

VOLUNTEER IT YOURSELF

IMPACT REPORT 2021–2022



VIY project at The Pythian Club
Nottingham

Building impact...

The 2021-22 operating year for VIY has been a story of recommencing full delivery and bouncing back after a tough period of Covid lockdowns and restrictions. Our model has felt more relevant than ever with so many young people having been adversely affected by Covid and so many essential community facilities and venues struggling to survive. So the past 12 months have also been a story of positive impact, as told by this report, for young people at risk and for local communities in need - and all fuelled by volunteering and a brilliant 'team sheet' of cross-sector partners and funders.

Tim Reading, CEO & Co-Founder
VIY

What we do:
Enabling young people to learn vocational trade skills and boost their employability through helping to fix local community facilities in need

Our focus - combining impact and progression outcomes in three areas:

- ✓ **Youth** - skills and employability
- ✓ **Community** - benefitting local facilities that host essential services
- ✓ **Volunteering** - young people and construction trade mentors working together and sharing skills

Headline Figures

79
renovation
projects
completed

"VIY provides an essential contribution to grassroots music venues who struggle financially to maintain their facilities - the result being the continuity of the venue for audiences and musicians to enjoy for years to come."

Henry Conlon, Owner
The Dublin Castle, Camden

"The VIY model of taking learners out of the classroom and on to a real site is definitely the way forward; teaching them to build something physical whilst also developing their social and communication skills is key."

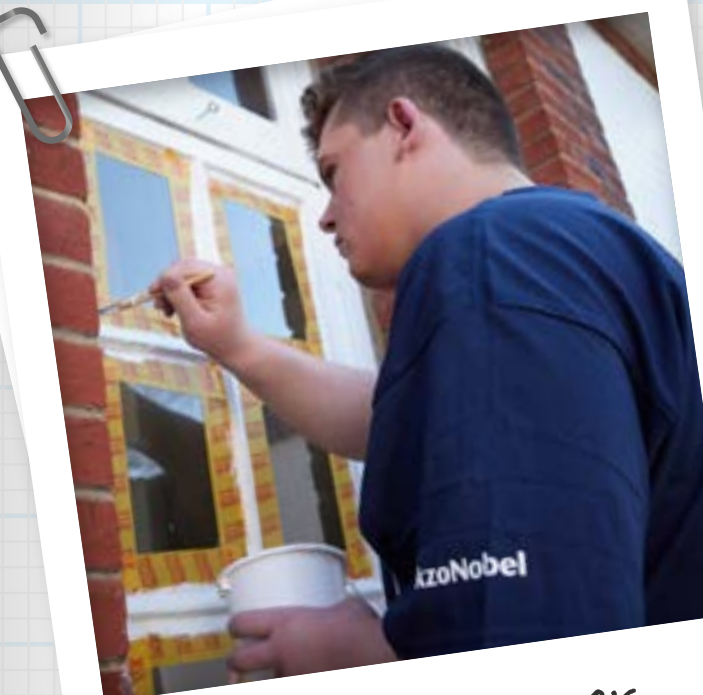
Andrew Criddle
New VIY Mentor, Somerset

59
trade skills
mentors
involved

881
young people
taking part

"I just want to thank you, you have all been so helpful, kind and supportive... I have enjoyed every minute... I have had the best time of my life."

Bailey Feavyer, Volunteer
The Phoenix Centre, Norwich



Bailey Feavyer,
VIY Volunteer

50
progressions
into
employment,
education or
training

"The VIY programme has really boosted my confidence in myself more than anything. I've come out of it with some basic qualifications in carpentry and health and safety and I think it will help me apply for jobs in the sector!"

James McRory, Volunteer
Coventrians Rugby Club, Coventry

736
City & Guilds
Entry Level 3
accreditations
achieved

"[VIY] gave us that light on what path to choose in life. I have now recently applied for Level 2 painting and decorating in college."

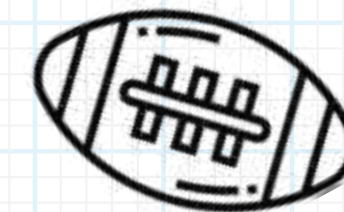
Jack Wilson, Volunteer
Bowlee Pavilion, Manchester

April²⁰²¹

As Covid restrictions eased, we began a phased return to delivering projects

15%
of the schools we worked with in partnership with CEC were Special Education Needs (SEN) schools and Pupil Referral Units

Kicked off our new partnership with the CreatedBy grants programme to help deliver legacy, participation in sport and wider social impact through the Rugby League World Cup (RLWC) 2021.



Kian Thompson was one of 6,000 students across 350 schools impacted through VIY's five-year partnership with the Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC). Our work focused on developing young people's employability skills and their awareness of the construction sector as an accessible and rewarding job pathway.

