

Leicestershire Cares NEWS

ISSUE 1 - FEBRUARY 2024



Message from CEO

Over the last year, I have been immensely proud and humbled to lead an organisation that brings people together, to offer support and connection to young people and communities who are struggling. In that time despite the many ongoing challenges our city and county face, I have been inspired by the creativity and commitment that our partnerships have shown. So, for example hundreds of business volunteers have supported thousands of young people in schools to develop their employability skills, hundreds of #BagsOfHope have been distributed to people in need, community groups have been supported to improve their infrastructure and staff skills and hundreds of vulnerable and isolated young people have been supported to develop their soft and hard life skills, so they are able to face life with purpose and confidence.



As we look to the year ahead there does appear to be a lot of uncertainty and sadly, we know in many communities where we work, poverty and hardship is rising, whilst services are being cut back. So, our work is more important than ever, and I look forward to working in partnership with you all in the months ahead as we to develop and deliver projects that turn despair into hope and help make our city and county a safer and better place for all. In doing so, we will be continuing to build a better understanding and connection between business, community and public sectors and encouraging people to work together without ego, silo or logo so we can bring about positive change.

As always, I am very happy to hear feedback from you and to discuss ideas you might have for future partnership work.

#TogetherWeCan

Kieran Breen
CEO Leicestershire Cares

AWARD WINNERS

We're proud of our achievements



Over the last year our ability to be creative and agile enabled us to respond to the repercussions of lockdown and the post lockdown period. Our team were consistently able to broker partnerships, which developed and delivered high quality, high impact, award winning work that included:



WINNER

**EMC Business Awards
2023 Leicestershire
Education and Business
Partnership Winner**



WINNER

**EMC Business Awards
2022 Leicestershire
Community Impact
Winner**



WINNER

**BBC Radio Leicester
make a difference awards
"Together Award" Winner
Neetu Squire - Head of
Community Development**



**CSJ UK
Community
awards 2023,
Longlist**



**VAL Charity
and Business
partnership of
the year 2023 -
Runners Up**



**JUJI - Coram
Voice Nomination
and Participation
Certificate**



**Finalists for British
Chambers Awards
Community
Champion**

★ ANNUAL CELEBRATION EVENT ★



Back in September we held our annual Celebration Event - an evening where we celebrate our Business Members and volunteers and the great work they do for the young people and community groups we work with. The event was held at Winstanley house, a beautiful venue to host our Celebration Night.

We were lucky to have some wonderful guest speakers join us for the evening. Stephen Gould the managing director at local company Everards of Leicestershire spoke about having a relationship centred purpose and the importance of collaboration.

We also had Tracey Phipps from Hinckley & Rugby Building Society speak about the workplace saving scheme at Hinckley and Rugby Building Society.

We had a welcome speech from Kieran, our CEO who presented our Giving Back to the Community awards to our long-standing members. Knights plc and CGI were awarded their 5 year membership and Leicester City Council their 10 year membership.

Our award winners were:



Outstanding Contribution to NEET Young People Award 2023

WINNER:
Sytner Group



Outstanding Business Contribution to the VIP Project Award 2023

WINNER:
CPW Services



Outstanding Volunteer Contribution to Work with the VIP Project Award 2023

WINNER:
Sue Woollett - Stepnell Ltd



Outstanding Contribution to Work with Care Experienced Young People Award 2023

WINNER:
Chris Oakes - Alltruck Plc



Outstanding Contribution to Interview Technique Award 2023

WINNER:
Everards



Outstanding Contribution to Employability Award 2023

WINNER:
Nelsons Law



Outstanding Contribution to work with SEND Students Award 2023

WINNER:
Hinckley and Rugby Building Society



The Evan Crosskey Education Volunteer of the Year Award 2023

WINNER:
Tracey Ingram - Hinckley & Rugby Building Society



Outstanding Business Contribution to Community Development Award 2023

WINNER:
Walker & Son, Samworth Brothers



Outstanding Volunteer Contribution to Community Development Award 2023

WINNER:
Kellie Lee - Cambridge & Counties Bank



Leicestershire Cares' Volunteer of the Year Award 2023

WINNER:
Chris Oakes - Alltruck Plc



Leicestershire Cares' Company of the Year Award 2023

WINNER:
Samworth Brothers

Spotlight on our

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER,

**Chris Oakes -
Alltruck Plc**

How long have you been volunteering with Leicestershire Cares?

