Edge Hill University:

Economic and Social Contribution

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Turley Economics

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# Executive Summary

Edge Hill was established in 1885 as the UK’s first non-denominational teacher training college for women, where in its early days it was home to just 41 students.

The institution has since grown substantially and today offers a wide range of higher education programmes. It was awarded University status in 2006 and today it hosts over 14,600 students.

## In Scientia Opportunitas: In knowledge, opportunity

Edge Hill University has historic links to the suffragette movement and continues to explore themes of social justice in its teaching, research and public engagement events. The University’s colours of gold, green and purple reflect this historic link. This report assesses the economic and social impact of Edge Hill University.

Based on a point-in-time analysis of data relating to the 2020/21 academic year, the assessment finds that the University makes a significant economic and social contribution - not only to the local economy of Ormskirk and West Lancashire, but also at a regional and national level.

Edge Hill University is currently attended by 14,637 students, comprising 11,643 students on a full-time basis and 2,994 students on a part-time basis. Offering a diverse range of courses including in STEM subjects, Edge Hill University is meeting growing employment needs.

Edge Hill University is the largest employer in the West Lancashire local economy. The University currently employs 2,025members of staff, equivalent to 1,691 FTE employees. In 2030/31 it is anticipated that the University will directly employ an additional 352 FTE employees.

The economic productivity at the University supports a further 1,004 FTE jobs across the UK economy through its multiplier effects – generated by the University’s spending in its supply chain and through the re-spending of employee salaries.

Between 2016 and 2021, Edge Hill University invested approximately £69.0m in expanding and upgrading facilities at the Ormskirk campus. This level of investment generated 120 FTE construction-related jobs for the North West region.

The University makes a significant contribution to the productivity of the West Lancashire economy. This totals £175.9m in GVA across the UK economy; of which £121.3m is generated in the local economy of West Lancashire.

In 2030/31 it is anticipated that the University will generate economic productivity impact of £211.1m; of which £145.6m will occur in the West Lancashire borough.

Current student expenditure is £83.8m per annum, currently supporting 539 FTE jobs in retail and leisure across the North West. This is projected to increase to £106.9m in 2030/31, and this level of spending will support 680 FTE jobs across the North West.

The student population generates a total of £10.7m per annum in social value through activities including volunteering and part time work at the University. The University offers various facilities including Arts and Sports facilities which are available to the public.

## Economic and social value of Edge Hill University

### Campus construction benefits (2016-2021\*)

\*FTE jobs and GVA economic impacts sustained every year during construction

Construction-related employment

80 FTE jobs Direct + 40 FTE jobs Indirect and Induced = 120 FTE Jobs

GVA (£m)

£4.1m GVA Direct + £2.95m GVA Indirect and Induced = £7.1m GVA

### Ongoing employment benefits

Core economic contribution of Edge Hill University to the UK economy in 2021

1,691 FTE jobs Direct + 845 FTE jobs Indirect 159 FTE jobs Induced = 2,695 FTE

Economic contribution generated by Edge Hill University’s student population in 2021, based on student spending and graduation ceremonies

543 FTE jobs

Total jobs supported 3,238 FTE jobs

### Ongoing productivity benefits

Core economic contribution of Edge Hill University to the UK economy in 2021

£90.1m GVA Direct + £76.7m GVA Indirect £8.5m GVA Induced = £175.9m GVA

Economic contribution generated by Edge Hill University’s student population in 2021, based on student spending and graduation ceremonies

£85.4m in expenditure

### Ongoing social value benefits

Social contribution generated by Edge Hill University’s student population in 2021, comprising student volunteering and part-time work at Edge Hill University.

£10.7m per annum of social value

## Forecast Economic and social value of Edge Hill University

### Forecast employment benefits

Core economic contribution of Edge Hill University to the UK economy in 2031

2,042 FTE jobs Direct + 1,021 FTE jobs Indirect 192 FTE jobs Induced = 3,255 FTE jobs

Economic contribution generated by Edge Hill University in 2031, based on student spending and graduation ceremonies

680 FTE jobs

Total jobs supported 3,935 FTE jobs

### Forecast productivity benefits

Core economic contribution of Edge Hill University to the UK economy in 2031

£108.0m GVA Direct + £92.8m GVA Indirect £10.3m GVA Induced = £211.1m GVA

Economic contribution generated by Edge Hill University in 2031, based on student spending and graduation ceremonies

£106.9m in expenditure

### Embracing future growth

By 2031, an additional 353 FTE employees are expected to support the University’s growth.

Further development of the University as a social and economic asset to the local community and region.

Fostering a campus community where together staff, students and local communities can learn, study, research and interact.

Pursuit of a sustainable future, demonstrating long-term stewardship of the environment and maximising accessibility through a sustainable transport strategy.

Bespoke residential growth strategy to ensure a guaranteed offer of accommodation to students and create a campus with vibrancy and activity.

Accommodation of further growth anticipated within the University’s facilities, particularly the STEM subjects.

# Chapter one: Introducing Edge Hill University

## Edge Hill University: Then and now

Founded in Edge Hill, Liverpool in 1885 as the UK’s first non-denominational teacher training college for women, the institution quickly grew and moved to its current location in Ormskirk in 1933. Ormskirk is the administrative centre of West Lancashire and a market town located between Liverpool and Preston. Edge Hill was granted the power to award taught degrees in 2005 and was renamed Edge Hill University in 2006. Although Edge Hill is still known for its high quality teacher training courses, it has since diversified its programme of studies, and now offers over 130 individual courses delivered across three faculties: the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Health, Social Care and Medicine.

With an extensive range of education and health programmes, Edge Hill University is providing the next generation of key workers.

Many people in Ormskirk and West Lancashire are and will likely be supported by teachers, health professionals, nurses, doctors and social workers who are graduates of Edge Hill University. Today, the University’s academic community is made up of over 11,600 full-time undergraduate and postgraduate students, with almost another 3,000 on part-time programmes. Part-time programmes of study have always been a central part of the University’s offer, allowing students to study with flexibility around work or other commitments. Notable alumni include broadcaster Stuart Maconie, actor Jonathan Pryce, radio DJ Danny Howard and the UK’s first ever female barrister, Helena Normanton QC.

### Growth in undergraduate and postgraduate students at Edge Hill, 1885 – 2021

1885: 40

1995: 3,800

2000: 5,000

2005: 6,300

2010: 10,000

2018: 10,600

2021: 11,600

## The local community context - Edge Hill University’s local community

### Socio-economic profile of Ormskirk\*

\* These statistics are based on data from the ONS 2011 Census and the ONS (2015) Business and Employment Survey

As the largest employer in Ormskirk and the West Lancashire borough, Edge Hill University plays a pivotal role in creating wealth, economic prosperity and wellbeing at the local level. In the Derby ward in which the University is located\*, students make up over 20% of the local population and contribute to the economic and social vitality of the area. The key characteristics of Ormskirk are summarised in this section.

\*Derby, E36003976

## Demographics

### Size of the local population

Ormskirk is home to 24,000 people, representing some 23% of West Lancashire’s population of 114,500 residents\*.