Our final CEC project - Ravenshill SEN School, Leeds, April 2021



Kian Thompson, a SEN school student and VIY volunteer in Rotherham, now starting a construction course at college

"My experience on VIY really got me interested in carpentry and gave me some entry level skills, as well as information about possible careers in construction. It helped me to decide what to do after leaving school and gave me a goal. So I've signed up at Rotherham College to start a Level 1 course in joinery and construction skills."

Kian Thompson, Year 11 student Abbey School, Rotherham



Young people building new ramps at LS-TEN skatepark in Leeds



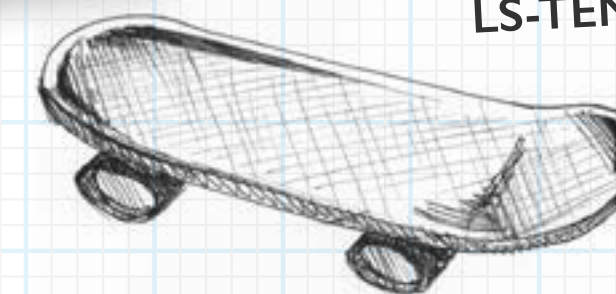
Normanton Knights Rugby League Club, West Yorkshire - our first project with RLWC 2021

Working with Skateboard GB to upgrade community skateparks that attract and support young people who may be disengaged from other educational, social or sporting places.



"The skatepark was in desperate need of renovation and the support provided by VIY and their partners made the work achievable, while also offering our young people the chance to take an active role in improving a facility that many see as essential to their physical and mental well-being."

Denham Hill, Community Manager LS-TEN Skatepark



May ²⁰²¹



Started working with the National Lottery Community Fund to help achieve our youth, community and volunteering impact outcomes (2021-2024)



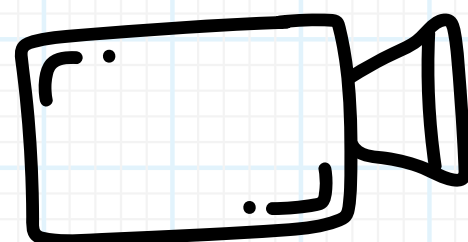
First of 5 projects in partnership with Toolstation, helping deliver their goal to attract a pipeline of future, diverse young talent to the trades and construction sector.

TOOLSTATION



VIY volunteers at Coventrians Rugby Club

"The construction sector is facing a shortage of workers and we hope that this initiative will inspire more young people to consider entering the trades."
Greg Richardson, Head of Marketing Toolstation



See the project in action [here](#) with **On The Tools**

30% of VIY volunteers in 2021-22 came from ethnic minority groups

More than **100** VIY volunteers gained an Entry Level 3 City & Guilds accreditation in 2021-22 thanks to Toolstation

Our work with Toolstation has expanded our partnership across the Travis Perkins Group to help deliver their purpose to build better communities and enrich lives

George, who was unemployed and receiving Universal Credit when he joined VIY, was one of 50 VIY volunteers who achieved an education, training or employment progression beyond the end of their VIY experience within three months.



George Howard, 23

A VIY volunteer at Thanet Wanderers Rugby Club in Kent, now working for a local building maintenance services company.

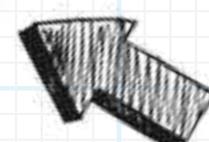
"Covid made it a struggle to find work and VIY was suggested to me by my JobCentre work coach. I had lots of opportunities to learn new skills such as painting and decorating, carpentry and plastering and I gained two City & Guilds accreditations. I'm now working as an Electrical Improver. My aim is to complete my NVQ Level 3 in Electrical Installation and become a fully-qualified electrician."

June 2021

St Ann's Library community growing garden was the last of 20 local regeneration projects delivered by VIY as part of the Greater London Authority's Good Growth Fund – all aimed at transforming and repurposing local community places and spaces that matter with the hands-on involvement of local people.



"The St Ann's project provides an educational, safe space for young people to develop new skills – while also providing positive opportunities and alternatives to those who might be vulnerable to getting drawn into gangs."
Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London



Mayor of London visiting St Ann's Library community growing garden, Haringey

Of the 79 community projects VIY delivered in 2021-22,
48% involved creating or improving outdoor green spaces

10% of our youth referral partners work with young people in the criminal justice system or youth offenders

100% of projects delivered by VIY in 2021-22 were located in the 20% most deprived local neighbourhoods nationally, according to IMD* statistics



Employer Ambassadors from Travis Perkins joining a VIY project at Park Community Academy in Blackpool



Your order ref: 2021-22

Value of tools and materials donated by trade partners in 2021-22

£172,500

Thank you

VIY's national trade sector partners Travis Perkins, Toolstation and Dulux help us to maximise our impact by:

- ✓ Donating tools and building materials we need and use
- ✓ Helping to mobilise professional tradespeople as skills mentors
- ✓ Delivering work-readiness training and vital employer interactions
- ✓ Offering further training and employment progression opportunities

July 2021

KICKSTART SCHEME

Giving young people early career opportunities with VIY through the national Kickstart scheme, designed to deliver long-term employment opportunities following the Covid-19 pandemic.