I have been volunteering for roughly 2 years now.

Why do you volunteer?

To make a difference! Throughout my life I have always tried to volunteer some of my time in various settings. When I volunteered as a youth worker many years ago, I engaged with an individual who was experiencing difficulties in their life. The feedback I received months later from this person was overwhelming, as the support I had given had really made a difference to them. This is what makes it worth it, knowing you can really help others who are in real need. There are many children and young people out there who are less fortunate, if I can even have the slightest positive impact, raise awareness, and even encourage others to join us then together we can really help improve lives.

I am fortunate that my company Alltruck Plc allows its staff and employees to volunteer with Leicestershire Cares. I have never worked with a company that encourages this and am grateful of the opportunity. I feel lucky to have the best of both worlds, working in role I love whilst also being able to continue my passion in working with Children and Young People.

How do you find the sessions you volunteer on?

Honestly, the sessions standing in front of children/students in a classroom/assembly are extremely daunting. Before each session I am anxious and nervous, and it really does push me out of my comfort zone. However, once you get going and interacting with the students, seeing the smiles and laughter on their faces, that sense of fear vanishes quickly. It really is truly rewarding and gives you a natural sense of accomplishment. I have met some truly amazing children and young people with wonderful personalities and always look forward to my next session.

What do you gain from volunteering?

I have found that I have learnt a lot about myself through volunteering. As mentioned above I'm not overly confident, however I will continue to push myself out of my comfort zone to learn new skills. I have been pleasantly surprised with the recognition of being nominated and even winning some Awards. It has told me that I must be doing something right when I was doubting whether I was the right person for the role! I have met so many other amazing volunteers who all share a similar passion in giving something back to the community. The Team at Leicestershire Cares are remarkable. Their enthusiasm and passion really does stand out, and they really do go out their way to make a difference to children, young people, and communities across Leicestershire.



OUT IN THE COMMUNITY



Haymarket Youth Hub Update

Empowering Young Minds and Creating Futures!



We're excited to share the incredible success of our new Youth Drop-In Hub at Haymarket Shopping Centre, where young people have been given the tools to unleash their creativity and talents. The hub officially opened on October 27, 2023, and we're thrilled to update you on the amazing journey so far.

Haymarket Youth Hub Highlights: Empowering 41 Young People in 5 Sessions

Our inaugural sessions saw a remarkable turnout, with 41 enthusiastic young individuals actively participating in various activities. From creating a captivating music video to delving into the realms of podcasting and digital marketing art, the energy and creativity were truly inspiring.

Youth-Led Sessions: From Attendees to Creators

What makes the Haymarket Youth Hub unique is the active involvement of the young participants. The second set of sessions were predominantly planned and executed by the youth themselves. They learned to set up podcasting equipment, mastered the use of DSLR cameras, and took charge of directing, filming, and editing their own music video.

“ I love coming to this Haymarket session because I get to explore all the equipment involved and I have found that I love making music videos. ”

Expanding Success: Extra Participants Each Week

We're thrilled to report that the Haymarket Youth Hub has been a resounding success, with increasing participation each week. The enthusiasm and commitment displayed by the young minds are a testament to the positive impact of this initiative.

New Horizons: Relocating to Leicestershire Cares Warehouse

Looking ahead to the new year, we're excited to announce a strategic move to Leicestershire Cares Warehouse every Thursday, starting in January. This change allows for a fresh start at the Haymarket sessions on Fridays, inviting a new group to join our dynamic community.

Connecting with the Traveller Community: A New Chapter

In our commitment to inclusivity, we're actively reaching out to involve the Traveller community in our sessions. We believe in creating a space where diverse voices and perspectives thrive, fostering a sense of belonging and shared creativity.

Join Us in Celebrating: Reflecting on a Successful Quarter

To celebrate the achievements of the past quarter, we gathered for a group meal, reminiscing on the incredible journey and the bonds formed. We extend our gratitude to everyone who has supported and contributed to the success of the Haymarket Youth Hub.

As we step into the future, we're excited about the endless possibilities and the positive impact we can continue to make together. Thank you for being a crucial part of our journey.

MAKING

MOVES



Spreading Joy



Making Moves Project - A Heartwarming Seasonal Recap!

We are excited to share the heartwarming success of the Making Moves project, made possible by the incredible generosity of our business partners. This festive season, we joined hands with Bradgate Bakery, Walker & Son, and Alltruck Plc to bring joy and warmth to those in need.