\*Nomis (2020) Population estimates - small area based by single year of age - England and Wales

### Size of the student population

Students make up 22.9% of the residents residing in the ward in which Edge Hill University is located\*, compared to 6.7% of West Lancashire’s population and 6.6% of the population across England and Wales.

\*ONS Census (2011) Derby, E36003976

### Deprivation

Ormskirk and surrounding wards is located in an area with relatively low levels of deprivation, although parts of Skelmersdale (four miles away) and Liverpool (15 miles away) have some of the highest levels of deprivation in the country.

### Size of the workingage population

The proportion of the working-age population is broadly the same in West Lancashire (60.4%), as in the North West region (62.1%) and Great Britain (62.4%).

### Self-reported health

A large majority - 82.3% - of all Ormskirk residents report their health as ‘Good’ or ‘Very Good’.

## Employment and jobs

### Gross pay (residents)

Residents of West Lancashire are paid lower than the average for the North West as both weekly and annual gross pay. Weekly pay in West Lancashire is £566.50 compared to £578 in the North West. In terms of annual pay, the West Lancashire averages £29,454 compared to £29,655 in the North West. These are both lower than the UK average salaries\*.

\*Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (2021)

### Number of jobs

West Lancashire supports approximately 46,000 jobs. 30,000 (65.2%) of these jobs are full-time roles and 16,000 (34.8%) are part-time roles\*.

\*ONS Business Register and Employment Survey (2020)

### Largest employers

Edge Hill University is the largest employer in West Lancashire\*. The Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust and the Co-operative Bank are the second and third biggest employers, respectively.

\*West Lancashire Borough Council, West Lancashire Employment and Skills Fact Sheet, September 2017

### Gross pay (employees)

Employees of West Lancashire are paid lower than the average for the North West as both weekly and annual gross pay. Weekly pay in West Lancashire is £539.40 compared to £575.80 in the North West. In terms of annual pay, West Lancashire averages £28,098 compared to £29,529 in the North West. These are both lower than the UK average salaries. This could be due to the underlying economy of West Lancashire being more reliant on the agricultural sector than the wider North West region (and other regions).

### Employment rate

Perhaps reflecting the proportion of students residing in the Derby ward in which the University is located, the employment rate at the ward level is 60.1%\*, compared to 71.4% for West Lancashire and 71% in England and Wales.

\* Ibid

### Unemployment rate

The unemployment rate in the ward in which Edge Hill University is located is higher at 11.2% compared to West Lancashire at 7.2% and the England and Wales rate at 7.6%.

### Proportion of managerial, professional and technical jobs\*

\*Employment by occupation, SOC 2010major Group 1-3

A large proportion (40.1%) of those employed in the ward of Derby, where the University is located, are in managerial, professional and technical roles. This is higher than the average for West Lancashire, at 41.3%. The England and Wales average is similar to the Derby ward profile, with 40.9% of employees in these types of roles.

### Qualifications

The skills profile of those residing in the Derby ward, in which the University is located, is in line with the West Lancashire trend – in both geographies 27.5% of residents have qualifications at NVQ 4 and above, compared to the England and Wales average of 29.7%.

## Recognition of Edge Hill University in local policy

### The importance of Edge Hill University’s economic contribution is recognised in local policies and plans.

For instance, West Lancashire Borough Council’s current Local Plan 2012-2027 Objective 2 - Education Training and the Economy states that a key aim is to:

“…Create more and better quality, training and job opportunities to get more people into work\*.”

\*West Lancashire Borough Council, Local Plan, Objective 20

Edge Hill University is highlighted as being able to play a key role in achieving this goal:

“A new West Lancashire College and improved facilities at Edge Hill University will help provide a highly trained workforce; combined with improved results at secondary school level, particularly in Skelmersdale”.\*

\* Ibid

Policy EC4 specifically highlights the benefits which Edge Hill University brings:

“Edge Hill University is considered a major asset to the Borough of West Lancashire and the town of Ormskirk”.\*

\* Ibid

The Local Plan aims to promote the following key principles to aid the growth of Edge Hill University in Policy EC4:

• Support continued growth and improvement of the University in terms of facilities

• Develop travel plans with the University as well as parking strategies to develop sustainable travel • Improve the University’s accommodation offer

• Create links between the University and local businesses to encourage learning and contribute to the local economy

• Ensure benefits of the University and future growth are directed to the communities where educational attainment is lower to develop specific programmes

West Lancashire Borough Council’s current Economic Development Strategy 2015-2025 showcases the economic importance of the University:

“The presence of Edge Hill University in particular is a major asset for our Borough, both in terms of its economic contribution and its supply of highly skilled graduates and specialisms in courses which are relevant to future growth sectors such as onshore oil and gas. The performance of local secondary schools is also vital in shaping the understanding of local young people on upcoming opportunities in the labour market.”\*

\* West Lancashire Borough Council’s current Economic Development Strategy 2015-2025, p. 60

In summary, it is clear that the University plays a role in helping to achieve local policy goals.

### Founded in 1885

Established as the UK’s first non-denominational training college for women teachers.

Founded on 24 January 1885 at Durning Road in the Edge Hill area of Liverpool.

### Diversification 1960s – 1990s

In 1959, Edge Hill became a co-educational provider. Between the 1960s and 1990s Edge Hill diversified, including the introduction of nursing education, training and other new undergraduate degrees in environmental studies, communication and media and management and business studies. There was also an expansion in masters programmes in humanities and social sciences.

Edge Hill was recognised as a Centre of Excellence in Teacher Education in 1983 and by 1993 Edge Hill had become the largest supplier of secondary school teachers in the UK.

Then 1997 marked the beginning of the development of the Western Campus and the opening of the Business and management Centre in 1999, followed a year later by the Learning Innovation Centre.

The Creative Media, Information Systems and Technology building (CMIST) opened in 2003. The Wilson Centre was also developed during this period on the eastern side of the campus to accommodate sports studies and sports science students and complement the Sporting Edge complex.

The Rose Theatre (now called the Arts Centre) was also built during this time as a venue for Drama students.

### Achieving University status

On 9 November 2005, Edge Hill was formally granted Taught Degree Awarding Powers by the Privy Council and on 18 May 2006, the institution reached a landmark point in its history and was formally awarded the title ‘Edge Hill University’.

The University was granted Research Degree Awarding Powers (RDAP) by the Privy Council on 7 August 2008.

## Campus investment and expansion

In the last 20 years Edge Hill University has invested over £200m into expanding and improving the Ormskirk campus.

A key milestone in this expansion was the completion of an investment of £14m in the Facility of Health, social Care and Medicine (FHSCM) building. The expansion was finished in June 2008, winning a West Lancashire Design Award and the RICS Sustainable Building of the Year Award in 2009.

Other notable expansions were the opening of The Hub in 2011, which offers students food and drinks in a state-of-the-art building.

In 2013 Edge Hill University embarked on a series of campus investments, after securing 10 hectares of land to the east of the campus which enabled several expansion projects.

