



VOLUNTEER IT YOURSELF

YOUNG PEOPLE LEARNING CONSTRUCTION TRADE SKILLS WHILST HELPING THEIR COMMUNITY

NOVEMBER 2021 UPDATE

OVERVIEW

This month we were delighted to have confirmation of significant funding to deliver multiple local community projects in partnership with three local authorities (Nottingham, Nottinghamshire and Norfolk), thanks to the Community Renewal Fund. This £220million UK Government fund is designed to help pilot programmes and new approaches in local communities, to invest in people and boost skills. This is exactly what we do day in, day out, so we couldn't be better placed to deliver this for the local communities we'll be working with. This funding will significantly enhance our capacity as a team to deliver more projects, with more young people and develop a regional hub approach to our organisation nationwide. All this and more below.

Community Renewal Fund



Across our 32 projects with this fund, we'll be supporting over 1000 young people at risk of marginalisation who'll be volunteering with local trade mentors, learning and applying vocational construction skills whilst breathing life back into a range of spaces and places at the heart of communities across Nottingham, Nottinghamshire and Norfolk. Our first projects will begin in Norfolk in February - full steam ahead!



Pictured: one of our first projects in the Nottingham area, building Flo Skatepark.

We're working with Nottinghamshire County Council on 18 projects across communities in Bassetlaw, Mansfield and Newark & Sherwood, aiming to help more local people back into work and to support businesses following the pandemic.

For Nottingham City Council, we're working on 5 projects to improve skills, boosting employment and helping businesses to grow across the city.

Finally, we'll be working on 9 projects across Norfolk County Council across Great Yarmouth, Kings Lynn & West Norfolk, North Norfolk & Norwich, focused on building skills and fostering innovation.

Mentor Mention



Rebecca Marchant, painter & decorator, Leeds (pictured right), signed up to become a Volunteer Mentor with VIY at Hunslet Warriors to share her 20+ years of skill and experience as a decorator with students wishing to go into the building trade.

"The volunteers on the project were young people from all different walks of life. We had refugees coming in, we had some rugby lads who wanted to do plumbing and we had students with varying levels of learning and sensory disabilities help out as well.

"Some of the students were quite shy and introverted so as well as teaching them new skills in painting, I needed to learn from them how to go at a pace that worked for them too."

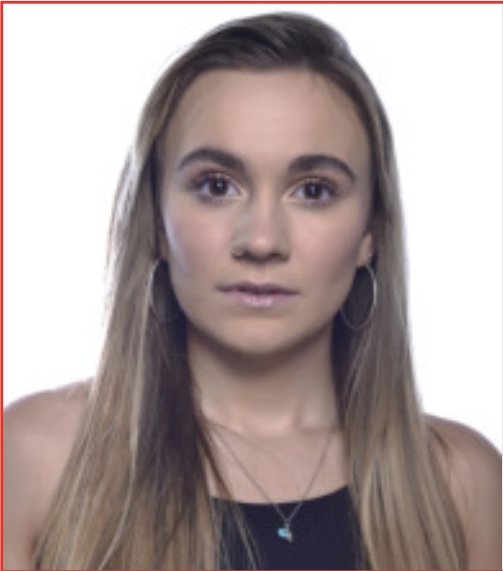
Kickstarters - coming through! **KICKSTART SCHEME**

A huge welcome to Tess Bettison and Ellie Bano-Few who are our new Kickstarter team members aka Junior Office Executives in our Leeds office. They've already made such a huge impact on the organisation, building relationships and successfully recruiting young people from our youth referral organisations, mapping projects for our upcoming CRF work and working on communications too.

Tess Bettison said: "I want to build confidence in myself and my vocational skills. During the pandemic I struggled in finding a graduate/entry level position in such a competitive job market and I lost a lot of motivation and self belief - I think VIY is a great company to build that up again."

Equally, Ellie wants to identify and refine her skills in project management while having a positive impact on the lives of young people. She's found the best thing about VIY so far to be "the extremely welcoming team and their passion for developing their work to its full potential."

We're delighted to have them both with us!



