

# Embedding the NERUPI framework in the UoS APP

MADDIE TAYLOR





# Our Context

# Student Engagement & Enhancement

Formally On-Course Widening  
Participation

Student Success

Fully configured as of July 2022 – lots  
of brand new projects!

Using the NERUPI framework  
differently from our access team but  
learning from best practice





# Embedding NERUPI and advantages

# Embedding NERUPI in our APP

## **Social and academic capital**

47. Evidence suggests that early years interventions<sup>12</sup> can have a positive impact on motivations to progress to higher education. While our own tracking data have yet to mature enough to draw conclusions, it appears from internal evaluations that behaviours and attitudes toward education generally, and higher education specifically, have shifted positively as a result of

## **Educational and intellectual capital**

67. Research shows that attainment-raising activity has a significant effect on the chances of entering higher education,<sup>22</sup> and enhances students' educational capital. Our own internal evaluation suggests<sup>23</sup> that participants in the Sussex Study Experience, our current vehicle fo

Our theory of change is underpinned by the NERUPI framework, which is embedded in our outputs across the lifecycle. This gives us a strong evidence base to support us in achieving our outcomes and aim.

The NERUPI framework underpins our offer across the student lifecycle as a conceptual structure, as well as forming the basis of our evaluation.

# Using NERUPI in the SEE Team

## Project Planning

Staff know the capitals that their project should align with from the very start

Helps staff to clearly define project aims

Build evaluation in from the very start of projects

NERUPI question bank & toolkit

Encourages staff to construct a theory of change for their projects



# Project initiation process



# Using NERUPI more broadly



NERUPI adds credibility to our project aims and outcomes

Carries weight in academic spaces – a lot of our projects require collaboration with and buy-in from academic staff

Helps us to baseline across the sector and identify gaps in our projects



# Negotiating using NERUPI and challenges

# Strategic challenges

Being positioned in Student Success means that a lot of our projects have the aim of changing cultures/creating improvements in the educational environment for whole cohorts

Some projects don't naturally have the aim of improving student capitals/aren't student-focussed interventions

This has impacted buy-in on whole cohort projects like the curriculum review

# 'Selling' NERUPI to staff



Challenge in translating from APP to operational staff

Initially saw NERUPI as 'another thing to do'

Some staff still see it as different or additional to their project aims



# Other advice

# Success strategies for embedding

- Internal workshops for senior and operational colleagues, think about how NERUPI can support strategically AND practically
- Build NERUPI terminology into project documentation and project theories of change
- Create a shared lexicon of NERUPI terminology across the lifecycle



Questions?