Making Moves Project Highlights: A Christmas Party to Remember

In December, the Making Moves project had the privilege of organizing a spectacular Angels and Monsters Christmas party for thirty people. Thanks to the unwavering support of Bradgate Bakery and Walker & Son, we were able to provide delicious and hearty meals, creating a memorable and festive atmosphere for all attendees.



Gifts of Love: Alltruck Plc's Generous Donation

The spirit of giving extended to the youngest members of our community as well. Alltruck Plc, in a heartwarming gesture, generously donated presents for young children, ensuring that they experienced the magic and joy of the holiday season. Their kindness truly made a difference in brightening the lives of these children.

Gratitude in Action: Building a Caring Community

We extend our deepest gratitude to Bradgate Bakery, Walker & Son, and Alltruck Plc for their commitment to the Making Moves project. Their support not only helped organize a delightful Christmas party but also brought smiles to the faces of young ones during this special time of the year.

Looking Ahead: Building on the Momentum

As we reflect on the success of this quarter, we are energized and inspired to continue making a positive impact in our community. Your support has been instrumental in creating meaningful moments and fostering a sense of togetherness.

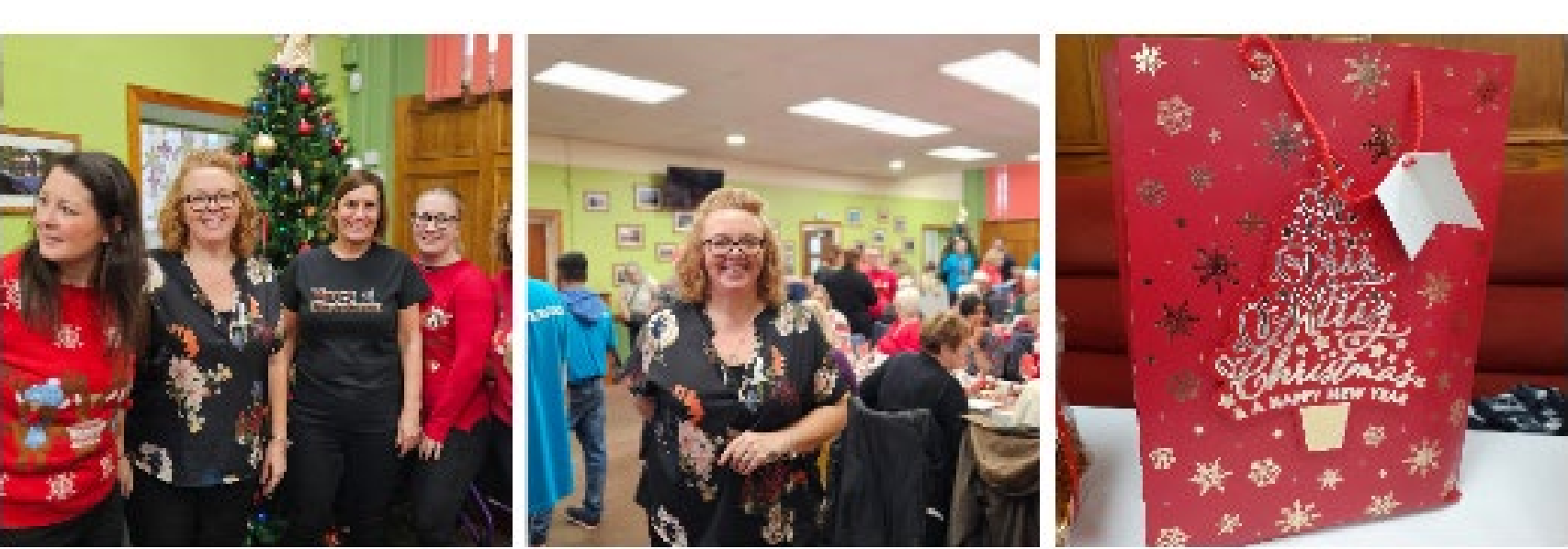
Join Us in Celebration: Reflecting on a Season of Giving

To celebrate the achievements and spread holiday cheer, we invite you to join us in reflecting on the positive moments created through the Making Moves project. Together, we have proven that when we come together, we can make a real and lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.



Spreading Joy and Building Communities

A Recap of Our Festive Season and Community Impact!



