondary Education.
SUPPORTING SECONDARY		
Budgeting Game	Y7-11 60 Mins	This activity addresses some of the myths surrounding student finances through a fast-paced game.
Careers Fair	Y6-11 30 Mins+	The Partnership can attend events on behalf of our Partner universities with a stand containing general HE information.
Coding with Sphero	Y6-8 60-120 Mins	Students will work in small groups in order to solve problems and learn the foundations of coding.
CSI: Crack the Case	Y8-11 60-120 Mins	This activity offers a brief introduction to the world of forensic science including fingerprinting techniques and crime scene examination.
Lego Engineering	Y5-9 60-120 Mins	Students explore engineering careers through the use of Lego, and try their hand at designing, building and racing their own vehicles in a fun competition.
Student Finance	Y10-11 30-60 Mins	This activity dispels the myths about Student Finance and takes pupils through what money is available, the repayment process and relieves some common concerns about finance.
Student Life	Y7-11 30-60 Mins	This activity is our one stop shop of everything university. From accommodation to studying, pupils will leave with a further understanding about their options post-18.

All of our sessions are delivered in-person with the option of **online sessions** for our **Student Life** and **Student Finance** sessions.

OUR DATA



70

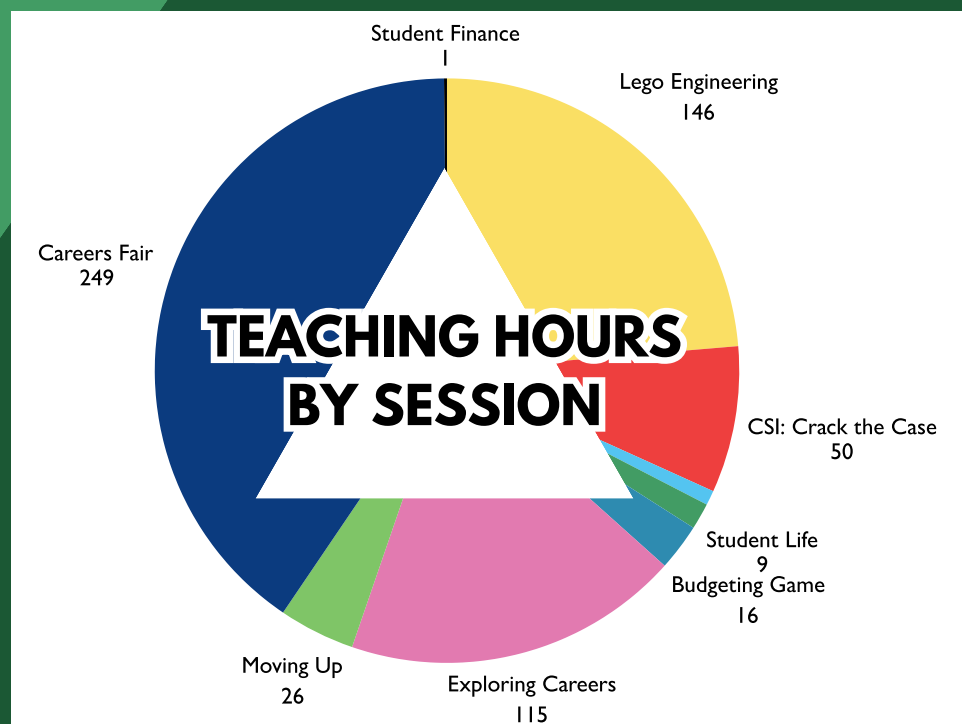
We represented partners at 70 Careers Fairs in 2024/25, a 32% increase on the previous year and our highest ever share.

37%

Careers Fairs and **Careers Speed Dating** accounted for 37% of our school visits this year. An increase on last year but with a much better spread across our range of sessions.

146

We delivered 146 hours of Lego Engineering this year. Our most popular classroom session for the last 7 years.



OUR RESOURCES

NERAP continues to promote the KS4 Teacher's Guide to Inspiring Futures in the North East. This is a free resource produced by the Partnership to help teachers deliver HE focused sessions in-school, as a series of assemblies, classroom sessions, and 1:1 tutorials.

The Key Stage 2 Teacher's Guide is also still available to teachers via our website. Similar to Key Stage 4, this allows teachers to deliver HE sessions aimed at younger pupils, to introduce the concept of Higher Education.

OUR FEEDBACK

"The sessions went very smoothly and pupils were keen to share their ideas... and in some cases, you have really changed their viewpoints on higher education" - *Primary SLT Member*

"It felt like being a real detective - I loved piecing together the clues" and "It helped me understand how to break down big problems into smaller problems", "I didn't know I could be so creative"
- *Secondary School Students on our CSI Session*

"I actually found you excruciatingly helpful. I have loads of ideas of what I want to do"- *Primary School Student*

CHOICES TOGETHER

In 2024/25, the NERAP team completed our third full academic year of Choices Together as a progressive programme - designed to be the perfect opportunity for students with care experience to discover all about university and what higher education has to offer.

