



# VOLUNTEER IT YOURSELF

YOUNG PEOPLE LEARNING CONSTRUCTION TRADE SKILLS WHILST HELPING THEIR COMMUNITY

OCTOBER 2020 UPDATE

## OVERVIEW

October has seen the restart of VIY's national programme of work with 220 secondary schools up to the end of March 2021 (in partnership with The Careers & Enterprise Company), targeting students at risk of exclusion and/or disengagement. We've also continued our project work with the GLA (Greater London Authority) and Sport England, and have now delivered 18 of the 100+ projects we're set to deliver in total nationwide over Sept 2020 - March 2021.

The nine projects we've completed in October have involved 139 young volunteers aged 14-24, 11 new trade skills mentors (local professional tradespeople), with 40% of the young learners typically achieving an Entry Level 3 City & Guilds qualification and 15% directly progressing to a further education, training or employment opportunity beyond VIY.

## The Careers & Enterprise Co. and VIY



Delivering skills workshops and build projects with secondary schools to develop young people's employability - five projects in October with schools in the West Midlands, East Midlands and East of England.



### SEWELL PARK ACADEMY, NORWICH

Building and donating benches and tables for use in the community

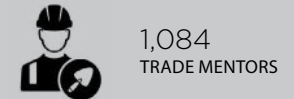
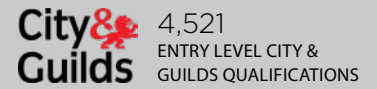


### ST BEDE'S MIDDLE SCHOOL, REDDITCH

Creating a new outdoor play area and shelter

Headteacher, St Bede's: "What an opportunity you have created for the students. You can't measure the value of what this project has added to their experience of school and broader development."

## VIY'S TRACK RECORD TO DATE



## PARTICIPANT CASE STUDY



Joseph Yohannes, 25, first took part in VIY at Croydon Rugby Club in Sept 2020. He was referred into VIY via YMCA Walthamstow, where he is a resident, and was not in permanent employment at the time he started with VIY. Joseph has since volunteered on a further two VIY projects and, having shown great appetite and a natural ability for the work, is now set to be employed as a Peer Mentor on future projects. "VIY has given me opportunities to meet new people and learn new skills which has increased my confidence and boosted my job prospects."



# GLA and VIY



Working with the GLA's Good Growth Fund and Young Londoners Fund to deliver regeneration projects together with youth training and employment outcomes



## THE BRIDGE PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT, HAMMERSMITH

Combining trade skills training with volunteering in the community for young people who are disengaged or excluded from mainstream education



## THE SOUND LOUNGE, SUTTON

Converting the ground floor of an old, empty high street bank building into a new community live music and performing arts venue. Supported by Dulux, Travis Perkins, Federation of Master Builders (through the mobilisation of FMB members as volunteer mentors) and Gap Hire Solutions.

Hannah White, Sound Lounge Manager: Our space has been completely transformed. The VIY lead mentors clearly developed an excellent relationship with the young people, some of whom had complex needs and backgrounds, getting the very best out of them. It was clear throughout that the mentors and young volunteers all felt a huge sense of pride in the brilliant work they were doing. Now, thanks to the project, our venue is welcoming, ready for use and also safe and extremely functional and accessible to wheelchair users. Working with VIY and the team was a great experience and it's been a pleasure to work with people who care.

Trey Bakas, VIY participant, aged 16: Volunteering at the Sound Lounge has really helped me as it has given me first hand experience of working on an actual project site and trying out different activities, supported by the mentors, and I've also achieved a City & Guilds accreditation.

Travis Perkins Group: Always a pleasure to work with @VIYproject supporting wonderful projects like @soundloungeCIC #somethingconstructive

# Sport England and VIY

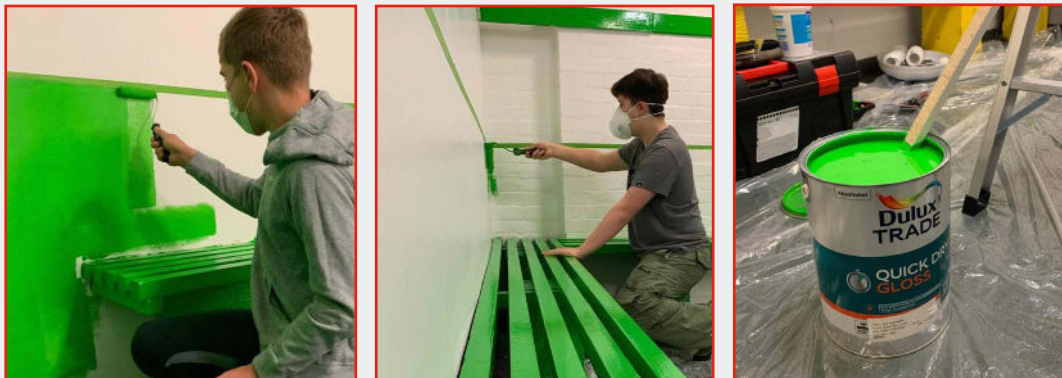


Refurbishing and improving grassroots sports facilities and other 'active spaces' in local communities



