

Aimhigher London Impact Report

Executive Summary

In 2024–25, Aimhigher London continued to deliver measurable impact through targeted, collaborative work that empowers learners, strengthens partnerships and drives equity in access to higher education.

Our Mission

We believe every learner has the right to a future shaped by opportunity, not circumstance. Through sustained partnerships with schools, colleges, universities and Virtual Schools, together we create inclusive, evidence-based programmes that raise aspirations, build confidence, and remove barriers to educational opportunity.

Key Achievements

- **2,266 learners** supported across all key stages through 39 events
- **56%** of learners on free school meals progressed to higher education, **almost double the national average (29%)**
- **95%** of learners reported greater awareness, confidence and preparedness for higher education
- We are seeing continuous growth in participation among priority groups year on year
 - **BAME learners** 67% (up from 40% in 2019-20)
 - **SEND learners** 21% (up from 12% in 2018-19)
 - **Care-experienced learners** 4% (up from 1% in 2023–24)
 - **First-generation learners** 61% (up from 52% in 2018-19)

Impact Highlights

- **Progression** 97% of learners received a university offer in 2024; 87% accepted their place.
- **Equity** Engagement from the most deprived postcodes has doubled since 2021–22, with significant gains among ‘white working-class’ and SEND learners.
- **Engagement** Strengthened collaboration between parents, practitioners and universities has deepened learner confidence and aspirations.

For first-generation students, this partnership is transformative with 100% of parents reporting that our webinars helped them feel actively equipped to support their child’s ambitions.

Partnerships and Programmes

Our Finding Futures programme supports learners' development from Year 8 to Year 13, raising awareness, confidence, resilience and self-belief to prepare them for future success.

- 95% better understood how to choose higher education; 97% felt they would belong at university; 88% felt ready for the transition.



Our practitioner- and learner-focused events, delivered with our Disability and Care Experienced Working Groups, continue to drive inclusive practice, professional learning and the co-production of resources that strengthen belonging and progression across the region.

93% of professionals reported increased confidence and knowledge of the needs of learners with SEND or experience of care.

Looking Ahead

As we enter 2025–26, our priorities focus on:

- **Deepening engagement** with learners through sustained progression pathways and collaborating with regional networks
- **Empowering partnerships** to align with national Access and Participation priorities through a greater regional understanding of need (EORR)
- **Scaling impact** through data-led evaluation and regional collaboration.
- **Strengthening evidence** to inform inclusive practice across sectors where gaps exist

Aimhigher London's strength lies in collaboration, a shared commitment to ensuring every young person, regardless of background, has the chance to aim higher, realise their potential and build their future.

Empowering Learners • Building Futures • Tackling Barriers to Educational Opportunity