

Learning and Outreach Strategic Review Summary 2018

1. Underlying evidence and drivers for change

National evidence such as the Natural Connections Demonstration project and Natural England commissioned LINE report provide clear indication that Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) is beneficial for young people's social, physical and academic development. The SDNPA commissioned Schools Survey of the 876 schools either within or within 10km of the SDNP found 69% of schools used the SDNP for LOtC in 2016-2017.

The SDNP Visitor Market Proposition Final Report, the Sussex Community Foundation Bridging the Gap report and the SDNPA Citizens' panel all identify that key groups remain under-represented within the SDNP: young people (age 16-24), people with disabilities, people from more socially disadvantaged communities and people from BAME communities

2. Key issues

Learning:

- lack of confidence in teachers in taking learning outside
- teacher uncertainty about linking LOtC to the curriculum
- lack of funding for visits and transport
- disconnection with nature

Outreach:

- visitors are not representative of the wider community
- physical barriers including stiles, gradients, path surfaces and toilets
- economic barriers including transport costs
- cultural and social barriers including lack of appropriate/targeted information

3. Strategic outcomes

Outcome 5: Outstanding visitor experiences are underpinned by a high-quality access and sustainable transport network supporting improved health and wellbeing.

Outcome 6: There is widespread understanding of the special qualities of the National Park and the benefits it provides.

4. Partnerships and delivery mechanisms

- park-wide LOtC provider network
- annual Our South Downs schools conference
- targeted outreach programmes and projects
- John Muir Award in the SDNP
- communicating and reaching out to new audiences