- 11 new team members
- 6 Junior Skills Mentors on the tools on our projects
- 5 Junior Office Executives supporting project delivery



Jada joined VIY through Kickstart on a 6 month placement and is now a VIY Peer Mentor

"I'm really passionate about being a female in construction, we need more of us, and I'm proof it's happening! I want to create my own female-led construction business, and I know I'll get there using all of this experience I'm gaining now."

Jada Sandy, 21

VIY's Kickstart programme has been enabled through Travis Perkins plc as our Gateway Provider

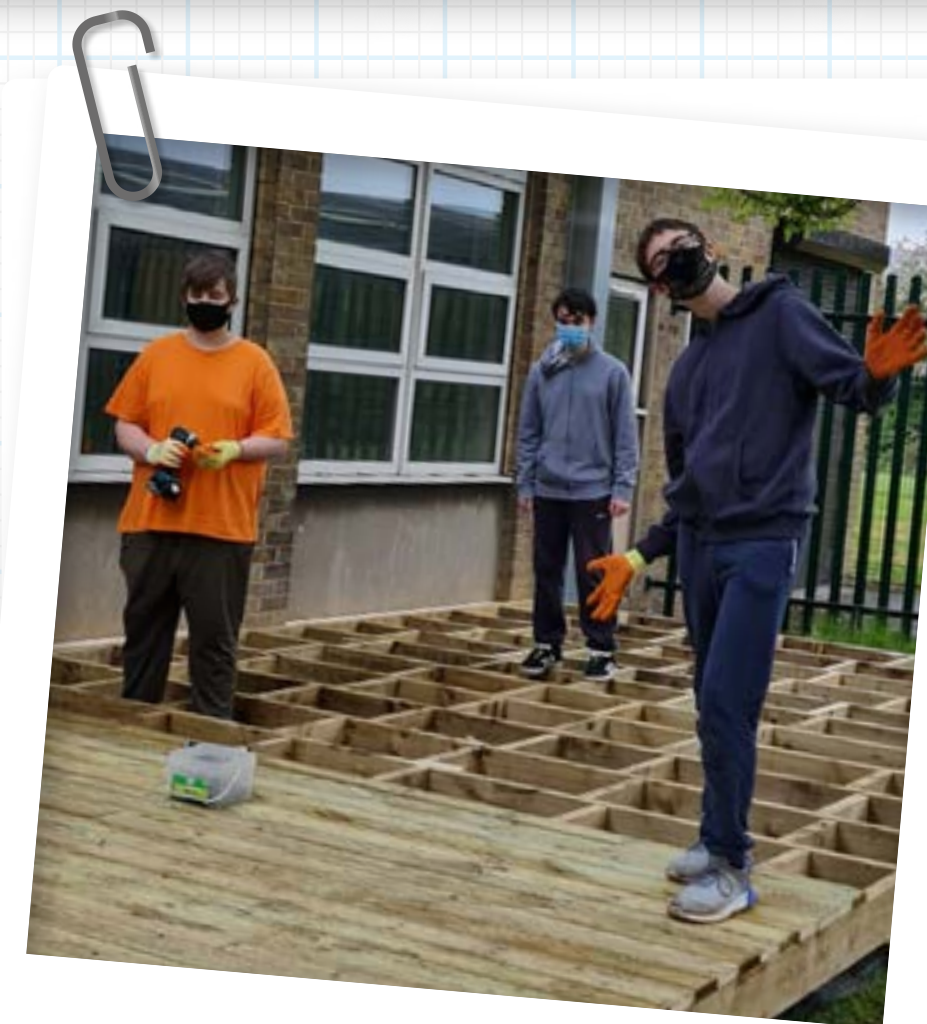
Travis Perkins plc

"A little bit of inspiration is what Jada gives me each time I work with her. She is exactly the reason I do this job. She is what every site needs."

Alan Dalton,
VIY Head Mentor



Konradas, 21, a former VIY Kickstarter, successfully progressed onto a plumbing apprenticeship with Woodford Heating & Energy



The Bridge Café VIY project, Doncaster

Providing vocational skills development and work-readiness opportunities for young people with special educational needs (SEN), referred onto VIY projects through 49 partners who support SEN students.

First
project delivered in partnership with local construction employer, Keepmoat Homes



32
students from
10
local SEN schools involved in the project

The Bridge Café is now run by SEN students through work placements and supported internships



"At #TheBridge #Heatherwood students were fully immersed in their first week of work experience with @VIYproject and @duluxuk. Great feedback from teachers and @VIYproject mentors. Project is really taking shape!"

Doncaster Careers Hub

August ²⁰²¹

56% of VIY of our young people who hadn't volunteered before indicated that they were interested in continuing to volunteer after completing their VIY experience.