Naomi Thomas, VIY Project Manager, London

Another new member of Team VIY, Naomi, has, over 11 weeks, personally delivered 18 workshops and 9 projects across 3 different schools on our Young Londoner's Fund programme - funding from the Greater London Authority (GLA) to work with young people and organisations supporting young people in need. Working with students in 3 challenging Pupil Referral Unit environments, a total of 30 City & Guilds accreditations have been awarded so far. Top work Naomi!

All Stars Boxing Club - Round 3



We first worked with All Stars Boxing Club in 2019 and again in April 2021 before returning for round 3 this month, doing a knock-out job on some outdoor furniture for their garden space and redecorating an area damaged by damp issues. Here we worked with 7 female participants from Chelsea FC Foundation's NCS programme, who all gained an accreditation in decorating.



@AllStarsBoxing,

THANK YOU to @VIYproject & the Chelsea foundation volunteers for returning once again to repaint our training room, supply & install new ceiling tiles & make some lovely benches for our garden. Roll on summer for BBQ's in the garden #volunteers #youthclub #charity #community

Bowlee Pavilion, Manchester

Up in the North, we've completed a refurbishment of Bowlee Pavillion in Middleton, Manchester, working with a group of young people at risk of becoming NEET to offer them a 5 week course of in-depth trade mentoring. A core group of 7 young people redecorated the café, corridor and hall areas, and installed new furniture and wooden shelving, whilst gaining 15 City & Guilds accreditations. In collaboration with the young people's schools, we designed the project to fit around their other school commitments, to offer them something different to re-engage them in their educational journey.

Here we worked with Keepmoat Homes, a leading UK home builder, who provided significant funding for the project and ran a dedicated employer talk for the young people, as well as a visit to one of their development sites.



Howard Shaw, Regional Director (Manchester), Travis Perkins:

"Both our branches in Heywood and Rochdale were very humbled to be able to support this project and the great work you are doing in a small way, enabling more learning for the young people, which is extremely rewarding. We're really looking forward to coming down to see the work you've done once it's all completed and look forward to hearing about any more projects in the Manchester area."

Young volunteer referred by Bowlee Community Organisation:

"I've really enjoyed the project. It's got me off the street and plus we're learning something new. When we write our CVs we've got something to put in. We're learning something new every day.

My favourite part has been painting and decorating; enjoying it and getting along with the staff.

It's changed what I want to do next. I just want to get legit money and do painting and decorating."



Southbrook Community Centre



Southbrook Community Centre was saved from closure by local residents who came together and took on collective responsibility for the centre, located in a deprived area of Daventry.

Our third project with Toolstation, who have supported the young people through their mentoring & accreditations, in partnership with Sport England, the local council and the centre's newly formed Board of Trustees, sees wonderful young volunteers from the Northampton Saints Foundation creating a community café space, refurbishing the bar, building seating, toilets, cafe tables and a reception area, as well as redecorating the interior of the building.



Northampton Saints Foundation:

Young people from our HITZ programme kickstarted the refurbishment at Southbrook Community Centre yesterday with VIY and Toolstation UK! Volunteer it Yourself helps young people to learn trades whilst helping the community - well done everyone!



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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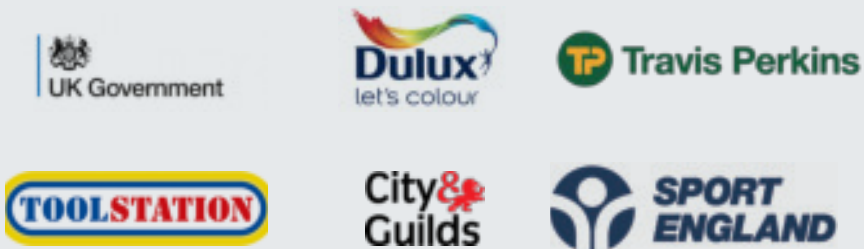
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Our projects over the past month have been delivered with the brilliant backing of major national and regional partners; Community Renewal Fund, Dulux, Travis Perkins, Toolstation, City & Guilds and Sport England.



Thanks also to our local project partners in October: Young Londoner's Fund, Chelsea Foundation, All Stars Boxing, Northampton Saints Foundation, Hunslet Warriors, Keepmoat