Age UK Festive Lunches: A Celebration of Togetherness

The Age UK festive lunches were an extraordinary experience for the 180 participants who joined us across 3 heartwarming days. We extend our deepest gratitude to Cambridge & Counties, Knights, and Nelsons for not only providing table decorations, food, and drinks but also for the generous donations from their staff members. These thoughtful contributions allowed us to create beautiful hampers that became delightful raffle prizes during the week, adding an extra layer of joy to the festivities. This support ensures that we can continue making a positive impact and providing essential services to those in need.



Words of Appreciation: Volunteers Making a Difference

The manager of Clarence House expressed sincere thanks to our volunteers, emphasizing their invaluable role in making the events truly special. Their dedication, warmth, and engagement with the guests created an atmosphere of companionship, turning a potentially isolating time into a celebration of togetherness.

Youth Initiatives Across Leicester: Empowering the Future

In addition to our festive activities, we are proud to share the success of youth initiatives and projects across Leicester. Our work with 2 sports projects in Belgrave, youth projects in St Matthews, and collaborative efforts with Wesley Hall and The Centre project have all contributed to building a stronger, more vibrant community.

#PowerToChange Community Partners Network: A Growing Voice

Our #PowerToChange community partners network has become a significant voice for the sector, amplifying our collective impact. Together, we are shaping a future where positive change is not just a possibility but a reality.

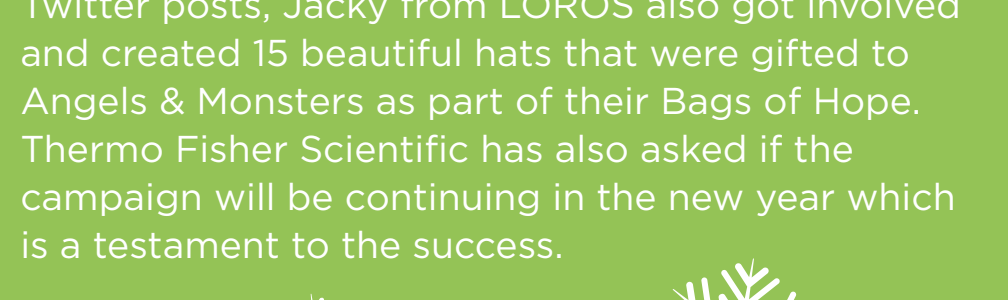
As we look back on the year's accomplishments, we want to express our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you who has contributed to our mission. Your support is the driving force behind our success, and we eagerly anticipate another year of making a meaningful difference.

Festive Success



Knit for November

Knit for November was a new initiative, with the aim being to support our Bags of Hope campaign with hand-knitted hats, toys, and clothes. Thanks to Thermo Fisher Scientific we were able to supply over 80 items to various groups. After seeing our Twitter posts, Jacky from LOROS also got involved and created 15 beautiful hats that were gifted to Angels & Monsters as part of their Bags of Hope. Thermo Fisher Scientific has also asked if the campaign will be continuing in the new year which is a testament to the success.





ALTOGETHER NOW

Employability Events and Work Tours with Ellesmere College And Millgate School

We are excited to share the impactful outcomes of our recent endeavours with Ellesmere College. Through collaborative efforts with our dedicated partners, we have successfully organised employability events and enriching work tours, leaving a lasting impression on both students and business volunteers alike.



Empowering Careers at Ellesmere: Employability Events

The Ellesmere Project has been a hub for growth and learning, hosting two significant employability events – the Career Talks Day and Interview Skills Day. These events provided valuable insights and practical knowledge to the participants, equipping them with the tools they need to navigate the professional landscape.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the four business volunteers from Nelson's, Walker & Son, and Everards, who generously shared their expertise. Their commitment to nurturing the next generation of talent has made a significant impact on the participants, fostering a sense of empowerment and possibility.

Inspiring Future Paths: Work Tours for Millgate Students

Two immersive work tours were organized for Millgate students at Everards and Sytner, offering them a firsthand look into the workings of these esteemed organisations. The positive feedback received from both students and our business members highlights the success of these tours in bridging the gap between education and real-world applications.

Building Bridges Between Education and Industry

These initiatives not only provide students with practical skills and knowledge but also foster meaningful connections between educational institutions and businesses. The involvement of our business partners demonstrates a shared commitment to empowering the next generation, creating a bridge between education and industry that is crucial for future success.



POWERING UP



Powering Up Football

A year of Impact through Community Football

We are delighted to share the remarkable impact and collaborative efforts that have shaped our community sports project, Powering Up Football. One standout contributor to our success has been Walker & Son, whose passion for community engagement and alignment with our #PowerToChange model has sparked positive change and unity.

