

Converge

Converge is a partnership between York St John University and local NHS mental health services offering education for adults with lived experience of mental ill-health, and provides an excellent working model for education and healthcare working together.



Est.
1841

YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY

ACTION & APPROACH

Converge consists of a support team including occupational therapists, associate practitioners and learning and access workers. Furthermore, Converge involves university students in the delivery of the courses.

Each term, approximately 150 people sign up for courses. A decisive difference has been language; people signing up to courses are students, rather than being labelled as “people with problems”.

IMPACT

Involving university students in delivery, and by focusing on education rather than therapy, the programme invites students to become part of the university community. Converge was nominated for an award from the Royal Society of Public Health.

QUOTES

“It’s been more of an organic process because it’s very unusual, but I’m hoping my role will now lead the way for other NHS organizations to take that leap of faith and do more innovative partnership work.” Emma McKenzie, Senior Occupational Therapist, with Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust.

“When we converge, if you like, or challenge those categories and we invite people into the university not only to be students with us but to be researchers, to be performers, to be tutors, then that begins to challenge the existing categories. Innovation begins, for me, often, when there’s a challenge to the settled categories for things.” Professor Nick Rowe, Director and Founder of Converge, York St John University.

SOURCES

[York St John University Case Study - Converge](#)
[The Converge evaluation project 2020-22](#)