98%
of VIY
learners in
2021-22 were
first-time
volunteers

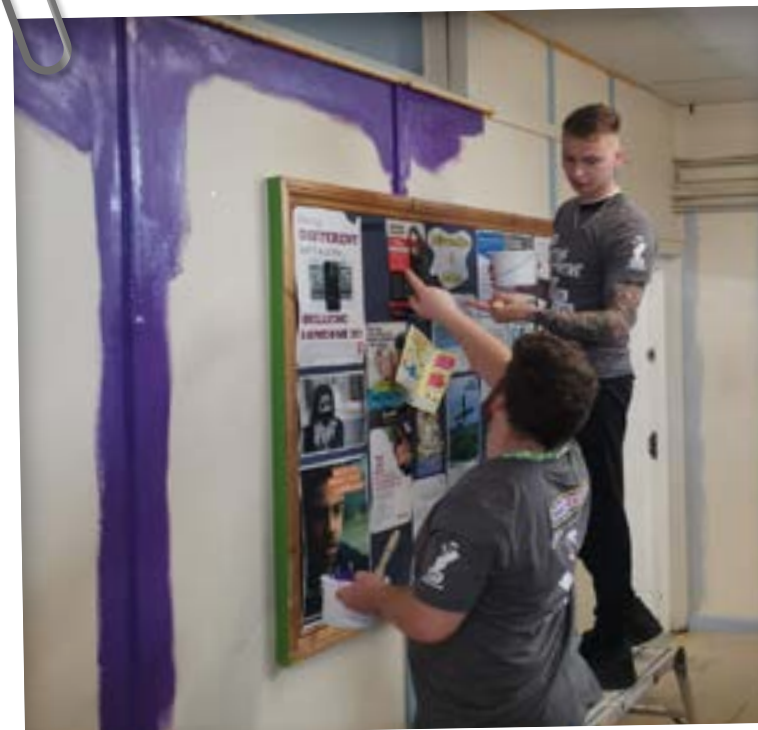
Enabling volunteering and skills-sharing opportunities for trade and construction sector partners to deliver hands-on impact in the communities in which they operate.



Mohamed Armoush, 17,
inspired to volunteer again
at YMCA Dickerage

"Taking part in the project increased my ambitions and interest in youth work and wanting to volunteer and keep helping out at the centre."

Our
4th
YMCA
renovation
project since
2018



YMCA Dickerage
- revamping a local
youth club

"The refurbishment will make a huge difference to young people and their lives. After COVID-19, the centre is helping bring everybody together and it is more multicultural and multi generational than ever before."

Daniel Slocombe, Centre Manager
YMCA Dickerage



Zenon Pointon shared previous experience as a Joiner as a volunteer mentor at the Flo Skatepark project, Nottingham

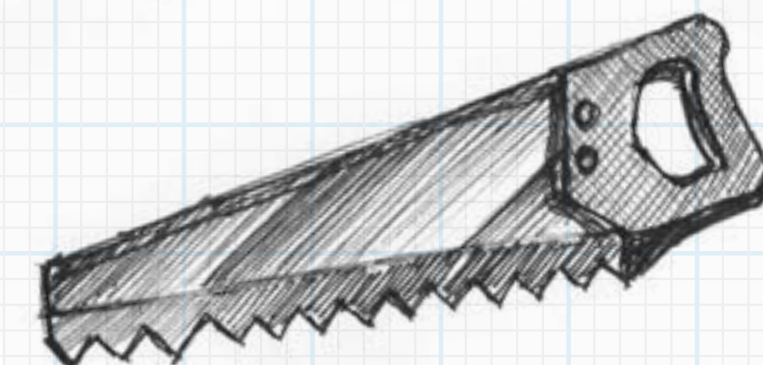


Our first project funded by national housebuilder Persimmon Homes

"It was a pleasure to give my time and guidance to the enthusiastic team of young volunteers. It was a fulfilling project to be part of and I hope it has inspired more young people to pursue a career in construction - possibly with Persimmon!"

Zenon Pointon, Contracts Manager
Persimmon Homes

Zenon was
one of
23
new skills
mentors who
started with VIY
in 2021-22



September 2021



End of Year 1 for
our Sport England
partnership programme

Creating
active
spaces



Refurbishing Hunslet Warriors
Rugby Club, with 60 young people
gaining 123 City & Guilds Entry
Level 3 trade skills accreditations!

Renovating and improving 225 grassroots sports clubs and other 'active spaces' in partnership over three years with Sport England – and helping clubs and venues to boost diversity, inclusion and sustainability in the process.