Walker & Son Joins Powering Up Football: Passion Meets Community

Walker & Son's involvement in our Powering Up Football initiative is a testament to their genuine passion for community engagement. The shared vision and alignment with our #PowerToChange model laid the foundation for meaningful discussions on how we could collaborate to enhance volunteering opportunities for their employees and improve outcomes for the young participants in our project.

Unity in Action: A Successful Football Session

The collaboration took a vibrant turn when the team at Walker & Son actively participated in one of our weekly football sessions. With over 15 staff members joining 25 project participants, the evening became a true celebration of community and shared passion. A friendly game of football not only brought the groups together but also fostered a positive atmosphere that resonated throughout the evening.

Looking Ahead: A Shared Vision for the New Year

As we step into the new year, our goal is to secure additional support that will enable us to sustain and enhance our project. This support could cover the costs of pitch hire, equipment, skill development for young participants, and further engagement with the business sector and its employees across the community.



Impactful Support for Young People: Empowering Futures

In the past year, our project has supported 64 care-experienced young people through regular group and one-to-one sessions. Additionally, 48 young people, primarily unaccompanied asylum seekers, benefited from our weekly sports sessions. Notably, 29 of the 64 have transitioned into education, employment, or training, while 14 are actively seeking employment.

Empowering Voices: Young Advocates Influencing Change

Our project has not only empowered young people through sports but also provided opportunities for them to influence local and national policy. One outstanding achievement includes a project that trains young individuals as peer researchers, using their lived experiences to inform key local and national decision-makers.

Acknowledging Achievements: A Shared Journey of Impact

As we celebrate these achievements, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Walker & Son and all our supporters who have been instrumental in making a positive impact in the lives of young individuals within our community.





YOUTH JUSTICE

Empowering Futures

Successful Budgeting Workshop with Hinckley and Rugby Building Society

We are excited to share the success of our recent budgeting workshop hosted by our Youth Justice team in collaboration with our business member, Hinckley and Rugby Building Society (HRBS). This workshop aimed to underscore the significance of budgeting and financial management, and the impact has been truly transformative.

Empowering Through Education: Highlights of the Workshop

Led by Tracy Ingram and Denise Bradshaw from HRBS, the budgeting workshop covered a comprehensive range of topics. Participants delved into money goals, benefits of budgeting, leveraging technology for effective budgeting, and maintaining financial tracking. The session was thoughtfully structured to ensure maximum engagement and impact.

Practical Budgeting Tools: Turning Goals into Reality

During the first half of the session, HRBS guided participants through the importance of setting money goals and the advantages of effective budgeting. Practical budgeting sheets were provided, empowering participants to plan their finances, identify short-term and long-term goals, and navigate potential obstacles. This exercise prompted valuable reflections on personal finances and prioritizing budgeting to achieve financial aspirations.



Technology and Online Safety: Navigating the Digital Landscape

The second half of the session focused on harnessing technology for financial management. Participants were introduced to various tools such as spreadsheets and money management apps to enhance efficiency. Importantly, the workshop also addressed online safety, educating participants about potential fraud and scams. Insights on recognising scams and protecting against online threats were shared, ensuring participants are well-informed and secure in their digital financial practices.



Navigating Finances in the Workplace: A Holistic Approach

The session concluded with HRBS emphasizing the importance of understanding finances in the workplace. Key topics included interpreting payslips, understanding tax codes, and familiarizing participants with documents like P45s and P60s. The workshop revealed essential information previously unknown to many participants, equipping them with valuable knowledge for their future careers.

Expressing Gratitude: Thank You, HRBS!

A heartfelt thank you to Tracy Ingram and Denise Bradshaw from Hinckley and Rugby Building Society for their invaluable contribution to this financial session. Your insights have enriched the experiences of our participants, contributing significantly to their professional growth. Your commitment to empowering the next generation is truly commendable.

Transformative Impact: Empowering Futures

In closing, we celebrate the impact of our Youth Justice Project. With 57 young people supported, 34 entering education or training, and notable improvements in attitudes and behaviour, we are witnessing transformative change. The project's success is a testament to the power of education, mentorship, and collaborative efforts.

Thank you for being an essential part of our journey towards empowerment and positive change.



