

**Staff Report:** Claudette Graham Interchange Co-ordinator

At the start of 2017 our 24 new students and all our VCOs including our first time VCOs, had settled into their research and work based learning projects and set about collecting the data.

I visited and arranged meetings with a number of VCOs to deliver briefing sessions for new projects for the 2017-18 intake which resulted in producing the project booklet which included 45 project proposals from 24 VCOs including 10 new VCOs to include UTS Foundation, St Andrews Bebington, The Big Help Project and Sheila Kay Trust.

Along with the Interchange Secretary we spoke to a number of potential new trustees and invited them to observe committee meetings before agreeing at the AGM to welcome two new trustees to the board.

As we said goodbye to our 24 students at their graduation ceremony in July we welcomed 25 students in September that started a partnership with their VCO to include Health Watch Wirral, Sahir House, LCVS and WOW (Writing on the Wall).

Negotiations had been ongoing to expand the staff in Interchange and after a series of interviews we welcomed our new Interchange Student Experience Team Administrator, Alishia Fitzsimmons.

We were successful in obtaining funding for the Festival of Social Science and held a seminar during the weeklong event in November where a delegation attended from the Netherlands.

I worked with the SET Administrator and the Academic Supervisors in developing a presentation on the introduction of the new Interchange Module soci311 (Bespoke Policy Review). The module will begin in September 2019 and will be a 15credit module in Semester 1.

Working with the Interchange Treasurer we adapted the Interchange accounts to reflect the in-kind support the charity receives from the University of Liverpool.

I continue to support the Interchange Trustees in particular with the planning of events and updating our accounts. I also continue to provide an outreach service to our VCOs and a drop in or 1:1 service for our soci303 students and any potential students enquiring about doing the Interchange Portfolio in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

As we approached the end of 2017 our 25 students had all submitted their Ethics project strategy and settled in with their research/work based learning projects and Link Workers.

Alishia Fitzsimmons – Interchange Student Experience Officer

I entered my post August 2017 just in time to welcome 25 new students in September. I attended a majority of the workshops and spent time getting to know our students and VCOs.

I spent time preparing for and organising our Festival of Social Science event, which was a great success. And also began preparations and materials for the introduction of our new module Soci311 and for an event in the New Year to introduce it to the organisations that we work with.

I continued to provide support and one on one sessions for our students and VCOs, helping both to settle in to a working relationship and attending a number of the learning agreement meetings. At the end of year all of the students had submitted Ethics strategies and begun planning for data collection in 2018.



**Interchange  
Annual General Meeting**  
**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 5.30pm**  
The Interchange Office, Room 1:20  
Eleanor Rathbone Building, UoL

#### **Agenda:**

**Welcome**  
**Apologies**  
**Minutes of Last AGM (26<sup>th</sup> September 2017)**  
**Matters Arising**  
**Reports: Chair, Secretary and Interchange Staff**  
**Treasurer's Report: Audited Financial Statement**  
**Nominations and Elections**  
**Date of next AGM**  
**Close**

**Chair's report: Louise Hardwick**

*With thanks*

The student and community activities would not have been possible without the continued support of all the trustees and I would like to thank them for their contributions over this last year:-

- Secretary – Dr Lindsey Metcalf
- Treasurer – Howard Hunt
- Community representatives: Mike Hogan, Marie Weldon
  - New Trustees: Gemma Simpson-Tasker and Emeka Onuora (26.09.17)
- Academic staff – Professor David Whyte, Dr Andrew Kirton
- Alumni – Tony Breen and Thomas Hilbig (new Trustee 26.09.17)

2017 has moved us on with the planning and preparation for the new module, SOCI311 *Short Interchange Project*. The idea behind this is that students produce a review/analysis of an issue/policy identified by a VCO, and write a 4,000 report for the organisation's use as well as academic credit. This will not involve collecting personal data and will therefore not require ethical approval. Its module specification was written and approved by the University, and an application made to the 'University's Teaching Development fund' to support a community consultation on the module's feasibility.

Furthermore, a case was successfully made for the University to fund a new full-time Interchange post to support the additional work that the module will necessitate, and with this in mind, I would like to introduce and welcome Alishia Fitzsimmons.



We also saw some amazing student projects and excellent students who graduated in July 2017. Out of this cohort (listed below) we have been fortunate to have Thomas Hilbig join us as a trustee. We welcome the perspective of our students and especially the skills and insights Thomas brings to the charity. We also welcomed Gemma Simpson-Tasker and Emeka Onuora as new Trustees.