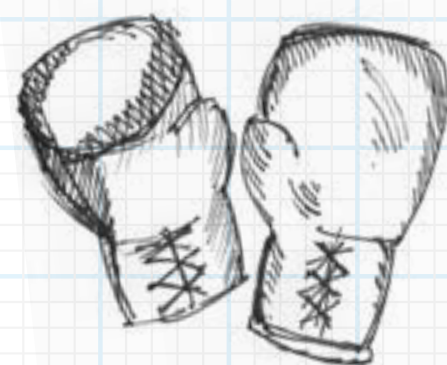
In Year 1 we've achieved:

- ✓ 28 projects with clubs and venues completed
- ✓ 395 young people involved and benefitting



Repurposing Victorian barns
at Clitterhouse Farm, Northwest
London into three new affordable
active spaces for local groups

Repairing
grassroots
sports clubs



100%

reported an
increase in their
confidence for
the future of their
facilities

73%

reported an
increase in
financial
resilience

64%

reported an increase
in the amount of
volunteering time
being committed

73%

reported an
increase in
number of young
women engaged

55%

reported an increase
in number of Black,
Asian or other
ethnic minority
groups

**Of the 28 clubs
and venues:**



October ²⁰²¹

Partnering with national governing bodies (NGBs) and active partnerships (APs) to identify grassroots/community sports clubs and active spaces most in need and in the most deprived locations.

18

projects nominated by NGBs and APs including England Boxing, Skateboard GB and Active Herts



Birmingham City Boxing Club, one of 34 VIY projects supported by Dulux's Let's Colour initiative



Showing the power of paint in transforming community places into positive, uplifting spaces and building a better future for people in the local area

In 2021-22 Dulux donated 4,500 litres of paint worth £80,000 to VIY

November ²⁰²¹

Working with Pupil Referral Units to provide skills development and work-readiness opportunities for young people disengaged or excluded from mainstream education and training.

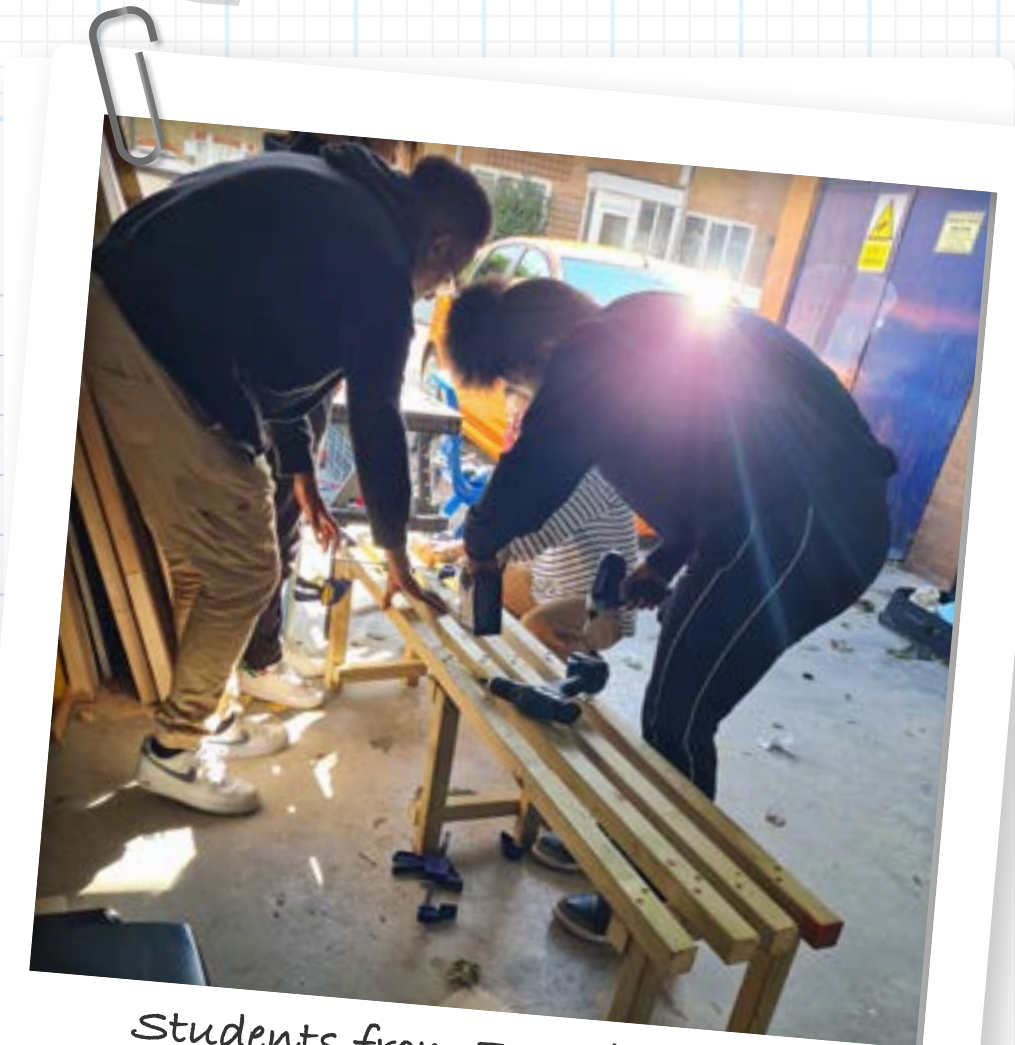
11%

of our youth referral partners in 2021-22 were Pupil Referral Units

VIY and the Young Londoner's Fund

The Mayor of London's Young Londoners Fund (YLF) helps children and young people to fulfil their potential, particularly those at risk of getting caught up in crime.