A new Business School was also built and Creative Edge - a £17m facility providing a new and innovative experience in terms of learning environment was developed, bringing together students and staff from the fields of media, film, PR, animation, advertising and computing.

The FHSCM building was awarded a West Lancashire Design Award and the RICS Sustainable Building of the Year Award in 2009.

The Sports Centre was completed in 2015, which includes an eight court sports hall. In 2016 the ‘Tech Hub’ was opened which provides teaching accommodation for science and technology projects. The Tech Hub includes the CAVE; the UK’s first super immersive High Definition 3D virtual environment, which provides students and businesses with the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in a virtual room.

During this period the University expanded its offering of student accommodation – from 2,091 rooms in 2015/16 to more than 2,300 rooms in 2021/22.

By January 2010 there were over 14,500 students enrolled at Edge Hill University.

The most recent development is the new library, careers and student services centre – known as Catalyst – which opened in 2018. This investment of £27m provides a 50% increase in study space and 24-hour access for students.

## The University today

Edge Hill University offers more than 160 different undergraduate courses across three faculties\*.

\*The Complete University Guide (2022) Available at: <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/universities/edge-hill-university>

Faculty of Arts and Science:

Biology, Business School, Computer Science, Performing Arts, Geography, Language Centre, Law and Criminology, Media English, History and Creative Writing, Psychology, Social Sciences, Sports and Physical Activity.

Faculty of Education:

Early Years Education, Children, Education and Communities, Professional Learning, Secondary and Further Education.

Faculty of Health, Social Care and Medicine:

Applied Health and Social Care, Medicine, Midwifery, Nursing, Operating Department Practice, Paramedic Practice, Social Work, Postgraduate and Professional Development, Continuing Professional Development Modules.

Proportion of full-time undergraduates per faculty:

Faculty of Health, Social Care and Medicine 31%

Faculty of Education 17%

Faculty of Arts and Science 52%

The Faculty of Education has a well-established national reputation for the delivery of high-quality Initial Teacher Training (ITT) across the full range of age phases alongside a substantial track record in supporting partner schools and colleges in school improvement initiatives.

Edge Hill University remains well known for its programmes in education and teaching, but today the Faculty of Arts and Sciences accounts for the majority of undergraduate students, who are enrolled on courses ranging from biology to computer science and law.

The Faculty of Health, Social Care and Medicine is also one of the largest providers of health and social care education and professional development in the North West of England. Through the leading-edge Clinical Skills and Simulation Centre with industry standard equipment and the various programmes and CPD modules offered, future and existing nurses, surgeons, physicians, advanced clinical practitioners and social workers are provided with a unique and realistic learning experience which replicates real-world conditions. Once qualified, graduates from the Faculty of Health, Social Care and Medicine are equipped with the skills to be both flexible and adaptable, and meet today and tomorrow’s needs.

With an extensive range of education and health programmes, Edge Hill University is providing the next generation of key workers.

Despite the decline in the number of 18 year olds in the UK population and increased competition within the Higher Education (HE) sector, full-time undergraduate applications to the University have continued to rise highlighting its appeal to prospective students.

In 2011/12 applications to study at Edge Hill were up by 7% compared to a downturn of 10% across the country, making Edge Hill one of only four universities to record an increase in demand for places following the introduction of higher tuition fees.

## An award-winning university

Edge Hill University is one of the select few universities to have held the University of the Year title, awarded by Times Higher Education (THE) in 2014/15.

The University was awarded title of the modern University of the Year award by The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022. This award highlights the University’s continuous investment in modernising the University to enhance the student experience. Furthermore, the award highlights the University’s investment in improving the quality of teaching and further improving facilities to ensure students can meet the demands of a competitive labour market.

Prior to this the University was named as the University of the Year in the Educate North Awards 2020/21. The University was awarded this for the University’s commitment to delivering an exceptional student experience and for and for its exceptional progress.

The University’s commitment to enhancing the student experience was further illustrated by being shortlisted for the Outstanding Support for Students and Outstanding Contribution to the Local Community in the Times Higher Education Awards 2021. The University was also a finalist in the National Housing Awards 2019 for the Best University Halls and in 2018, the University was named Best Value for Money in the National Student Housing Awards.

The UK Student Experience Survey in 2018 indicated that Edge Hill University offers the best student experience in the North West. At the national level Edge Hill University is ranked as joint second place nationally for the quality of the environment on campus and holds joint third place nationally for having highquality facilities.

The University has also been named University of the Year for Student Retention by The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018, who wrote that the institution is “firmly establishing itself among the top post-1992 universities”.

Edge Hill is ranked as Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), the Government’s evaluation of excellence in teaching quality, learning environment and student outcomes. Gold is the highest possible TEF rating, indicating that the institution is “of the highest quality found in the UK” and is “delivering consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its students.”\*

\* The Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TEF): A short guide to the 2018 awards (Office for Students, 2018)

## The future of Edge Hill University

Building on its significant rate of growth and the successes achieved in recent years, Edge Hill University continues to plan for significant investment, campus remodelling and expanding its programme of studies to satisfy a wide range of students’ interests.

### A growing Medical School

A key milestone in the University’s growth plan has been the delivery of its new Medical School. In 2017 the Secretary of State for Health announced that Edge Hill University will be one of only three new freestanding Medical Schools in the country and the only one in the North West region.

Training undergraduate medical students from 2020 with a foundation year available from 2019; the Medical School provides training for doctors for the North West. The Medical School partnership network that includes NHS Trusts, GP practices, Integrated Care Boards, local councils and patients is a vital part of the development of the School. The University’s Medical School provides a new generation of doctors, nurses, surgeons and advanced clinical practitioners who understand the needs of local communities and can respond to and drive forward new models of care when undertaking diagnosis, patient care and medical procedures.

The Faculty of Health, Social Care and Medicine is expected to grow with the potential to expand the offer and add to the extensive list of programmes and CPD modules for paramedics, operating department practitioners and psychological wellbeing practitioners.

In embracing the growth of the Medical School, Edge Hill University will positively contribute to the Levelling Up themes and missions set out by the Government (particularly missions 6, 7 and 8 which focus on high-quality skills training and health and wellbeing inequalities). Through providing nurses, teachers, doctors, social workers and police in addition to the growing STEM base, the University will continue to play an instrumental role in supporting the delivery of the Levelling Up agenda.

### Contributing to research

Edge Hill University has a desire to expand upon the University’s ‘vocational-led learning’ approach towards a more research-led University.

In order to achieve this, the University aims to enrol a larger number of students in Postgraduate Research (PGR) programmes. There has already been progress in this area - in the 2016/17 academic year there were 156 registered on doctoral research degrees and MPhil degrees, compared to just 54 in the 2011/12 academic year. In the 2020/21 academic year, there were 260 PGR students in total (full time and part time combined), which is a further increase from the 2016/17 academic year.

The significant growth and quality of Edge Hill’s research portfolio is reflected in the latest Research Excellence Framework results for 2021, with 62% of the University’s research outputs assessed in the top two categories, in comparison to 40% in the 2014 cycle. All submissions demonstrated some 4\* (the highest grading possible) for both outputs and impact. The institution has also benefitted from an increased amount in funding during the REF period (2014-2021), up by 159%.

