SDG Accord Case Study

The SDG Accord

The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Global Goals

KING'S College LONDON

SDG Accord Case Study

Integration of SDGs in

☒ Institutional governance/strategic level
☐ SDGs in research
☐ SDGs in campus operations
☐ SDGs in curriculum development
☐ SDGs in student engagement activities
☐ SDGs into community activities
☐ SDGs at a whole-institution level

Focus on

☐ Goal 1 - No poverty
☐ Goal 2 - Zero hunger
☒ Goal 3 - Good health and wellbeing
☐ Goal 4 - Quality education
☐ Goal 5 - Gender equality
☐ Goal 6 - Clean water and sanitation
☐ Goal 7 - Affordable and clean energy
☐ Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth
☐ Goal 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure
☐ Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities
☐ Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities
☐ Goal 12 - Responsible consumption and production
☐ Goal 13 - Climate action
☐ Goal 14 - Life below water
☐ Goal 15 - Life on land
☐ Goal 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions
☒ Goal 17 - Partnerships for the goals

Summary:

Launching in June 2022, King's Volunteering was established as a one-stop shop for discovering opportunities and building connections with people and organisations that are driving positive change in our local, national and international communities. King's Volunteering service currently engages with over 1,000 staff and students, and more than 100 community partners.

Our partners work to tackle a broad range of different causes. Our service aims to develop new opportunities that meet the interests of our community, bring together existing volunteering that takes place across the university and raise the profile of such activities to demonstrate the collective impact that King's has on society.

"It's about being focused with the youngsters, and it's really fulfilling; I don't actually even think about it as being volunteering. It's been part of my life for so long."– **Peter Bishai, Campus Technical Manager, coaches a basketball team and supports the running of the club.**

From one-off events to regular volunteering opportunities, there's something for everyone. Some examples and future projects include:

- **Board Bank:** Through the programme, we support our students and staff to become charity trustees and work with community partners to drive positive change.

- **The King's Wellness Scheme:** The university-wide social prescription programme utilises sport & physical activity, volunteering and mindfulness to bring our community to a positive sense of wellbeing through building social connections and belonging.

- **Global Day of Service:** Celebrated every year in March, the campaign brings together King's community globally through volunteering. Each year students, staff and alumni volunteer in their local communities to live out the King's ethos of 'service to society'.

- **Donation Stations**: To help support the work of our community partners, we have introduced donation points at each of our campuses where students and staff can donate items for particular causes.

Outline the 3 key benefits of integrating this theme:

1. An improved student and staff experience, including improved wellbeing

2. Societal impact and the benefits of volunteering are measured and evaluated, demonstrating the contribution the King's community makes to society and contributing to a compelling narrative about Service at King's, building reputational benefit

3. Improved partnership management practices, including maximising the university's collective social impact to create strategic multidimensional partnerships (e.g. engaging third sector organisations in research, service-led learning, volunteering, placements and internships)

Outline the barriers or challenges encountered in integrating this theme and how you overcame these:

1. IT Systems – developing a new system at the university with an integrated approach to existing systems that meets the needs of our community can be challenging. Since launch, we have reviewed the user experience of the system to reduce barriers to volunteering, whilst implementing new processes to support our community partners

2. Inequality of access to volunteering – not everyone has the same resources (e.g. time). To ensure the service is accessible to all, we work with a Student Advisory Board for Volunteering. We ask for feedback and work with them to develop solutions. One of these solutions is to work with community partners to make sure their listings provide as much information as possible and to highlight any accessible features such as step-free access, training, and quiet rooms available.

3. University culture – in order to overcome the equity in access, and enable students from diverse backgrounds to engage in the benefits of volunteering, we hope to embed activities as part of the curriculum, as well as in existing programmes and services to enable all students and staff to have a positive social impact

Please outline your conclusions and recommendations to others:

Launching a new service can be complex at a university as large as King's, therefore an understanding and mapping of existing activities, programmes and services that already undertake volunteering is incredibly important in bringing them together to demonstrate the collective social impact.

We have been fortunate at King's to have senior leadership buy-in for the service. This has ensured we have had opportunities to engage with stakeholders across the institution to embed King's Volunteering into future strategic projects in both the education and experience of our community.
The mapping of user experience and journeys are also incredibly important in understanding the barriers that people may face in accessing services, how they might be feeling, what they might be thinking and ways in which to overcome these challenges to make programmes as accessible as possible.