- ✓ 64 young people from 6 different Pupil Referral Units across London took part in VIY in 2021-22



Students from Francis Barber Westdean Pupil Referral Unit, Wandsworth, one of 3 schools in November working with VIY as part of the Mayor's YLF programme

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

December ²⁰²¹

Celebrated VIY's first decade releasing our 10 Year Review.

VOLUNTEER IT YOURSELF
Our First Ten Years
2011-2021



Since our first project in 2011:

- ✓ 682 facility renovation/refurbishment projects enabled
- ✓ 12,744 young people taking part
- ✓ 1,743 employment, education or training progressions achieved by VIY volunteers
- ✓ 1,136 skills mentors taking part
- ✓ 5,124 City & Guilds accreditations achieved by VIY volunteers

Awarded our 5,000th City & Guilds Entry Level 3 construction skills accreditation in December 2021.

City & Guilds

37%

of all young volunteers in 2021-22 achieved multiple accreditations

Charlie Chapman, a NEET young VIY volunteer, awarded one of 536 City & Guilds Entry Level 3 accreditations in 2021-22

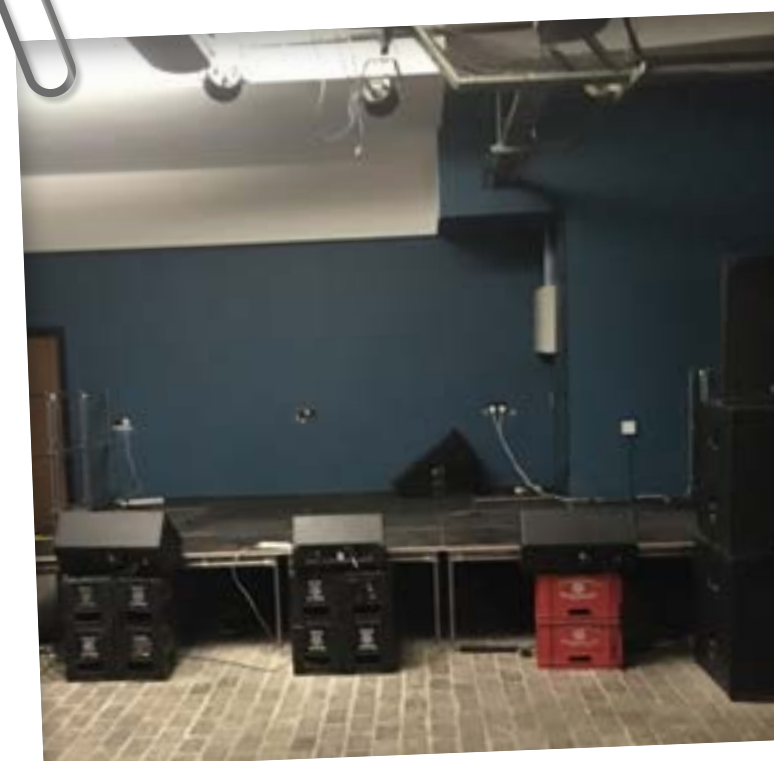
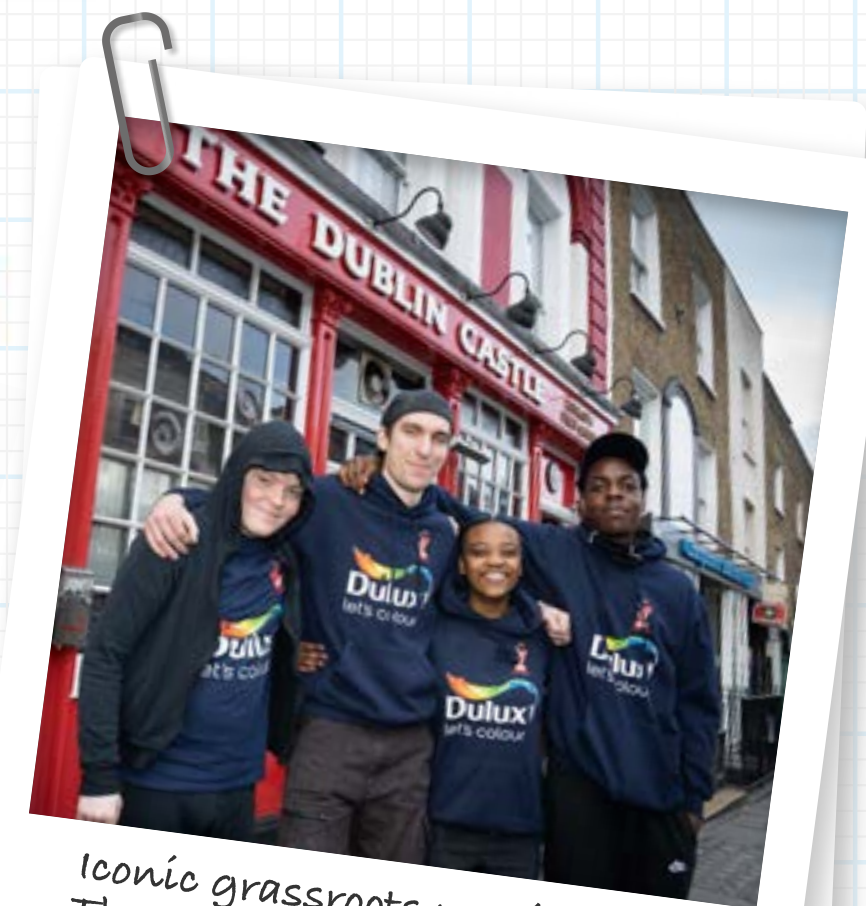
January ²⁰²²