### A larger student population

Population projections for the North West region forecast that the 18-21 age cohort will decline in the short term, from 354,000 in 2018 to 338,000 in 2023\*.

\*ONS (2022) Population Projections

It is expected, therefore, that there will be less demand for university places, as this is typically the age group that makes up the largest proportion of the student population. Beyond 2025, however, the 18-21 age cohort is projected to increase again, to approximately 398,000 by 2032\*.

\*Ibid

### A bigger employee base

Based on Edge Hill University’s expectations for growth in demand for different types of academic courses, it is estimated that 353 additional employees add will be required by 2030/31 to support the University’s growth.

### A sustainable campus

For well over a decade, campus development has taken place using sustainable technologies and initiatives, integrating energy and resource efficiency into building design and into the campus as a whole through the district heating systems and water capture and recycling networks using the campus lakes. Edge Hill is committed to investing in environmentally sustainable technologies and improvements across the estate to improve environmental performance.

# Chapter two: Economic and social impacts

The following assessment demonstrates the economic and social value of Edge Hill University to the local economy in West Lancashire, as well as to the North West region and the UK’s economy.

All calculations reflect Edge Hill University’s current impacts, as of 2021\*.

\* See Appendix 2 for further detail on the assessment methodology

The impact of the University is considered across four themes:

• Economic impacts associated with the campus expansion, 2016 to 2021.

• Core economic contribution of Edge Hill University.

• Economic and social contributions generated by the University’s student population.

• Edge Hill University as a community asset in Ormskirk.

# Economic impacts associated with the campus expansion, 2016 to 2021

Over a five-year timeframe between 2016 and 2021, Edge Hill University invested £68.99m in expanding and improving its Ormskirk campus. By doing so, the University now offers an improved student experience and state-of-the-art equipment to complement students’ learning.

This substantial level of financial investment was directly responsible for producing a boost in the local economy in West Lancashire and the North West region, particularly in the construction and related industries.

The upgrading of the Ormskirk campus generated approximately 80 full-time equivalent (FTE) construction jobs, both on and off-site, per annum, between 2016 and 2021. Taking into account the secondary impact that the investment has had on the construction supply chain – known as multiplier effects – a further 40 FTE jobs were supported across the North West between the same time-frame. Therefore, the construction activity at the campus generated 120 FTE construction-related jobs.

The economic impact of the construction activity can also be expressed in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA). The direct GVA generated through the campus expansion totals £7.1m, inclusive of £5.5m for West Lancashire per annum between 2016 and 2021.

“Since 2016, around £69m has been invested in upgrading Edge Hill University’s Ormskirk campus”.

## Net FTE construction employment – per annum, 2016-2021

### North West region

Construction period (years) – 6

Direct net additional employment (FTE) – 80

Indirect / induced employment in impact area (FTE) – 40

Net additional employment (total FTE) – 120

### North West region

Direct GVA generation - £4.1m

Indirect / induced employment GVA generation - £2.95m

Net additional impact (total GVA) - £5.5m

### West Lancashire

Direct GVA generation - £4.1m

Indirect / induced employment GVA generation - £1.36m

Net additional impact (total GVA) - £7.1m

# Core economic contribution of Edge Hill University

This section of the assessment presents the economic contribution of Edge Hill University as a result of its typical day-to-day operations.

The total economic contribution comprises both direct and multiplier effects – known as indirect and induced effects – as explained in the following table.

Direct economic impact - the economic contribution generated by the operation of the University

+

Indirect economic impact - the economic impact of the University’s expenditure in its supply chain

+

Induced economic impact - the economic impact generated by the spending of staff salaries

=

Total economic impact

The economic contribution of Edge Hill University is measured and presented using two widely accepted measures of economic impacts:

• Gross Value Added (GVA) – a standard measure of economic productivity.\*

• Employment – measured by the number of jobs supported.

\* The Office for National Statistics defines GVA as: ‘Gross Value Added (GVA) is a measure of the increase in the value of the economy due to the production of goods and services. It is measured at current basic prices, which include the effect of inflation, excluding taxes (less subsidies) on products (for example, Value Added Tax)’.

## Direct economic contribution

### Current impact

Economic productivity - Edge Hill University’s total income was £130.1m in the academic year 2020/21.\* After taking account of the total expenditure spent on running the University, such as utilities and other operating expenses, it is calculated the University’s direct GVA in 2020/21 was £90.1m.

\*Edge Hill University (2021), Statement of Accounts

Employment - Edge Hill University is the largest employer in the West Lancashire borough.\*

The University currently employs 2,025 individual members of staff (including both full and part time), comprising both academic and support teams. As some individuals are employed on a part-time basis, it is calculated that the University employs a total of 1,691 full-time equivalent staff (FTE), comprising 778 FTE academic staff and a further 913 FTE administrative staff.

\*West Lancashire Borough Council, West Lancashire Employment and Skills Fact Sheet, September 2017.

Direct economic contribution of Edge Hill University in the 2020/2021 academic year:

Gross direct GVA - £90.1m

Direct employment - 1,691 FTE staff

### Forecast impact of growth

By the 2030/31 academic year, it is forecast that an additional 353 FTE employees will be required to accommodate Edge Hill University’s projected growth.

Based on the current GVA of Edge Hill University and its future plans to employ additional staff, it is calculated that in 2030/31, the University’s direct GVA will be £108m.

Direct economic contribution of Edge Hill University in the 2030/31 academic year:

Gross direct GVA - £108m

Direct employment - 2,042 FTE staff

## Indirect economic contribution: the University’s supply chains

### Current impact

Edge Hill University also makes an important indirect contribution to the economy through the purchasing of goods and services.

In the 2020/21 academic year, the University spent a total of £23m with its suppliers.

As part of the University’s Sustainable Procurement Policy, Edge Hill University places emphasis on spending with local suppliers.

Of the total amount spent by the University in 2020/21, £3.2m was spent with suppliers which are located in West Lancashire borough, equivalent to approximately one seventh of all supplier spending. Therefore, a significant proportion of the economic benefits associated with expenditure are captured within the West Lancashire district. This has multiple benefits for local business and service providers, the people that they employ and the health of the local economy more widely.

The following table demonstrates that the University generates £76.7m in indirect GVA per annum across the UK, of which £10.96m is retained within West Lancashire.

The economic activity generated by the University’s spending in its supply chain is also a source of employment. It is estimated that the University supports a further 845 FTE jobs across the UK, of which 121 FTE jobs are located within West Lancashire borough.

Current indirect economic impacts:

Indirect GVA generation

West Lancashire borough:

Indirect GVA £10.96m

Indirect employment (FTE) 121

Lancashire:

Indirect GVA £25.2m

Indirect employment (FTE) 338

Lancashire and Liverpool City Region:

Indirect GVA - £47.4m

Indirect employment (FTE) 633

North West:

Indirect GVA £60.4m

Indirect employment (FTE) 760

UK:

Indirect GVA £76.7m

Indirect employment (FTE) 845

### Forecast impact of growth

Assuming that the University continues its Sustainable Procurement Policy and the same proportion of supplier spending is directed towards businesses in West Lancashire, it is estimated that by 2030/31, the University’s indirect GVA will total £92.8m, therefore an uplift of £6.3m. Of the £52.1m, approximately £13.3m will benefit the local economy in West Lancashire.