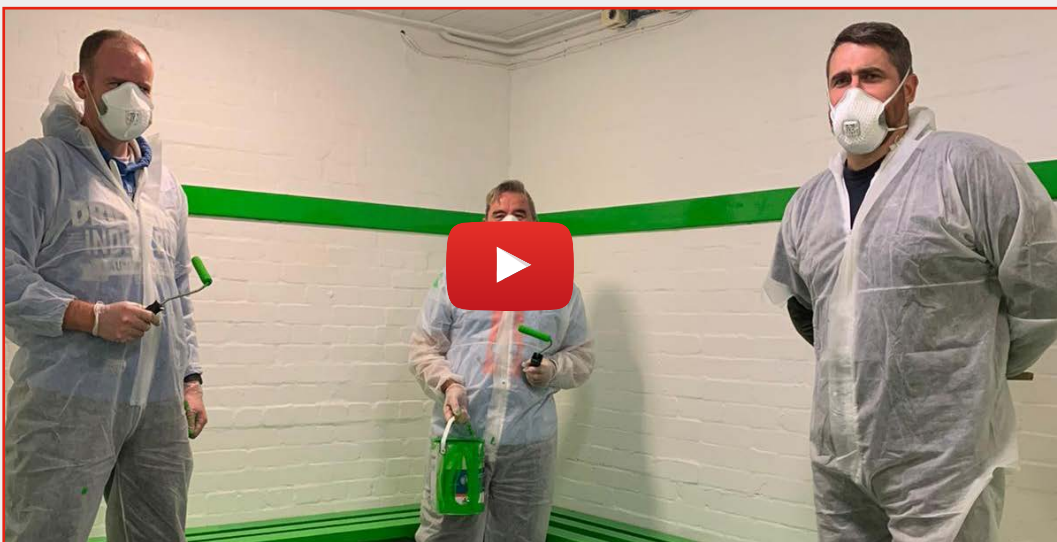
## LONGSIGHT YOUTH CENTRE, MANCHESTER

Renovating and repurposing a disused hall to create a new community hub, café and four new washrooms/toilets



## PORTICO VINE AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB, ST HELENS

Improving the changing rooms and shower facilities, and redecorating the clubhouse throughout  
A one-minute film showcasing the project at Portico Vine, made by the club itself, can be seen below:



**Manager, Longsight Youth Centre:** In one week, the old gas meter has been replaced, the studwalling has gone up for the new toilets, and plastering is completed in the new café space. Phew! Great job VIY!

**Mark Hobin, Chairman, Portico Vine ARLFC:** VIY have been truly magnificent throughout the project which has faced many significant challenges along the way due to the coronavirus restrictions. The clubhouse is looking fabulous, thanks to the volunteers who have turned up day after day.



## CONTACT US

If you're interested in finding out more about how you can support or get involved in VIY or one of our many projects, please get in touch:



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## THANKS TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS AND PARTNERS

Our projects over the past month have been delivered with the brilliant backing of major national and regional partners; Dulux, Travis Perkins, Sport England, The GLA and The Careers & Enterprise Company.



Thanks also to our local project partners in October; Carshalton College, Federation of Master Builders, Henley Halebrown Architects, GAP Hire Solutions, Limes College PRU, Manchester Young Lives, South Thames College, Sutton Council (NEET Forum & Youth Offending Team) and the YMCA.



## NEW MENTOR PROFILE



Adam Low, 23, volunteered as a trade skills mentor for the first time with VIY on the Sound Lounge project in south London in October 2020. Adam is a member of the Federation of Master Builders and works with Jewel Group Ltd. In his words: "I began working in trades at 17 and saw a lot of myself in the young people I was supporting and mentoring at the Sound Lounge. I've never volunteered in this way before but I think VIY is a great model for inspiring young people to learn a trade and to consider the construction sector as a job pathway. Also, I personally found the role of mentor really satisfying and rewarding and a great opportunity, as a local builder, to give back to my local community and offer a helping hand to young people."

## NEW HIRES

Aimee Thomson has joined the VIY team as a Project Manager