Allianz

Our first project with Allianz, who provide insurance cover to help support grassroots and community live music and arts venues.

Helping save and support grassroots live music and arts venues that have struggled to survive the Covid pandemic and to preserve the positive cultural impact they bring to local communities – working in partnership with The Music Venue Trust.

Iconic grassroots music venue The Dublin Castle in Camden, London – benefitting from the VIY 'magic touch'



Renovating The Tin Music & Arts venue as part of Coventry City of Culture 2021

"The improvement work completed on this project means we now have a more professional, welcoming set-up both for the young people who regularly use our venue and the touring bands who visit. And it's also allowed us to start hiring out the venue for other events which boosts our financial sustainability."

Sarah Morgan,
The Tin Music & Arts Director

MVT
Music Venue Trust



February ²⁰²²

Commenced major new delivery programmes with Norfolk County Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council as part of the UK Community Renewal Fund* (CRF) – all focused on combining skills, employability and community place/space outcomes.

Our CRF programme expands our work into new regions



Jasper Taylor and Sarah Costello were new to the team of 59 trade skills mentors who supported VIY in 2021-22, working alongside and sharing their skills with young people.



Archie, referred through the Youth Development Team at Norfolk County Council

"I've learned lots of new skills and really enjoyed the painting. This experience has definitely helped me decide to pursue a career in painting and decorating."

Archie Kirk, 17
Volunteer, Phoenix Centre, Norwich

- ✓ 9 CRF projects completed or started in Feb/ March 2022
- ✓ 26 CRF projects to be delivered between Apr-Dec 2022



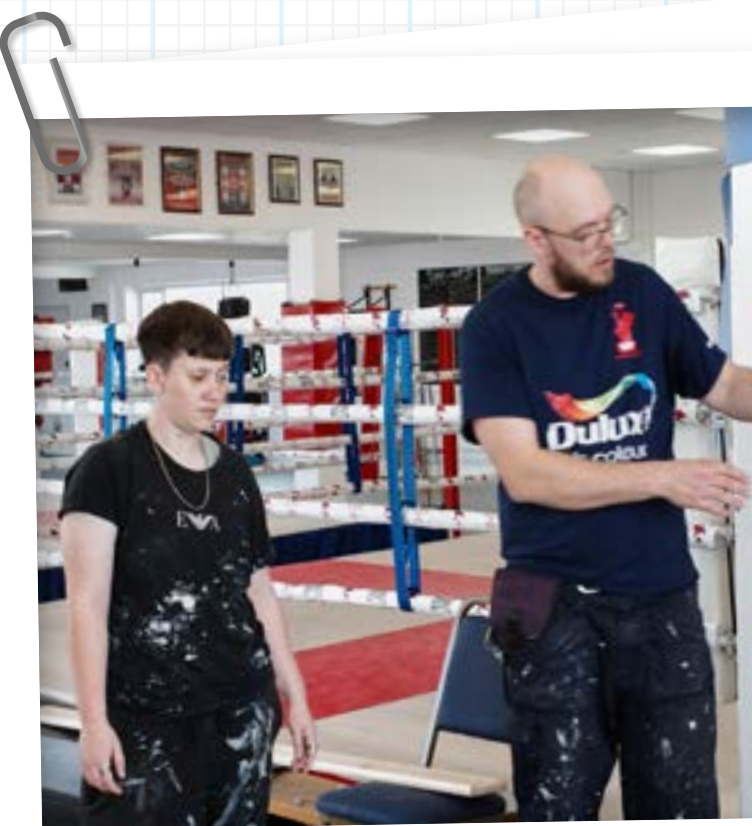
Billy, referred through the local Job Centre Plus, volunteering at Kingfisher Boxing Club

"I was feeling anxious at first but the mentors were very understanding and made me feel really comfortable. It's kept me busy and helped me build my confidence."