The economic activity generated by the University’s indirect economic impact will support 1,021 FTE jobs across the UK, of which 146 will be located in West Lancashire. This represents an uplift of 176 FTE jobs, inclusive of an additional 25 FTE jobs supported in West Lancashire borough.

Forecast indirect economic impacts:

Indirect GVA generation

West Lancashire borough:

Indirect GVA £13.3m

Indirect employment (FTE) 146

Lancashire:

Indirect GVA £27.7m

Indirect employment (FTE) 373

Lancashire and Liverpool City Region:

Indirect GVA - £54.8m

Indirect employment (FTE) 733

North West:

Indirect GVA £71.8m

Indirect employment (FTE) 903

UK:

Indirect GVA £92.8m

Indirect employment (FTE) 1,021

## Induced economic contribution: the contribution generated by the University’s employees

### Current impact

The University currently employs 2,025 individual members of staff (including both full and part time), comprising both academic and support teams, and the University’s gross wage expenditure was £81.8m in the 2020/21 financial year.\*

The vast majority (90%) of the University’s employees live in the North West region,meaning that the induced economic impacts that they generate through the spending of their salaries mostly occur in this area. Of those living in the North West region, 75% reside in Lancashire and Merseyside and 29% reside specifically in West Lancashire borough.

Applying data on average expenditure on retail and leisure in the North West region, it can be estimated that Edge Hill University’s employees’ spending supports an additional 159 FTE jobs across the UK economy, inclusive of 26 in West Lancashire. This level of economic activity generates £8.5m in GVA annually across the UK economy, of which £1.3m directly benefits the West Lancashire local economy.

\* Edge Hill University (2021), Statement of Accounts

Employment at Edge Hill University, comparison to local trends:

Edge Hill University has an annual wage bill of £81.8m and employs 2,025 individual staff.

This is equivalent to an average mean salary of £40,395 per annum.

The average full-time average salary for residents in West Lancashire is £29,454.

66% of the University’s staff are considered to be employed in ‘professional occupations’.

The average proportion of people employed in ‘professional occupations’ in West Lancashire is 19%.

The above data indicates that the University’s employee base is highly-skilled and therefore well compensated, compared to the borough averages.

### Forecast impact of growth

As highlighted earlier in the assessment, it is calculated that the University will need to employ an additional 353 FTE employees. Therefore, the induced impact of employee spending will be larger in the forecast position.

It is estimated that the forecast induced economic impact will support a total of 192 FTE jobs across the UK economy, inclusive of 32 in West Lancashire. The associated GVA will total £10.3m across the UK, of which approximately £1.6m will directly benefit the local economy in West Lancashire borough.

### Current induced economic impacts:

Indirect GVA generation

West Lancashire borough:

Induced GVA £1.3m

Induced employment (FTE) 26

Lancashire:

Induced GVA £2.0m

Induced employment (FTE) 40

Lancashire and Liverpool City Region:

Induced GVA - £5.6m

Induced employment (FTE) 111

North West:

Induced GVA £7.7m

Induced employment (FTE) 151

UK:

Induced GVA £8.5m

Induced employment (FTE) 159

### Forecast induced economic impacts:

Indirect GVA generation

West Lancashire borough:

Indirect GVA £1.6m

Indirect employment (FTE) 32

Lancashire:

Indirect GVA £2.4m

Indirect employment (FTE) 48

Lancashire and Liverpool City Region:

Indirect GVA £6.7m

Indirect employment (FTE) 135

North West:

Indirect GVA £9.3m

Indirect employment (FTE) 183

UK:

Indirect GVA £10.3m

Indirect employment (FTE) 192

## Total economic contribution

Combining the direct, indirect and induced economic impacts it is calculated that the total current economic impact of Edge Hill University is £175.9m, and supports a total of 2,695 FTE jobs across the country, including 1,691 FTE jobs directly at the University.

It is forecast that in 2030/31 the total economic impact of the University will generate £211.1m in GVA, and support 3,255 FTE jobs across the UK economy.

Current (2021/22)

£90.1m GVA Direct + £76.7m GVA Indirect £8.5m GVA Induced = £175.9m GVA

1,691 FTE jobs Direct + 845 FTE jobs Indirect 159 FTE jobs Induced = 2,695 FTE jobs

Forecast (2030/31)

£108.0m GVA Direct + £92.8m GVA Indirect £10.3m GVA Induced = £211.1m GVA

2,042 FTE jobs Direct + 1,021 FTE jobs Indirect 192 FTE jobs Induced = 3,255 FTE jobs

## Contributions to research

Alongside teaching activities, the University’s academic staff dedicate significant time to research activities furthering society’s knowledge and understanding of important subjects, from literature to biology.

Since 2011/12, Edge Hill University has made a strong commitment to research by growing the size of its postgraduate research community. The number of PhDs awarded has grown 250% in the most recent Research Excellence Framework census period. In the 2016/17 academic year there were 156 registered on doctoral research degrees and MPhil degrees, compared to just 54 in the 2011/12 academic year. In the 2020/21 cohort, there were 276 students studying for a PhD.

The recent REF results for 2021 are a testament to Edge Hill University’s commitment to growth and quality of research. The University was up 21 points for improvement in research power with all submissions rated 4\* for research outputs and impact.

The University has recently established a Data Science STEM Research Centre, as a forum to share thinking and support interdisciplinary work that blends the expertise of the biology, computer science and geography departments, which particular emphasis on data science approaches.

The centre aspires to be a bold presence in the North West region and beyond, working with its members and the University to create an inclusive research environment.

## Contributions to research

Examples of current research projects at Edge Hill University

### The new role for retail in town centre regeneration

Professor Kim Cassidy was commissioned as the sole academic contributor to The Grimsey Review 2 (2018) and the subsequent Build Back Better Covid supplement (2020) to identify and report on barriers to town centre regeneration and making recommendations for change in town centre policy.

This research was invaluable and involved collating and evaluating evidence based on best practice from towns around the UK and Europe, which were used to frame recommendations with a demonstrable impact on national policy and direction and local planning and action.

The research team:

• Edge Hill University – Professor Kim Cassidy, Professor of Services (Retail)marketing, Sole Academic Contributor.

• Bill Grimsey, Retailer; Matthew Hopkinson, Research and Data; Nick Hood, Risk Analyst; Eva Pascoe, Technology; Chris Shellard, Public Sector and Regeneration; Jackie Sadek, Property and Regeneration; Vanessa Dehullu, Officer Roeselare Government; and Matt Baker, Communication Consultant.

### Informing policies, strategies and action on mosquito vector control and surveillance

Dr Clare Strode’s research on malaria prevention has been described by Public Health England as making a vital contribution to UK preparedness and response to vector borne disease.

