

# LJMU/Shaping Futures Parental Questionnaire Summary

As part of the Shaping Futures Parental Engagement Working Group, Liverpool John Moores carried out a questionnaire to identify whether the parents/carers of KS3, KS4 and KS5 students feel supported with Higher Education, and whether existing provision needs to be enhanced or additional provisions provided.

The questionnaire received over 200 responses, representing a range of schools from across the Liverpool City Region and all year groups from 7 to 11. The findings of the questionnaire are summarised below, but we are happy to share the full summary document. If you would be interested in receiving this, please contact your Shaping Futures link.

- **General Knowledge:** The respondents were initially asked how much they knew about HE (Higher Education) in general. 57% reported knowing a lot or quite a bit, while 43% reported knowing barely anything at all or nothing. However we can conclude that the majority of parents/carers who think they know 'quite a bit about HE' do not, based on the results of the questions asking about specific elements of HE.
- **Experience of HE:** 50% of the parents/carers responding reported having attended university, suggesting that first in family may be less useful.
- **Student Finance:** There was an even split in respondents reporting understanding or not understanding the student loan system, including repayments, although 61% did not know the difference between a tuition fee loan and maintenance loan, 72% did not understand the application system and 58% did not understand the costs associated with university. This lack of understanding was reflected in 80% of respondents feeling they would benefit from provision regarding student finance.
- **HE Options:** 63% of respondents reported not understanding the HE options available, with nearly 55% also unsure of how to support their children into HE and 56% not knowing what to consider when choosing a university. 83% felt they would benefit from information on how to support their child into HE.
- **UCAS:** Only 55% felt they were unfamiliar with the UCAS application process, but 74% felt they would benefit from an explanation of the university application process, suggesting even those with existing understanding were not secure in this knowledge.
- **Accommodation:** 69% felt they would benefit from provision around university accommodation options, while 60% felt they would benefit from support with the process of their child moving away to university
- **Additional Areas Of Support:** Respondents were able to provide information on any additional areas of HE they would like support with. Of 15 responses, 6 focused on students with SEND, particularly the support available for students with autism and how having an EHCP impacts on the university application process. In this section there was also some demand for information on
  - alternative HE options, such as colleges and apprenticeships
  - options for students who fail GCSEs/A Levels
  - graduate employment for different subjects

Overall, the findings of the survey clearly demonstrate that additional provision is needed to support parents/carers in understanding HE. It should become a priority for both schools/colleges and Higher Education Institutions to work together to provide this, in order to ensure that these key influencers are well prepared to provide support to their child.

