

# Working with Boys and Young Men

14<sup>th</sup> January 2025

For decades, the disparity in attainment and progression of young men who are eligible for Free School Meals has been a significant feature of our national educational conversation. Yet, over that time, there has been very little strategic action taken to address it.

## At this NERUPI event we will:

- Explore the complex interplay of challenges experienced by young working-class men as they negotiate their identities in compulsory education and the role of masculinity in likelihood of young men engaging in the classroom.
- Find out about innovative approaches to meeting the challenge as educators.
- Hear from NERUPI members and colleagues who are supporting higher education progression activities with boys' and young men.
- Consider outcomes from Year 8 onwards and the evaluation measures and methods we can use to assess our impact.

### ♦ 9.45 Registration

### ♦ 10.00 Welcome and Introductions

**Annette Hayton**, Senior Research Fellow & NERUPI Convenor

### ♦ 10.05 Meeting the challenges of identity in education

**Alex Blower**, Research Fellow, Boys' Impact

Drawing on work undertaken across the UK by Boys' Impact, this session will introduce the complex interplay of challenges facing young working-class men as they negotiate their identities in compulsory education.

### ♦ 10.25 Question and Answer Session

### ♦ 10.35 Practice Perspective 1: University of Sussex

**Sam Dunnett**, Head of Widening Participation, University of Sussex

**Liam Thomas**, Deputy Head of Widening Participation, University of Sussex

Through their educational partnership, the Widening Participation Team at University of Sussex is opening up university for boys and young men whilst supporting local schools in the region.

### ♦ 10.55 Short Break

### ♦ 11.00 Practice Perspective 2: University of East Anglia

**Darren McMorran**, Outreach Officer, University of East Anglia

Darren chairs the East Anglia regional hub of Boys' Impact. In his day job he works with local secondary schools and takes the lead on key stage 2 projects.

♦ **11.20 Questions to the panel**

♦ **11.30 Evaluating our Success: Outcomes, Measures and Methods**

**Jon Rainford**, Lecturer, Open University, NERUPI Research

**Joanne Moore**, NERUPI Research and Development Officer

Through a series of facilitated activities this session will consider approaches to evaluating the outcomes of interventions with boys and young men from Year 8 onwards and the range of methods to collect evidence to measure the impact.

♦ **12.30 Feedback and Round-up**

♦ **13.00 Close**