Billy Hunter, 24
Volunteer at two VIY projects, Great Yarmouth

13,398
Guided Learning Hours completed to award City & Guilds Entry Level 3 accreditations, delivered by our trade skills mentors

Thanks to funding from the Postcode Innovation Trust for the training and induction of our skills mentors.



Jasper Taylor, a new Lead Mentor in Norfolk through CRF, on the job with Billy at Kingfisher Boxing Club

"A recurring VIY highlight for me is enabling young people to try something different while also just spending time together and helping people broaden their horizons."

Jasper Taylor



Sarah Costello, Painter & Decorator, supported our project at Southbrook Community Centre, Daventry

"I find it rewarding passing on my knowledge and in return getting to help communities and getting to know different kinds of people learning new skills myself."

Sarah Costello



March ²⁰²²

Over 20 VIY projects have been supported by young residents from Amber Foundation since 2017

Partnering with youth work organisations, like Amber Foundation, Catch 22, The Prince's Trust and YMCA, who refer young people who are not in education, training or employment, or at risk of disengagement into local VIY projects.

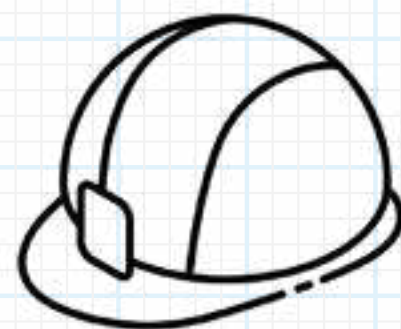


Vanessa Mae Watson, Amber Foundation resident and 500th young volunteer on our Sport England facilities improvement programme

"Whenever new opportunities come up with VIY, the young people (and our staff) jump at the chance because they know how valuable it will be."
Sarah Johnson, Operations Manager
Amber Foundation

In 2021-22
VIY worked with
109

local, regional and
national youth
referral partners



97%
would
recommend
a VIY project
to others

youth
futures
FOUNDATION

Delving deeper into the changing ambitions and aspirations of young people post their VIY experience, supported by Youth Futures Foundation.

71%

indicated that their future aspirations had positively changed by taking part in VIY

82%

indicated that their experience with VIY has made them consider a career in construction



Young volunteers at The Pythian Club, Nottingham, part of our Youth Futures Foundation cohort of 450 young people over 9 months



Young boxers from Middleton Select Boxing Club, Manchester, helping 'on the tools' to improve their local club

83%

indicated that VIY had increased their overall feeling of happiness or well-being

Looking ahead: OUR 2022-23 to-do list ☒

- ☐ Launch our new strategy for 2022-25
- ☐ Working at greater depth in our current and emerging key delivery regions (East Midlands, East of England, Greater London, North West, South Wales, West Midlands, Yorks & Humber)
- ☐ Continue to work in the most deprived neighbourhoods and communities and with young people most in need
- ☐ Successfully complete our Community Renewal Fund programmes
- ☐ Deliver a series of new projects contributing to the legacy of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022 through the Gen22 programme
- ☐ Commence new delivery programmes, including a new three-year, 30-project programme with Lancashire Cricket/the ECB and Greater Manchester Combined Authority
- ☐ Continue to build and grow our key national and regional employer partnerships - particularly in regard to unlocking progression pathways for VIY volunteers
- ☐ Continue our growth and development as an organisation - and as a team of dedicated, passionate individuals driven to help VIY achieve the biggest impact possible for young people, communities, partners and stakeholders

Amber
transforming lives

Allianz

THE CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY



Doncaster
Council

GREATER
LONDON
AUTHORITY

Haringey
LONDON

Keepmoat
Homes

KICKSTART
SCHEME

MVT
Music Venue Trust

SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON

Norfolk
County Council

Nottingham
City Council

POSTCODE
INNOVATION
TRUST

RUGBY LEAGUE
WORLD CUP
ENGLAND + 2021

SB
GB

Nottinghamshire
County Council

Persimmon
Together, we make a home.

TOOLSTATION

Travis Perkins

UK Government

YMCA

youth
futures
FOUNDATION

Blackpool Council
BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY FOR ALL

**City &
Guilts**

COMMUNITY
FUND

COVENTRY
UK CITY
OF CULTURE
2021

Department
for Work &
Pensions

catch
22

Dulux

FEDERATION OF
MASTER BUILDERS

ENGLAND
BOXING

CAP
GROUP
HIRE SOLUTIONS

We can't do what we do without the collaborative and generous support from a range of cross-sector partnerships, who we're grateful have continued, and in some cases even extended, their support for us, despite the knock-on effects of the pandemic on all organisations over the past year. We love doing #SomethingConstructive with you all and long may we continue to positively impact the lives of young people and local communities together.

If you're involved with or know of an organisation whose work aligns with the young people we're looking to benefit, experienced tradespeople who'd like to help or you know of a community place in need, get in touch: info@teamviy.com

Follow the latest from us on social:

 /volunteerityourself
   @viyproject



VIY project at Shining Lights Centre
St Helens