EDUCATION

Empowering Futures:

Successful Interview Skills Workshops with Diverse Partners



We are thrilled to share the success of our recent interview skills workshops conducted at Longfield Academy Melton, Rushey Mead Academy, and Brookvale Academy Groby. These impactful sessions wouldn't have been possible without the collaboration and support of our dedicated volunteers from Nelson's, CPW, Samworth Group, Cambridge & Counties, Alltruck Plc, CGI, Melton Foods, Everards, Sytner, Freeth's Solicitors, and East Midlands Chamber.



Longfield Academy Melton: A Morning of Insightful Interviews

At Longfield Academy Melton, we interviewed 180 students in the morning, providing them with valuable insights into various career paths. The diverse group of volunteers brought perspectives from Nelson's, CPW, Samworth Group, and Cambridge & Counties. Later, we seamlessly transitioned to the virtual realm, delivering our speedy speakers' careers talk to over 500 students, showcasing the contrast between early career and seasoned professionals from Samworth Group HR and a semi-retired independent volunteer.

Rushey Mead Academy: Overcoming Challenges for Student Success

Despite a shaky start due to unforeseen circumstances, our volunteers from Nelson's, Alltruck Plc, CGI, CPW, Melton Foods, and Freeth's Solicitors rallied together at Rushey Mead Academy. With the collective effort of both volunteers and the school, all 170 student interviews ran smoothly and on time. This demonstrated resilience and commitment to the students' learning experience.

Brookvale Academy Groby: Overwhelming Support for Student Development

Our final mainstream delivery of interview skills at Brookvale Academy Groby was a resounding success. The overwhelming support from 26 volunteers, including Everards, Sytner, Nelson's, Freeth's, Cambridge and Counties, CGI, and East Midlands Chamber, ensured that 240 students were provided with invaluable interview experiences over two days. The collaboration with a diverse range of professionals enriched the students' understanding of various industries and career paths.

Gratitude to Our Volunteers: Making a Difference Together

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each volunteer for dedicating their time and expertise. Your involvement has not only impacted the students' understanding of the professional world but has also inspired them as they navigate their future career paths.

Looking Ahead: Empowering Futures Together

As we reflect on the success of these interview skills workshops, we eagerly anticipate future collaborations and opportunities to empower more students across our community. Your commitment to making a positive impact is truly commendable, and we are grateful for your continued support.

Thank you for being an integral part of our mission to empower the next generation.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Empowering Futures Through Employability Initiatives!

As we reflect on the past year, we are thrilled to share the incredible impact we've collectively made in empowering young minds through our employability initiatives. With the dedicated support of 428 business volunteers, we've reached new heights in providing essential skills and opportunities to 11,061 young people in schools across our city and county.

Empowering Young Minds: Key Achievements



1. Diverse Engagement:

Through a variety of formats, including face-to-face, remote, one-to-one, and group sessions, our volunteers have played a crucial role in developing both soft and hard employability skills among the youth. Their dedication has created meaningful connections and imparted valuable insights to guide the next generation.



2. Targeted Support for SEND:

Recognizing the importance of inclusive education, we successfully launched targeted initiatives for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) young people. This tailored approach ensures that every young individual, regardless of their unique needs, has access to the resources and guidance necessary for their personal and professional development.



3. National Recognition for Visually Impaired Students:

Our employability program for visually impaired school students reached new heights with the launch of an awareness pack for use in schools. This innovative initiative received national attention, showcasing our commitment to creating inclusive pathways to the workplace for all.



4. Securing Funding for the Future:

We are thrilled to announce the successful acquisition of funding for a new three-year employability project, specifically designed to support SEND young people. This significant achievement amplifies our commitment to creating lasting positive change in the lives of young individuals facing unique challenges.

Gratitude and Community Impact: A Shared Success

None of these achievements would be possible without the unwavering support of our 428 business volunteers and the entire Leicestershire Cares community. Your dedication to empowering young people and creating inclusive opportunities is the driving force behind our success.

Looking Ahead: Building on the Momentum

As we celebrate these accomplishments, we look forward to building on this momentum in the coming year. Together, we will continue to shape a future where every young person has the tools and opportunities they need to succeed.

Thank you for being an integral part of our mission. Here's to a future filled with empowerment, growth, and limitless possibilities!

SHARING SKILLS

CHANGING LIVES

If any of the above has interested or even inspired you, then please contact us to discuss how you or your colleagues could share your skills and knowledge with young people and community groups. There is so much need and #TogetherWeCan really make a difference.

CONTACT US:



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