Like the previous year, this programme supported our students across a full year from October to July, with young people being able to sign up and attend at any point throughout the programme.

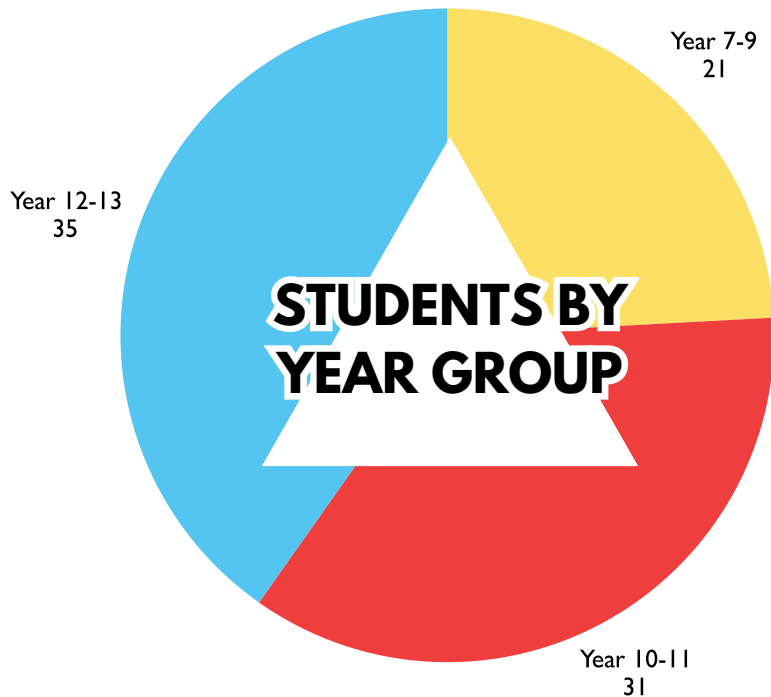
This year was the first year of a revised programme, as such sessions were now focused on weekdays through school holiday periods, to better support students with care-experience and to be flexible around contact time and other events in their lives.

The first of our programme events took place on Friday 1st November 2024 at University of Sunderland, followed by two events during the Easter break at Newcastle University and Durham University, concluding with our celebration event at Northumbria University on Tuesday 29th July 2025.

We received a further **25 applications** from young people with care-experience across the academic year taking our **total number enrolled on the programme up to 87**. At the end of the academic year, we had 17 students graduate from the programme.

CHOICES TOGETHER

OUR DATA

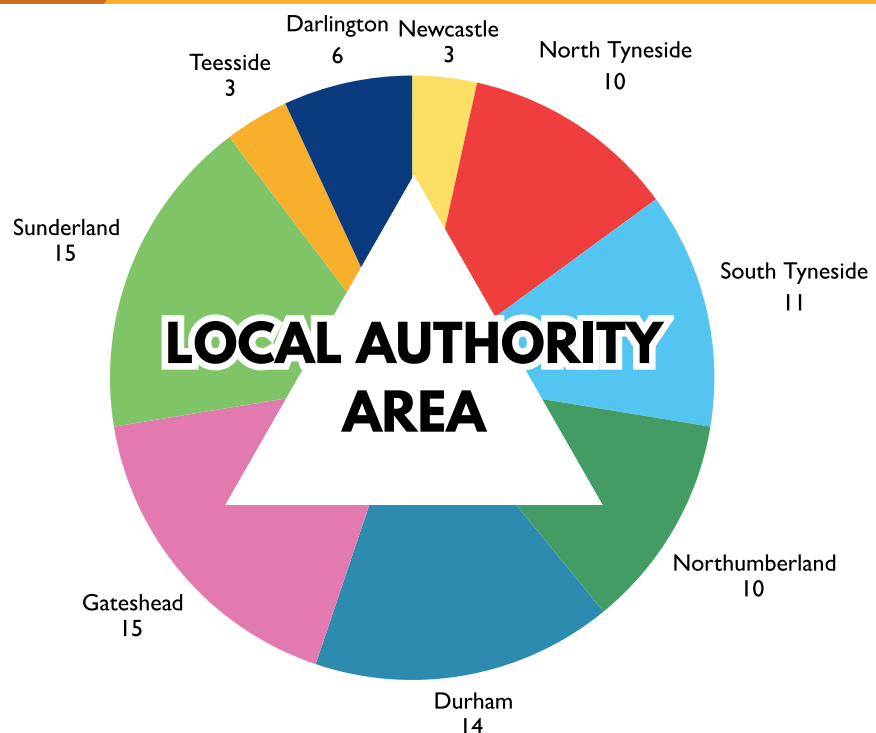


87

We had 87 total students with care-experience enrolled on our Choices Together in the 2024/25 academic year. With a fairly even split across year groups.