The research has acted as evidence to inform international mosquito management strategies of the WHO and other leading non-profit organisations. It has contributed to stronger surveillance activities in the UK and informed national contingency planning. The research has formed the basis of a public engagement and education campaign in Colombia to strengthen understanding amongst the local population of the mosquito threat and risk of insecticide resistance.

The research team:

• Edge Hill University – Dr Clare Strode, Reader in Vector Biology.

### Antibiotic resistance investigations

In collaboration with the Colombian research institute CorpoGen, Dr Lorena Fernández-Martínez and her team are studying three new Streptomyces strains isolated from previously unexplored and unique environments in Columbia.

The growing incidence of antibiotic resistance has become one of the most pressing issues in medicine and affects the health and wellbeing of millions of people worldwide. The research team is seeking to understand how compounds are produced by the Streptomyces strains. This will enable the team to increase the amount of antibiotics made by the bacteria, as well as generate new variants with higher efficacy.

The research team:

• Edge Hill University – Dr Lorena FernándezMartínez, Principal Investigator and Senior Lecturer in Microbial Genetics, and Linamaria Pintor-Escobar, Research Assistance.

• CorpoGen, Columbia: Martha Cepeda, Research Scientist and Dr Maria Mecedes Zambrano, Scientific Director.

### Open source software

Open source software (OSS) was introduced in the late 1990s, and is a type of computer software that enables users such as independent researchers and developers to freely access and modify the source code under a licence.

CrossMiner is a three-year project funded by the European Commission’s Horizon 2020 framework. The project aims to investigate and develop methods beyond the current state-of-the-art for OSS assessment.

The Edge Hill team is leading the text analysis aspect of the CrossMiner project which involves assessing data from a variety of sources: code repositories, bug trackers,mailing lists, discussion fora and question and answer websites for programmers. Analysing the activity on these channels in a combined manner allows investigators to draw conclusions about the maturity of the project, the size of developer community, how often new versions are released and how efficiently bugs are fixed. The project outputs will significantly benefit the software developing industry as well as any organisation wishing to adopt OSS. Eclipse, one of CrossMiner’s partners is the provider of the popular Java Integrated Development Environment.

The research team:

• Edge Hill University: Dr Yannis Korkontzelos, Professor Nik Bessis and Dr Luis Adrian Cabrera Diego.

• In the UK: Mr Scott Hansen, Project Coordinator, The Open Group; Professor Dimitris Kolovos and Dr Konstantinos Barmpis, University of York.

• Global partners: University of L’Aquila, Italy; OW2 consortium and Softeam, France; Eclipse Foundation, Germany; Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece; Frontendart, Hungary; Centrum Wiskunde and Informatica, Netherlands; Bitergia, Spain; Unparallel, Portugal.

# Economic and social contributions generated by the University’s student population

This section considers both the economic and social impact of the activities of the student body, including student spending and volunteering, as well as the wider social value of the University.

This section of the report introduces the University’s student population, and then assesses the economic and social impact of student activity across four themes:

1. Student expenditure on goods and services

2. The social value of promoting local skills and employment

3. Student volunteering

4. Graduation ceremonies

## Edge Hill University’s student population

In the 2020/21 academic year, 11,643 fulltime students and 2,994 part-time students were enrolled on courses at Edge Hill University, equating 14,637 total students.

### Students enrolled at Edge Hill University, 2020/21 academic year

Undergraduates:

Full-time students 10,087

Part-time students 570

Postgraduate taught:

Full-time students 1,408

Part-time students 2,309

Postgraduate research:

Full-time students 148

Part-time students 115

Sub-total:

Full-time students 11,643

Part-time students 2,994

Total of all students at Edge Hill University 14,637

### Edge Hill University’s student population – key facts

Edge Hill University’s student population – key facts

Edge Hill University’s students give the University a satisfaction score of 80%

The University has a high proportion of female students, 31%are male

96% of graduates in work or further study 15months after graduation

74% of the students are undergraduates 26% are postgraduates

22% of all students attend on a part-time basis

## Student locations: home and term-time

Approximately 88% of all students attending the University are originally from the North West region. Almost 100% of students are from the UK.

### Home and term

During term-time nearly all students reside in the North West region and approximately half live within West Lancashire, reflecting that many students choose to attend the University while continuing to reside at their home location.

This data indicates that the vast majority of the economic and social impacts generated by student activity, for instance their spending, volunteering and part-time work will occur in the North West region. The beneficial social and economic impacts of the University will also be concentrated locally, with approximately half of all impacts contained in West Lancashire.

Home and term-time locations of Edge Hill University’s students:

Home locations:

North West 88%

Yorkshire 3%

West Midlands 3%

East Midlands 1%

South East 1%

North East 1%

East of England 1%

London 1%

South West 1%

Term-time locations:

North West 86.1%

West Lancashire 19.1%

Liverpool 10.2%

Sefton 8.9%

Wigan 6.1%

St Helens 4.1%

Knowsley 3.7%

Wirral 3.0%

### Post-graduation

Edge Hill University’s graduates tend to reside in an even more concentrated geography as compared to before their studies. This demonstrates that graduates are choosing to remain living and working in West Lancashire and across the North West region. On average, 80% of the University’s graduates remain in the North West after graduation.\* These graduates make an ongoing contribution to the economic performance of the local area and the region.

\* HESA DLHE Full-time UG UK domiciled EHU leavers – average over last 4 years

## Economic impacts of student expenditure

Data on student spending has been used to calculate Edge Hill University students’ total annual expenditure on leisure activities, retail and transport.\*

\*Average Edge Hill University student expenditure estimates source from Which? University’s Student Budget Calculator

Edge Hill University’s student population currently has an annual expenditure totalling £83.8m, of which approximately £44.0m is spent directly within the local economy of West Lancashire.

### Current expenditure

This level of spending is estimated to support approximately 539 FTE jobs in the North West’s leisure, retail and transport sectors.\* Given that the majority of expenditure occurs within West Lancashire, student spending helps to sustain a range of jobs in Ormskirk and the wider borough.

\*Analysis utilises turnover per employee figure for the individual retail; accommodation & food; transport & storage; and arts, entertainment & recreation sectors, alongside an average of these sectors and of all industrial sectors from the BPE 2017 North West regional data.

### Forecast expenditure

By 2030/31, Edge Hill University’s total student expenditure is projected to increase to £106.9m, which will support the employment of 680 FTEs across the North West region.

Economic impacts of student spending:

Current impact of student spending (2021)

Expenditure £83.8m

Jobs supported 539

Forecast impact of student spending (2031)

Expenditure £106.9m

Jobs supported 680

## The social value of promoting local skills and employment

### What is social value?

Social value refers to the financial and non-financial impacts of an organisation’s activities. This can include the wellbeing of individuals and communities as well as social capital and the environment.

### Quantifying social value impacts

In response to the 2015 Government review of the Social Value Act and the identified need for a measurement standard to support better and wider implementation of the Social Value Act, the National Themes Outcomes and Measures (TOMs) Framework for social value measurement was launched in 2017 and updated in 2021.

