

Press Release

5 October 2016

Project Oracle to be launched as charity at London Met

Project Oracle, London's first children and youth evidence hub, will be formally launched as a charity at London Metropolitan University on Wednesday 2 November 2016 in The Great Hall, Holloway.

Project Oracle, which was created to address a gap in understanding about which youth projects work and why, began in 2012 as a partnership between London Metropolitan University and the Social Innovation Partnership, a trusted advisor to public, private and social sector organisations.

The organisation provides support to youth organisations and funders to produce, use and share high-quality evidence to improve how interventions are funded and delivered.

Originally co-founded and managed by Georgie Parry-Crooke, Emerita Professor at London Metropolitan University and Stephen Bediako from The Social Innovation partnership, Project Oracle's application to become a charitable status was approved earlier this year.

Georgie Parry-Crooke, one of the founding co-Directors of the scheme, said: "Project Oracle has come far on its own journey from an experimental start through to achieving charitable status in a relatively short time.

"I am delighted to have been part of this and look forward to Project Oracle's continued facilitation of the supply and demand for evidence which helps us all to better understand outcomes for young people."

Last year, Sue Holloway was appointed Chief Executive and has since overseen Project Oracle's transition from short-term project to independent, sustainable charity securing further support from the Greater London Authority (GLA), the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and winning additional funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation (PHF).

Sue said: "I'm excited to be establishing Project Oracle as a national charity, continuing the great work of supporting all those aiming to improve outcomes for children and young people, by strengthening the evidence base for this crucial endeavour."

The charity aims to assist young people in developing their own personal careers and helping them gain the experience and employability skills needed.

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About London Metropolitan University

London Met has been providing education to people from all backgrounds since 1848, with the creation of the Metropolitan Evening Classes for Working Men.

Four faculties teach cutting-edge, relevant courses across the arts, sciences, business, law and humanities. Accelerator – London Met’s specialist business incubator – helps graduates get their enterprises up and running and was named among the Top Five ‘Most Active’ accelerators in Europe in 2015, highlighting its contribution to London’s booming start-up industry.

London Met is home to world-leading academics who regularly give expert comment to the media. The University scored well in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, being ranked 4th in the country for Area Studies and performing strongly in Education and Social Studies.

The University is strongly focused on employability. In 2016, London Met recorded its highest ever graduate employment score, with 93% of all 2014/15 graduates in work or further study six months after graduation.

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