

<b>Committee(s):</b> Education Board	<b>Dated:</b> 02/12/2024
<b>Subject:</b> Future Professionals Summer School Impact Report for 2023/24	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	<b>Diverse Engaged Communities</b>  <b>Providing Excellent Services</b>  <b>Vibrant Thriving Destination</b>
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Community & Children's Services and the Chamberlain	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Alice Rogers, Projects Officer	

## Summary

- This report outlines the success of the City Corporation-funded Widening Participation programme in collaboration with St George's, University of London and the Lord Mayor. The initiative aimed to provide 13–15-year-olds from underserved communities with unique opportunities through the 'Future Professionals Summer School'. Participants explored a wide range of careers in a number of sectors, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to pursue future professional career opportunities. This report highlights the positive impact of the pilot programme on the participants and its potential for long-term benefits in promoting upwards social mobility and inclusion.

## Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

# Main Report

## Background

1. In October 2023, St George's, University of London approached the City Corporation to collaborate on a pilot programme that would enable school pupils from traditionally underserved communities in London to engage with higher education, gain an understanding of a range of academic routes, interact and meet with industry experts and engage with Livery companies.
2. The City Corporation provided £20,000 in funding from its Education Strategy Cost Centre and the ESU played a key role in engaging schools and Liveries with the pilot.
3. The Future Professionals Summer School focused on developing pupils' communication, networking, and career exploration skills, offering workshops and hands-on activities in various fields, including law, business, politics, engineering, healthcare, journalism, and sustainability. It culminated in a graduation ceremony attended by family members, the Lord Mayor and senior Liveryman to celebrate the cohort's achievements.

## Current Position

4. The programme ran over three weeks from 10-28 June 2024, engaging 107 pupils from 12 schools across London.
5. 37 pupils from The City of London Academies Trust (CoLAT) participated in the pilot initiative, coming from City of London Academy Highgate Hill, City of London Academy Shoreditch Park, City of London Academy Islington, City Academy Hackney, and City of London Academy Highbury Grove, respectively.
6. The Future Professionals Summer School pilot initiative has demonstrated significant positive impact, providing underrepresented young people with valuable career insights and supporting to build practical and transferrable skills.
7. 92% of participants completed the evaluation survey. Of these:
  - I. 97% of participants reported having some or great awareness of the skills employers need in the post-survey, an increase from 62% from the pre-survey.
  - II. 90% of pupils reported feeling confident or greatly confident speaking to professionals in jobs they're interested to gain work experience in, an increase from 73% in the pre-survey.
  - III. 88% of pupils reported feeling somewhat or greatly supported and guided in making future decisions in the post-survey, a notable increase from 69% in the pre-survey.
  - IV. Pupils reported an increase in confidence in talking about their strengths (22% increase), creating plans for your future with future goals (21% increase), and speaking with professionals (17% increase).
8. The full impact data is available in Appendix One of this report.

## **Options**

N/A

## **Proposals**

N/A

## **Key Data**

9. A full and detailed breakdown of the data collected in the evaluation can be found in Appendix One.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

Strategic implications – Through providing career insights and guidance to its participants, the Future Professionals programme supports the strategic area of Providing Excellent Services, supporting young people to achieve their professional ambitions.

Financial implications- none

Resource implications- none

Legal implications- none

Risk implications- none

Equalities implications – The Future Professionals programme supports underrepresented young people aged 13-15 to gain unique insights and hands-on experiences across a range of professions, in addition to receiving practical training in job application processes such as CV writing and career planning.

Climate implications- none

Security implications- none

## **Conclusion**

10. The Future Professionals Summer School pilot proved to be a significantly impactful initiative on participants, enhancing confidence and understanding of future career and academic pathways. As evidenced by the evaluation, the pilot illustrated its ability to bolster upwards social mobility for young Londoners by equipping them with the knowledge and tools needed to succeed in a broad range of industries.

## **Appendice**

- Appendix One – Future Professionals Impact Report

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