The aim of the National TOMs Framework is to provide a minimum reporting standard for measuring social value.

The National TOMs social value proxies (the proxy values) are developed from adaptations of cost benefit analysis and appraisal techniques as outlined in the Treasury Green Book and other relevant public-sector guidelines such as the Unit Cost Database by New Economy Manchester. Proxy values (£) are applied to the relevant unit increase (e.g., no. of volunteering hours) to generate the net additional social value for each relevant measure.

### The social value of improving employability of young people

Edge Hill University recognises employability as an essential component of students’ experience and careers, with departments from across the whole University, playing a vital role in ensuring that our graduates are well prepared to succeed in a competitive labour market.

Edge Hill provides career development support for students which include one-to-one advice and organising career development events aimed at supporting young people into employment.

In 2020/21 Careers department had:

• 1,252 booked appointments.

• 1,516 questions answered.

• 1,333 students engaging with events.

In addition to the above, 8,641 students received skills and employment support through inputs delivered as part of curriculum groups. This equates to approximately 255.5 hours of inputs to support young people into work delivered over the year. The social value attributed to Edge Hill for offering this support to young people is £26,955 per annum.\*

\*Calculated based on data received from Edge Hill University and the TOMs Framework for Social Value (2021), NT11

### The social value of local people in employment

Edge Hill employs 678 FTE staff who live in West Lancashire. The University supports employment of local residents. Based on the TOMs Framework, there are economic benefits associated with local people in employment. The social value attributed to Edge Hill for offering this level of local employment opportunities is £10.67m per annum.\*

\*Calculated based on data received from Edge Hill University and the TOMs Framework for Social Value (2021), NT1

Summary of Edge Hill University’s social value impacts generated by promoting local skills and employment

Number of hours dedicated to support young people into work such as CV advice, mock interviews, careers guidance (under 24 years)

£26,955 per annum

Number of local direct employees (FTE) hired for one year or the whole duration of the contract

£10.67m per annum

Total £10.7m per annum

### The social value of students in part-time work

Many students engage in part-time work during their studies. The number of students employed by the University has grown substantially.

Edge Hill University advertises internal and external part-time job opportunities through the University’s vacancy system, and hosts workshops to provide students with the tools to successfully apply for employment. In addition to the part-time jobs created by the University, additional part time job adverts are placed on the vacancy system. As of February 2022, 201 student part-time vacancies were advertised on the vacancy portal with 18 of these vacancies supplied by Edge Hill University.

Edge Hill University does not collect or track the number of students participating in part-time work. However, in 2020/21 the part-time adviser had a total of 267 interactions related to part-time opportunities (153 of which were through appointments and 114 were questions addressed). Due to the nature of the TOMs framework used for calculating the social value, the information available does not allow the calculation of a social value associated related to students in part-time work which can be attributed to Edge Hill.\*

\*Reliable data was not available at the time of the assessment to calculate the social value impact of students working part-time

## The social value of student volunteering

There is an intrinsic social value generated by students who volunteer to support charitable causes. This section showcases a selection of case studies of students’ volunteering activities. Edge Hill University actively promotes student participation in volunteering by advertising opportunities on its internal online portal. The University also hosts an annual Volunteer of the Year award.

Edge Hill University has one FTE job post dedicated to supporting volunteers. This role, called a ‘Volunteer Adviser’, involves encouraging students to participate in volunteering within their local neighbourhoods, and to establish links with local community organisations. Volunteering advisers make contact and build relationships with organisations within 20miles of Edge Hill so as to set up volunteer opportunities for students to take up.

Edge Hill University provides a range of support to provide students with volunteering opportunities. These include providing a specific section for volunteering opportunities on the Careers Vacancies Portal, contacting third sector organisations for volunteering and providing volunteering advice through a volunteer advisor.

In April 2022, there were 87 volunteering opportunities listed on the Careers Vacancies Portal. Before 2019, around 180 third sector organisations were contacted for volunteering opportunities. Between 2019 – 2022, an additional 35 organisations have been contacted.

Edge Hill University undertook a Local Community Impact Assessment in 2015 which demonstrated that 97% of organisations felt that Edge Hill volunteers had made a positive contribution to the local community.

In 2020/21 the university ran a Volunteering Award and an Employability Award entitled ‘Competitive Edge’. In 2021/22 the university have combined the award and re-named it ‘Extra Edge Award’. For this award, students can log 40 hours of volunteering or part-time work to gain points towards the award.

Due to the nature of the TOMS framework, the information available does not allow the calculation of a social value associated with the social value of volunteering.\*

\*Reliable data was not available at the time of the assessment to calculate the social value impact of students volunteering

## Student volunteering case studies

### A Volunteer’s Viewpoint

#### Gail Ennis

- Year 2 BA (Hons) Childhood Youth Studies and Criminology

- Gold Level

IMB (International Monitoring Board) and NSPCC/ Childline

I currently volunteer for two charities. The IMB – International Monitoring Board and the NSPCC/ Childline. I had committed to starting a degree and my promise to myself was to embrace every opportunity and advice that Edge Hill University could offer. I am studying BA Childhood Youth Studies and Criminology, and my inspiration to volunteer came with starting university and from my son who is also an Edge Hill University student. I could see how much enjoyment and reward he had gained from his dedication to volunteering on the university allotment and with the National Trust.

During my first year studies, I was aware of a module for my second year called work based learning which includes having to find a work placement that is relevant to the degree you are studying. I knew my first year at university would fly by and I decided to begin research early surrounding the kind of place I would like to volunteer and work, also thinking about the long-term benefits of any placement that I applied for. I immediately applied for the roles not only because it was very relevant to the child study side of my degree but also because in my previous career as a police officer, I had worked with families and children dealing first hand with children who had been mistreated. I knew if I was successful in my application that I felt I could make a difference to children’s lives by volunteering whilst also gaining new skills.

These two volunteer roles are both of a sensitive nature, both are an absolute privilege to volunteer for. I enjoy giving up my time to volunteer with these charities in the hope I can make a difference to people’s lives. Even though these roles are very different, they are both very rewarding. I have felt very proud of myself that I have adapted my volunteering around the pandemic and managed to still volunteer online from home.

#### Alba Thomas Santamaria

- Year 2 BA (Hons) Teaching, Learning and Child Development

Cancer Research

I started volunteering for Cancer Research because I wanted to find something that would give me the experience and learn new skills that I need for my future career. I come from a different country, where people do not work until they have graduated or volunteering is not something people do.

I had previously volunteered for them when I was at sixth form when the head of boarding suggested to me about doing this as it would help me in the future. However I had to stop to concentrate on my A Levels. When I started I was quite lost as I had never worked/ volunteered so it was something completely new. I was very nervous and my confidence was not very good. My role at the shop was collecting donations, steam, hang and tilts. There is always something to do that will enhance different skills and you will never get bored as there are always donations to collect or clothes to sort out.

