

FIND YOUR FIRE – Building skills for life

A 10 month leadership development programme for 14-19 year olds

We are a partnership of youth work organisations who want young people in Oxford City to achieve their potential. We are supporting young people to raise their aspirations so that they can make successful transitions into adulthood.

What?

Find your Fire is a 10 month Youth Leadership Development Programme running from September 2016 to June 2017. The approach is based on building trusting and supportive relationships between each young person and one or two adult workers including a coach, and develops supportive relationships between peers.

The programme has 4 components:

Building awareness of positive life choices, team and self-confidence. Through engaging with each other, youth workers, coaches, specialist mentors and outward bound activities, young people are exposed to a range of opportunities previously unknown to them and successfully complete challenges that might at first be considered too difficult.

Accredited qualification – Each young person will gain a Level 1 NOCN award in skills for employment, training and personal development. This is a bespoke practical course covering a range of transferable skills, preparing young people for the work place including teamwork and interpersonal skills.

Peer Education projects - In supported sessions young people will practice transferrable skills by designing, developing and implementing a peer education project or enterprise that interests them and applies their knowledge, such as developing an app or producing a song. Young people can work with specialists, such as musicians, as appropriate.

Supportive environment - Young people choose their own coach or mentor who provides a fortnightly check-in and supports the young person in any area they choose, including: confidence building, skills development, relationships or additional tutoring in Maths and English if required.

Each young person commits to one academic year of weekly sessions and a maximum of three away adventures.

Our experience has demonstrated that it is much more effective for young people to learn from their peers. The young people have been involved in an ongoing process of iterative review and development of the project. It has grown organically as a result of their opinions shaping the way it moves forward.



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Why?

Young people need support to reach their potential. Viva's 2014 Doorsteps research with 50 young people in East Oxford found common issues facing young people to be:

1. Unstable family life
2. Low self-esteem
3. Lack of vision or aspiration for life
4. Difficulty entering employment
5. Household poverty

Young people say things like:

"Young people need help thinking through what next in life, their dreams and what the options are and what's out there."

"The time after finishing school is hard. How do I work out what to do next?"

The Oxfordshire NEET service has informed us that young people are lacking basic skills to enter the workplace and from 2016 onwards young people need to have achieved GCSE Maths and English or an accredited qualification to get a traineeship.

Who?

The project seeks to support students and young people aged 15-19 in Oxford City, particularly those with a more vocational learning style. Our aim is to increase their confidence, raise their aspirations and boost their skills so that they can get involved in mainstream education or training provision so improving life chances and employability.

Through participating in this bespoke leadership and training programme, young people will be able to become more resilient and able to address the issues affecting them.

The project has been developed by young people along with a broad cross section of partners working in East/South Oxford including Donnington Doorstep, St. Luke's Church, Oxford Youth Works, Oxford CYM, Barnardo's and Viva. We are part funded with a Youth Ambition Grant from Oxford City Council and an Awards for All grant.

Interested? Know a young person who might benefit?

Please contact: Katy Thompson k.thompson@viva.org or 07708 184012



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