

# Minding the Awarding Gap – The Impact of Peer Mentoring

## What is SMILES

SMILES is a peer mentoring project that supports student success and transitions in a widening participation university. SMILES is funded through an OfS access and participation fund. This fund, sets out how higher education providers will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education. The OfS monitors these to make sure that the providers honour the commitments they make to students in these plans.

## Evaluation Against the NERUPI Criteria

Know	develop knowledge of HE / grad employment
Choose	develop capacity to navigate HE / grad employment
Become	develop confidence and resilience in HE / grad employment
Practise	develop skills and capacity for student and career success
Understand	develop understanding through contextualised subject knowledge and attainment raising

## Project Outcomes

The SMILES project has the following outcomes in order to align with the UEL APP targets:



**Collaborate with others**

- Share best practice
- To make mentoring more sustainable and impactful



**Reduce attrition, build retention**

- Reduce attrition Asian Mixed Other White (AMOW) and BAME
- Sustained retention and progression framework



**Pre-enrolment mentoring to aid transition and access to HE**

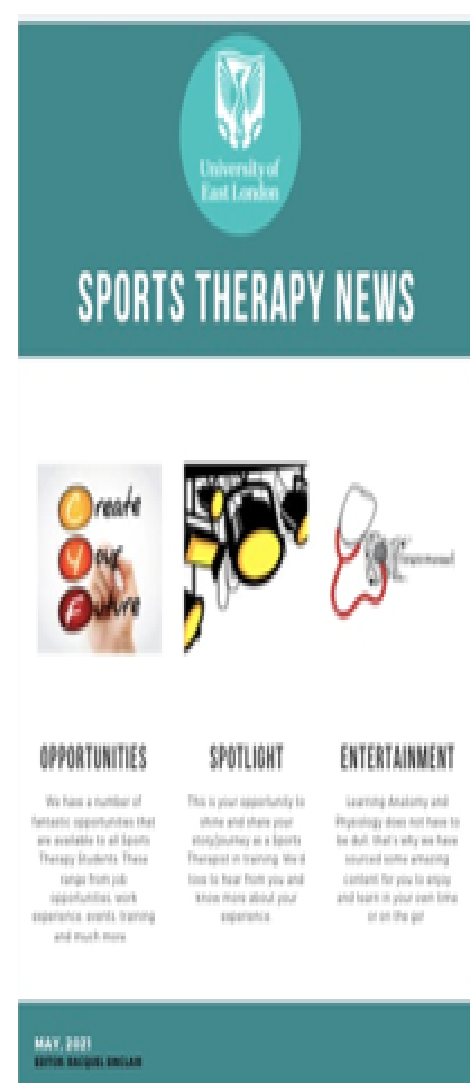
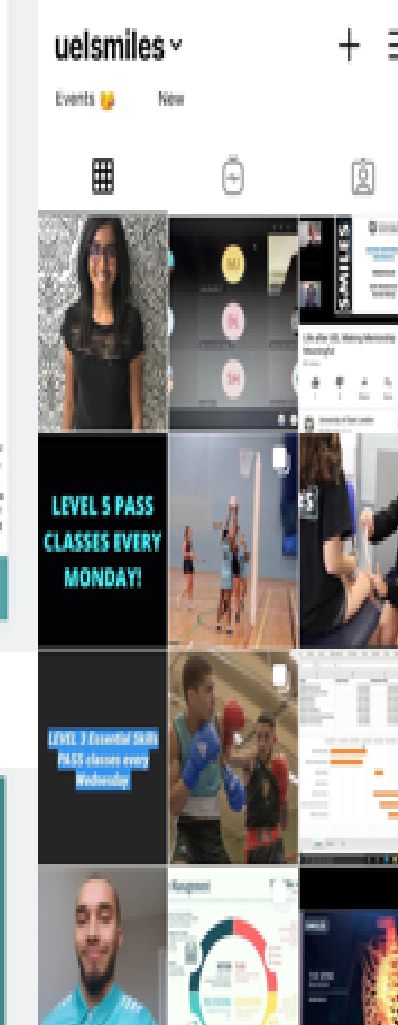
- Full time young people
- Mature students



