



**London
South Bank
University**

EST 1892



KEEPING IT LOCAL

**Transforming lives,
communities and
businesses for over
125 years.**



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The Borough Polytechnic, forerunner to London South Bank University (LSBU), was founded in 1892 to support the people and businesses of south London with the provision of “industrial skill, general knowledge, health and well-being”. That mission is manifested today not only in our educational work but in our wider public benefit programmes.

As an institution that believes passionately in the idea of enterprise we uphold the tradition of universities doing ‘public good’ and reaching out to local communities to offer lifelong learning. We are alert to the wider needs of our own local community and this has created a growing level of interaction between us.

This short review features examples of our public benefit work including: aligning teaching with local employment needs; reaching out to a diverse local population of potential students; helping businesses grow; providing research to address local issues; supporting economic development; opening up cultural opportunities; offering support services for the community.

If you'd like to know more or discuss other ways that LSBU can support the community, we'd like to hear from you.

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Our history and our charitable purpose

In 2017, local MP Neil Coyle tabled an Early Day Motion in Parliament celebrating the University's 125th anniversary and commending LSBU for "its place as a key educational and civic partner across south London in transforming lives, businesses and communities for the better."

In 1888 the Charity Commission was given powers to redistribute redundant money from City of London parishes to improve the physical and moral condition of poor Londoners. The new South London Polytechnic Institutes Council petitioned the Commission for funds to establish three polytechnics in south London. The Commission agreed to match funds raised from the public and an appeal was launched. The Borough Polytechnic opened its doors in 1892.

LSBU is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. Our principal regulator is the Office for Students and our charitable

purpose is the advancement of education. The Objectives of the University are to:

- Conduct a university for the public benefit for the advancement of education, promotion of research and dissemination of knowledge
- Provide full time and part time courses of education at all levels
- Provide facilities to promote these objects and provide associated support and welfare for students Its Board of Governors is the governing body of LSBU and collectively responsible for promoting the success of the University by leading and supervising its affairs.



Educational aspiration and achievement

Our aim is to support local people into 18+ education and employment through projects designed to engage them with new ideas and opportunities and programmes that build their aspirations and educational skills.

Lambeth Careers Cluster gives unemployed young people access to vocational training and careers advice. We are working with Lambeth College on the Lambeth Apprenticeships Ambitions Project introducing young people and employers to the opportunities in apprenticeships.

LSBU's Confucius Institute for Traditional Chinese Medicine provides young people with an understanding of Chinese culture and lessons in Mandarin. Supporting over 50 London schools and nearly 8000 pupils.

With The Sorrell Trust, we've been piloting **After School and Saturday Clubs**. Young people from areas of lower educational attainment can explore career options and discover more about further and higher education opportunities.



Supporting the wider community

We work closely with local borough councils to support the wider community in fields as diverse as health and well-being and legal advice. Our sports and educational facilities and cultural activities offer opportunities that enrich the lives of local people.

We are working with Lambeth Council and local physical activity providers on the **This Girl Can** project funded by Sport England. The three-year programme aims to engage over 5,000 young women aged 14-25 in an activity of their choice and to investigate how their health, attitudes and behaviours change.

LSBU Legal Advice Clinic offers a free legal advice service to the community. Law students provide advice under the supervision of University employed practising solicitors. Over 3500 people have used the clinic, helping to meet an overwhelming demand for high quality social welfare law advice in the local area.

We provide local people with **access to accredited childcare programmes** during school holidays.

Open doors. With Southwark Libraries, we've delivered a pilot workshop about "information literacy and fake news." We are also providing some public access to our campus library facilities. Plans to develop further programmes include the Digital Skills Centre which provides low-cost IT training and qualifications to the local community.

We continue to run popular **educational and cultural programmes open to the public** including theatrical performances, public seminars and lectures with Honorary Graduates as guest speakers.

Get active! LSBU Academy of Sport offers local residents discounted access to our fitness centre and group training programmes. In October 2017, the Academy hosted its annual SE1 Active Day of culturally inspired public fitness classes.



Our This Girl Can project will engage 5,000 women in an activity of their choice and to investigate how their health, attitudes and behaviours change

Widening participation in higher education

We continue to maintain our reputation and achievements around widening participation in higher education by students from non-traditional backgrounds.

Our student body reflects the diversity of the local community where there are pockets of deprivation and low participation in higher education. 53% of our undergraduate students identify as BME and a significant proportion have a disability and/or come from less privileged backgrounds. 46% tell us that their parents have no higher education qualifications and 72% of students are over 21 on entry.

Many students often come to us with low levels of academic success. However we are ranked in the top 20 universities for graduate starting salaries (The Sunday Times 2017) highlighting our effectiveness in realising potential of those for whom graduate level careers may not have previously seemed an option.

A key part of LSBU's wider public benefit work involves working closely with local schools to raise pupil aspirations and offer access to Higher Education to all those who can benefit. We help find ways to overcome the barriers – real or perceived – that they face.



