

# Emergent themes from an evaluation of the Cumbria and Lancashire Network for Collaborative Outreach and lessons for the National Collaborative Outreach Programme

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## Abstract

This paper draws on an external evaluation of the Cumbria and Lancashire Network for Collaborative Outreach (CLNCO) to discuss cross-cutting themes across the various projects and identify lessons for future work under the National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP). CLNCO comprised a partnership of four Higher Education institutions and 13 Further Education colleges offering higher learning and delivered 23 projects. The network was unique in terms of the scope of its engagement across two counties and its governance structure which consisted of both a management and operational group. The themes emerging from an in-depth analysis of seven projects were: aims; context; exchange; resources; and sustainability (ACERS). The paper discusses each theme to consider, for example, the importance of clarity, tensions between widening access and recruitment, the influence of geography, communication channels, timescales, and ways to create an enduring legacy. The paper then draws upon this discussion to identify lessons for the various partners (Higher Education Institutions, Further Education colleges, schools) in the recently launched National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP). These lessons include an appreciation and recognition of previous relationships and the diverse priorities of different institutions as well as the importance of the demonstrable commitment of senior leadership in partner institutions.

## Reference

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## Project:

This paper was based on research undertaken by REAP (Researching Equity, Access and Participation) as part of its evaluation of the Cumbria and Lancashire Network for Collaborative Outreach.

For further information including project report [CLNCO Project Page](http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/reap/regional-evaluation/clnco/)  
<http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/reap/regional-evaluation/clnco/>