**Peer mentoring that enables student led experience, and the opportunity to achieve and succeed**

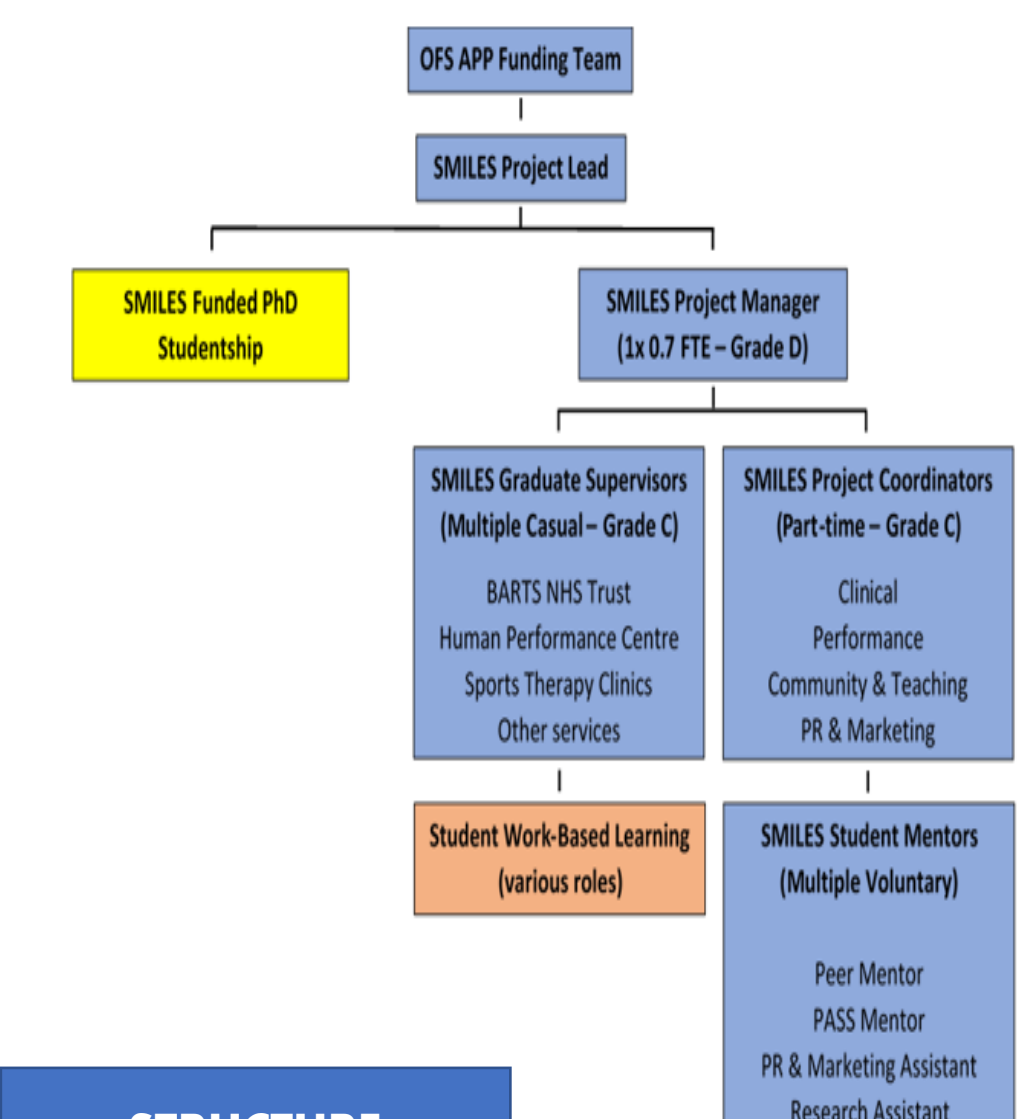
- Peer mentoring at critical points in the academic year
- Provide opportunities for AMOW students
- Achievement of industry sport specific qualifications
- Reduce progression gap into employment

**BAME AWARDING GAP BY 13%**



	Engagement 2019-2022 (September - November)	Engagement 2019-2022 (November-March)
Anchor/ Podcasts	46 listeners	71 listeners
Instagram	360 accounts reached (+367%)	1198 accounts reached
Twitter	53 followers	153 followers
TEAMS	80 active users (14%)	493 active users
Padlets	125 users	386 users
International reach across all technologies	82	251

## HOW SMILES ACHIEVE IMPACT



**STRUCTURE**