9

We had 9 unique local authorities represented by students enrolled on Choices Together this academic year.



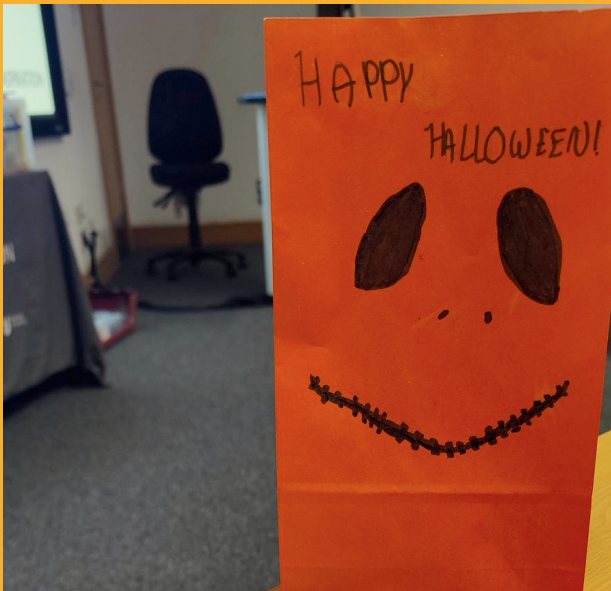
CHOICES TOGETHER

OUR SESSIONS

WELCOME EVENT

An on-campus event launching the programme and exploring the themes of higher education. The day had a loose Halloween theme due its timing in the October Half Term.

Held at **University of Sunderland**



ANCIENT HISTORY EVENT

An on-campus event at the Oriental Museum in Durham where students got up close and personal with relics from the past as well as an interactive session all about ancient Egypt. Including a full recreation of the Weighing of the Heart ceremony performed on the Pharaohs.

Held at **Durham University**



CELEBRATION EVENT

Our final event of the year celebrating the great work of both our students and ambassadors as we closed another successful year of Choices Together with a great graduation.

Held at **Northumbria University**

Below is a roadmap of the
Choices Together
Programme for 2024/2025

ARCHAEOLOGY DAY

An on-campus event for students to learn all about our local area, including our local landmarks and what makes them special. The day included a visit from Museums North East and had a discussion on whether we should preserve the past forever. All followed by a trip to the Great North Museum.

Held at **Newcastle University**

CHOICES TOGETHER

OUR FEEDBACK

“It's been brilliant, thank you to everyone! - Parent/Carer”

“I thought it was absolutely brilliant and it was quite clear that the kids enjoyed it! - Carer”



“It's been truly a pleasure being part of the Choices Together programme and seeing students engage and get interested in joining University and HE! - Choices Representative”



CHOICES TOGETHER

FURTHER SUPPORT

NERAP have continued their distribution of the Mini Guide to University in the North East for Young Carers and Care-Experienced Young People to the network of young carers services, local authorities and virtual schools and on the NERAP website. The guide will be updated for the coming academic year to provide the most up to date and accurate information.



CHOICES TOGETHER

PODCAST



During the 2024/25 academic year, the NERAP team launched the Choices Together podcast with members of the team discussing important topics around considering future options in monthly episode releases. Plans are in place to expand the podcast in the coming academic year with regular episodes that discuss a wider range of topics. You can find the podcast online at: <http://bit.ly/4ngXgMY> or by scanning the QR Code above.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We have continued to utilise new methods of communication throughout the 2024/25 academic year.

Our LinkedIn profile continues to grow, achieving an excellent **14.7% rate of engagement** over the year to September 2025. We have seen a growing number of schools use this service to interact with us and it is something that we will continue to develop over the coming year. NERAP have engaged with a range of awareness weeks and days this academic year, such as: Foster Care Fortnight, Young Carers Action Day and National Care Leavers Week as well as signposting to our annual Higher Education Advisors and Teachers Conference using the platform.

Our X (formerly Twitter) account has continued to be a useful tool for us as we continue to engage with various regional and national campaigns, as well as sharing our school visit and booking information, retweeting partnership posts and promoting NERAP programmes. We have continued to see a number of school visits being booked on the back of positive social media engagements on X and LinkedIn, with a number of teachers hearing about our offering from pictures of visits shared on the site.



14.7%

Rate of Engagement (on LinkedIn)

We have changed our primary social media platform to LinkedIn to better connect with our main audience in schools, which has been successful with a very strong rate of engagement.

CONTACT US

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