Volunteering has really given me the chance of improving my communication skills, time management and working under pressure. Once I started to notice that I could do it well, I began to feel good about myself and my self esteem did improve. Not only that I have also made friends, which I still keep in contact with.

I highly recommend this as it will really help you boost your confidence and it gives you the opportunity to get out of you comfort zone.

#### Laura Baldwin

- Year 3 BA (Hons) Working & Teaching in the Early Years

I began volunteering around eight years ago, initially supporting children aged five-six years, but this soon expanded after developing a passion for educating children and young people. I became well known to the staff in the setting, and was regularly asked to support teaching assistants who cover teacher PPA time, as well as included in staff numbers for trips and events and asked to organise the music for numerous school productions. This enabled me to work with a wider range of age groups, spanning from three years to seven years old. By working alongside a number of individuals, including a headteacher, Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator (SENDCO), teaching assistants and Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Year 1 and Year 2 teachers, I both improved my existing skills and acquired new ones which encouraged me to enrol in studies that would later lead to acquisition of qualified teacher status (QTS).

Primarily, my role was to support the learning and development of the children I was working with. This would include nursery, reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children. I completed daily tasks within the setting, such as setting up the classroom, preparing resources, implementing activities and marking and filing class work. More recently, I have begun leading my own phonics group. My role here was, and continues to be, to ensure the children can recognise letters and sounds in words. In doing this, I have aided the learning to read and write process.

My extensive volunteering will aid my career, by providing me with certain skills and knowledge that can only be gained through practical experience. I believe I now have in-depth knowledge and understanding of both the EYFS and national curriculum frameworks, with practical experience of how they should be implemented inside and outside the classroom. On another note, undertaking lengthy volunteer work in one educational setting has created new professional contacts. As a result, I am known to other education providers in the area, such as the leader of the SCITT programme and teachers in other educational settings. I consider these to be the benefits of the volunteering experience, which are likely to aid me in the process of finding a full-time teaching position upon graduation of my degree and completion of the North West SCITT early years programme.

#### Eleanor Rowell

- Year 2 BA (Hons) Sociology

STRIVE

I have volunteered with Edge Hill University as a Student Representative and as a Telephone/Virtual Volunteer with STRIVE. Within this case study I intent to explore my experience with STRIVE specifically. STRIVE is a non-profit organisation which works alongside the police to contact, support and signpost people who have been involved in a domestic incident.

I first found out about STRIVE after attending a virtual seminar with the organisation through Edge Hill University, something which had been promoted to me through an opportunitiesbased email from my department (Social Sciences). After attending the seminar and discovering what the charity involves and how it helps people, I registered my interest in working with the charity.

My volunteering position has provided me with the opportunity to develop my interpersonal skills, resilience, and awareness skills to name a few. Listening to those who have been involved in a domestic incident, thinking quickly about the best course of action which will provide maximum benefit, and implementing skills from training which allows me to feel assured in my decisions and provisions of signposting and support, are key skills that I have developed within this role. I feel that these skills, and gaining confidence within a professional environment are transferable and will be an asset to future endeavours which I intend to explore within my career development.

I have gained a firm sense of belonging and drive from my volunteer role with STRIVE. The charity ethos which focuses intently on the wellbeing of those we are helping, as well as the staff and volunteers is one which I cherish. Some of the content which is involved in training and the cases within this role further fuel my passion for social action, support, and wellbeing within our society (both globally and locally). In addition to this, I have gained further insight and education into diversity and the importance of taking each individual and their situation/environment into consideration. This allows me to tailor the support and signposting that I provide to help achieve the best outcome for each individual.

I would advise all students (if possible) to give volunteering a go, specifically if there are opportunities for this in fields in which they are interested in, are passionate about or would provide the chance for professional development. There are so many opportunities out there and giving a couple of hours each week/month can be so valuable to ourselves and to organisations too. Choose something which fits in your time availabilities, with work and study and does not overstretch you though feels valuable to you also.

### Students challenge stigma of mental health and illness

In 2017 sports development and management students developed and delivered a range of sports-based events with high profile partners, such as State of Mind Sport as part of National Student Mental Health Day.

Students taking the Working in Sport, Physical Activity and Health module worked with external organisations on a 12-week project that explored the connections between mental and physical health. Under the theme of ‘Active Mental Health’ the students designed a programme of activities, including workshops, sport and physical activity sessions and mental health awareness stalls and monitored and evaluated the event to measure its impact. Nearly 3,000 people were engaged in student-led activities as part of Edge Hill’s Student Mental Health Day, and more than 1,200 people were reached via Twitter and Facebook, which were used to promote and engage others in the activities.

Applying the TOMs framework, the volunteering activity involved on Student Mental Health Day is equivalent to approximately £151,000.

“The students developed extra skills, knowledge and confidence about organising an event. I think they went away with extra awareness and knowledge and will feel more confident about talking about stigma and issues that up until fairly recently, haven’t been talked about.”

Malcolm Rae, State of Mind Sport charity

More recently, in March 2021, the University organised a Mental Health Day to encourage students to challenge the stigma of mental health by providing spaces for students to make their own badge, enjoy free cake and challenge sports.

## Contribution to the visitor economy

An additional economic impact is generated when friends and family pay a visit to students at Edge Hill University. This section captures an important part of the University’s contribution to the local visitor economy when people spend money in the local economy during graduation ceremonies.\*

\*Due to data limitations, this section focuses on the economic impact generated by friends and families attending graduation ceremonies, through it should be noted that the economic contribution to the visitor economy is likely to be higher as people visit ad hoc throughout the academic year.

### Economic impact of graduation ceremonies

The University holds graduation ceremonies twice per academic year, taking place in July and in December. However, over recent years the COVID-19 pandemic has meant that graduation ceremonies have been reduced in terms of number of guests permitted (limit of only 2 guests permitted per graduating student).

These events generate a short-term boost in economic activity in Ormskirk, as relatives and friends of the graduating students visit the area to attend the ceremonies. On average, two guests attend the graduation ceremonies per student.

Based on analysis of data collected by Visit Britain, it is estimated that the total expenditure by graduates and guests for ceremony events for three years (2019, 2020 and 2021) was £706,900.

This is equivalent to supporting four full-time jobs in Ormskirk for a whole year in the retail and leisure sectors. Local businesses in these sectors such as shops, hotels, restaurants and bars are supported by this short-term injection of spending in the local economy.

Graduates and guests attending ceremonies, 2019 and 2021

Graduands Guests Attending 2019 ceremonies 3,884 9,228 Attending 2021 ceremonies (2020 cohort) 2,836 5,807 Attending 2021 ceremonies (2021 cohort) 3,607 7,605 Source: Turley analysis based on data provided by Edge Hill University Expenditure and jobs supported as a result of graduation ceremony activity for two years Expenditure Jobs supported £706,900 Four full-time jobs in retail and leisure sectors

# Edge Hill University as a community asset in Ormskirk

## Campus facilities

## Working with community partners

## Edge Hill University Response to the COVID-19 pandemic

## Sustainability and ESG

# Conclusions

## Appendix 1: Glossary

## Appendix 2: Economic impact methodology