Supporting high quality education and skills

To serve the wider learning community, we are establishing a new family of specialist educational providers; a like-minded group providing high quality learner-centred education.

The new Family offers learners the opportunity to access the education and skills they need, in the learning style that best suits them, when they need it. The Family includes the South Bank Engineering Academy, the South Bank Engineering UTC, as well as a new Institute for Professional and Technical Education.

The Institute for Professional and Technical Education opens in 2018 and will **support educational pathways** into higher and degree level technical education. The Institute will be situated in the new Passmore Centre, established in partnership with Southwark Council, which will be a dedicated hub for supporting apprenticeships, training and skills for the borough.



Support for local business

We're supporting business growth in the local community with the Business Solutions Centre. Through our new EU-funded projects are helping nearly 920 local SMEs create 120 jobs and bring over 150 new products to market over the next three years.



Solutions for business

Our new Business Solutions Centre is based on the model of the LSBU Legal Advice Clinic. Student advisers are matched with local businesses which benefit from free advice and guidance on subjects ranging from accounting to IT to social media.

Supporting green technology. We are helping SMEs to develop and commercialise innovative low carbon technologies at low cost and low risk. Greentech Access to Innovation (Greentech A2i) offers SMEs a combination of LSBU support including access to advanced equipment and testing facilities, specialised technical expertise, and business skills and networking opportunities.

Innovations in Health. Simulation for Digital Health (SimDh) is a new programme to support innovative health start ups and SMEs to develop and deliver novel products, processes or services. It gives them access to our state of the art facilities to test their ideas in a realistic simulated environment and enables them to fast track development and uptake.

We are **thinking digitally** with Lewisham Borough Council, developing three new enterprise hubs that will create business and employment opportunities for local people in the creative and digital sector. The DEK project is delivering workshops and providing academic and student consultancy to high growth SMEs.

We're working with Newham College **supporting entrepreneurs from disadvantaged areas.** Enterprise Steps is a pan-London programme and draws on our expertise delivering business growth workshops to fledgling businesses.



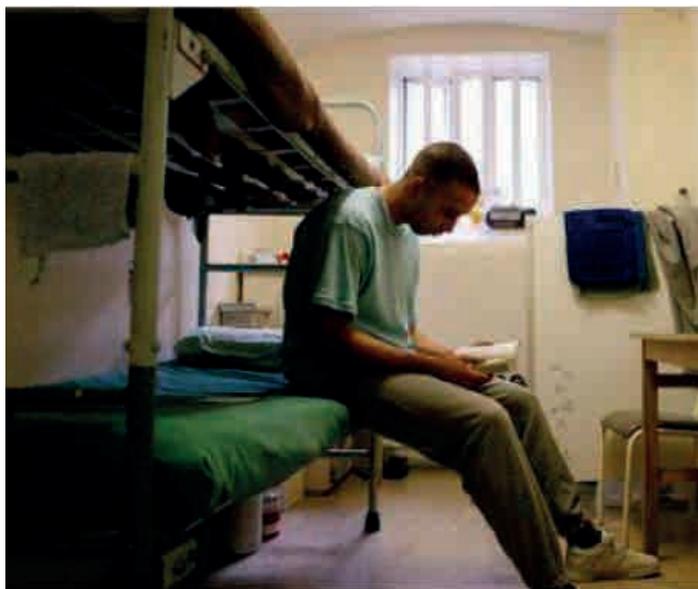
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Supporting wider social groups

We are wholly committed to supporting social groups who are underrepresented in higher education.

Students and inmates learning together. A group of eight undergraduates have been studying a twelve week course in social justice alongside ten inmates at HMP Pentonville in Islington.

The University has signed the Armed Forces Covenant, signalling our commitment to **supporting the armed forces community**. We recognise the value of staff and students who are serving personnel and will do all we can to ensure that those who sign up are treated fairly and not disadvantaged in their day-to-day lives.



Sharing urban insights.

As a world city, London's challenges also exist in other metropolitan areas. Our research focus is on these issues which are often created or exacerbated by the close living conditions of cities, such as environmental problems and anti-social behaviour.

The Health and Social Care team is **researching gang culture** in Waltham Forest and the significant negative impact on local communities, including criminal activity, violence and loss of community cohesion.

Ultra Wideband radar technology has been developed as an installable product by LSBU's Biomedical Engineering and Communications (BiMEC) research group to monitor and **improve domestic energy efficiency**. Fifteen homes in Croydon will be used as pilot sites for the programme which is being run in partnership with Croydon Council.

University acoustic experts have been working with three local boroughs to monitor and **understand the impact of aircraft noise** at a local heliport. Nearby residents are sharing their experiences and the results could inform new curbs on helicopter noise.

We have been leading a ground-breaking research pilot to identify and **support people with autism** and intellectual disabilities attending court. The project aim is to ensure that courts receive the correct guidance regarding sentencing and that those with autism receive the necessary support and are diverted from the prison system, when appropriate.

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