



VOLUNTEER IT YOURSELF

YOUNG PEOPLE LEARNING CONSTRUCTION TRADE SKILLS WHILST HELPING THEIR COMMUNITY

DECEMBER 2020 UPDATE

OVERVIEW

VIY finished 2020 completing or starting eight projects in December, involving and benefitting more than 100 young learners aged 14-24. The projects spanned the repurposing of under-utilised outdoor space at a library in North London, the refurbishment of a grassroots boxing club near Stockton-on-Tees and a community theatre in East London, and six projects with schools country-wide, including one (a carpentry workshop) successfully delivered virtually in the face of the challenges presented by Covid-related restrictions.

Haringey Council and VIY

Transforming empty/redundant indoor and outdoor space at a library into a new community kitchen and garden, in partnership with Haringey Council, Edible London and the Mayor's Grow Back Greener Fund. Also supported by Travis Perkins, GAP Hire Solutions and Haringey Youth Justice Service. Phase 1 work in December included clearing the existing outdoor space ready to construct greenhouses and planters.



VIY'S TRACK RECORD TO DATE



614 PROJECTS



11,872 YOUNG LEARNERS



4,539 ENTRY LEVEL CITY & GUILDS QUALIFICATIONS



1,099 TRADE MENTORS



1,682 EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION OR TRAINING PROGRESSIONS

PARTICIPANT CASE STUDY



Spencer, 22, was referred into VIY by The Amber Foundation, a charity that supports homeless and unemployed young people in turning their lives around. Spencer helped undertake improvements at CentrE17, a community theatre in Walthamstow, learning and applying new carpentry and painting and decorating skills. "It was a great experience and gave me skills that I can take with me when I leave The Amber Foundation and apply for a job. Volunteering with VIY has also made me feel more motivated to succeed and has given me strong opinions towards my future and taught me that hard work pays off."

Sport England and VIY



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



FIGHTING CHANCE BILLINGHAM BOXING CLUB, TEESIDE

Over two weeks, mentors and young people working together to create a new partitioned female changing room and upgrade bathroom/shower facilities. The works are an integral part of the club reaching its goal of doubling female membership to 150 by the end of 2021.

The Amber Foundation:

The young people we support have been regularly volunteering on VIY projects over the last three years. Several have gained City & Guilds qualifications as a result and this has helped them move on successfully from Amber into employment, education or training. Many of the young people who have taken part in VIY have also talked about how it has helped with their confidence, motivation and resilience.

GLA and VIY



Renovating and refurbishing community arts venues across London



CENTRE17 COMMUNITY THEATRE, WALTHAMSTOW

Improving the theatre entrance/foyer and creating a new social space/bar area, involving young volunteers referred into the project by The Amber Foundation, YMCA Walthamstow and New City College. Architects (and VIY partners) Henley Halebrown also supported the young people in designing the new foyer area and mentoring the young people.

Max Peters, CentrE17:

The work completed by VIY has changed the feel, size and usability of our space. We are looking forward to welcoming audience members into the new warm, friendly and open area that's been created. Thank you so much to VIY and your partners for all the amazing work.

Travis Perkins Group:

So much good coming from @VIYproject this week - our local @TravisPerkinsCo branches proudly supporting young people and projects across the country #SomethingConstructive

THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE CO. & VIY

THE CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY

Delivering workshops and projects with schools to develop young people's employability skills and awareness of the trade and sector as a job pathway. Six carpentry projects in December with: Abbey School in Rotherham, City of Derby Academy, Crawshaw Academy in Leeds, Eden Girls School in Manchester, Salford City College, and UTC Leeds.



Teacher, Abbey School:
"This project has been a very valuable and inspiring experience that has raised the knowledge, skills and career aspirations of our students through the workshops and virtual project day. And a special thank you to VIY mentors Imran and Simi and the generous materials donated by Travis Perkins."

Travis Perkins Group:
Did we mention we love working with @VIYproject? @TravisPerkinsCo #SomethingConstructive

ABBEEY SCHOOL, ROTHERHAM

Of special note, the one-day project with Abbey School, a special educational needs school, was delivered virtually (in light of Covid-related restrictions), by VIY Lead Mentor Imran Younas, with students building tables under expert on-screen guidance from Imran and using tools and materials delivered to the school by Travis Perkins.

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 December: Amber Foundation, Edible London, GAP Hire Solutions, Haringey Council, Haringey Youth Justice Service, Henley Halebrown Architects, New City College, Stockton Riverside College, YMCA Walthamstow



NEW MENTOR PROFILE



Chris Heaton, 40, has a background in carpentry and teaching and first got involved as a VIY mentor at community venue R-Urban in Poplar, east London, helping to convert five disused garages into new workshop space. Since then he's worked on further VIY projects at The Sound Lounge music and performing arts venue in Sutton and Croydon Rugby Club. "Nothing gives me greater pleasure than sharing skills I have with young people who want to learn. The satisfaction I get from seeing a young person's confidence surge the moment it all clicks is irreplaceable. Learning a new skill that empowers us to overcome a challenge is something that we all enjoy, but for a young person still looking for their place in the world, it can provide them with the self-belief that allows them to achieve their true potential."

NEW HIRES

VIY is currently looking to recruit for the following roles:

- Data & Impact Manager
- Progressions Manager
- Communications Manager
- Building Engineer/QS
- Multiple new Lead Skills Mentors

To find out more, please contact Ed Sellwood at ed@teamVIY.com