#### Undergraduates teaching team

Extended thanks must also be given to the SOCI303 academic teaching team which included Diane Frost, Prof Jude Robinson, Dr Andrew Kirton, Dr Karen Evans, Dr Lyn Hancock, as well as Louise Hardwick and Prof David Whyte.

The **David Hall Memorial Prize** for best Interchange project 2016-17 was won by Abigail O'Loughlin.



And, finally, thanks must go to all the VCOs and students (listed in table 1) that have collaborated over 2016/17. And we looked forward to welcoming our new cohort in September 2017 (listed in table 2).

Table 1: Students graduated in 2017

Student Name	Partner VCO	Student Name	Partner VCO
Lee Bailey	Tomorrows Women Wirral	Emma Calder	Happy Times Project
Alan Barrow	Anthony Walker Foundation	Lauren Cox	Sahir House
Esme Walker	Healthwatch Wirral	Jessica Bartlett	Riverside Housing Group
Abigail Brown	Apex Trust Ltd	Imogen Dugdale	Woodvale & Ainsdale Association
Josie Singleton	Mary Seacole House	Amy Gargan	Career Connect Ltd
Catherine Trafford	Footsteps Project	Thomas Hilbig	Anthony Walker Foundation
Sabrina Jones	Action on Addiction	Ella Nicklin-Beasley	Symphony Housing Group
James Walter	Greenbank Project	Megan Rhoden	Ferries Family Group
Zoe Lau	Health First Team	Ryan Kitto	Vauxhall Community & Law Centre
Daniel Lee-Williams	National Youth Advocacy Service	Abigail O'Loughlin	RASA Rape & Sexual Assault Project
Rachel Ley	Liverpool Citizen Advice Partnership	Sian Davidson	South Liverpool Domestic Abuse Service
Michelle Hurst	Liverpool Community Advice Project		

#### Graduation Day July 2017



Table 2: Students started in September 2017

Student Name	Name of VCO	Student Name	Name of VCO
David Alyan	UTS Foundation	Jane Owens	Liverpool Homeless Football
Connor Burns	APEX	Imogen Parker	Greenbank
Emma Delaney	Liverpool Homeless Football	Natasha Rawlinson	Wirral Age Uk
Nicole Dixon	ADHD Foundation	Leah Regan	Healthwatch Wirral
Kate Doolan	LCVS	Holly Rimmer	Sahir House
Heledd Hamer	Wirral Age Uk	Sain Ware	ADHD Foundation
Adele Moore	Directory of Social Change	Elizabeth Skillen	UTS Foundation
Imogen Kelly	Wirral Ark	Gethin Watkins	Sahir House
Lauren Hines-Clarke	ADHD Foundation	Ellen Toulson	Anthony Walker Foundation
Rosina Lee	Magenta Living	Hannah Williams	Anthony Walker Foundation
Ellie Hatton	Phoenix Community and Youth Project	Kathy Toth	Phoenix Community and Youth Project
Catherine Johnston	Liverpool Community Advice Project	Jodie Scott-Johnson	WOW

#### Secretary's Report: Lindsey Metcalf

As a very small charity, Interchange relies on its volunteers to provide support to Claudette and Alishia (our paid staff). Management Committee members represent the organisation externally and help to plan our special events as well as their main role of ensuring effective governance of the charity. The committee has been active in moving forward with Interchange's strategic goals and undertook work to develop its ethos statement, plan public events and consult on a new, shorter project format.

In 2017 we welcomed Gemma Simpson-Tasker, Thomas Hilbig and Emy Onuora to the committee. Thomas is a former Interchange student, having completed a project with the Anthony Walker Foundation. Gemma and Emy bring their local voluntary sector knowledge – Emy is connected to the Sheila Kay Fund, while Gemma works for Career Connect and has previously hosted an Interchange student.

In November 2017 Interchange ran its 4th Festival of Social Science event at Blackburne House. This was thanks to a successful bid to the Economic and Social Research Council. The event was focused on "Working together in times of austerity" and brought together local voluntary organisations, academics and students. We also welcomed a group of Dutch academics who were on a visit to the UK. Our keynote speaker was Professor David Whyte who spoke about some of the themes from his recently published book (co-edited with Dr Vicky Cooper) entitled "The Violence of Austerity". Dr Lindsey Metcalf shared her research into the experiences of volunteer trustees who are leading Merseyside charities through the challenging external environment. Finally, Thomas Hilbig reported on his experience of completing an Interchange project for his degree. He worked with Anthony Walker Foundation on a review of Merseyside's hate crime strategy and had also presented his findings to the Deputy Police Commissioner and a wide range of public and voluntary agencies during Hate Crime Awareness Week in October 2017.

