

Volunteer It Yourself: VIY

VIY combines volunteering and DIY by challenging young people to learn trade and building skills, on the job, by committing to fix local youth club and community centre buildings in need of essential repairs.

VIY participants are mentored by professional tradespeople, who also volunteer their time, and gain vocational accreditations as well as access to further training, work placement and apprenticeship opportunities with local employers beyond the project (where relevant).

With funding from the Careers & Enterprise Company and in partnership with LEPs, VIY will be running a Mentoring Programme in Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham & Nottinghamshire, Leeds City Region, Sheffield City Region, Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire. VIY will be working with six schools in each LEP area, engaging 60 students per school (from Years 8-10).

VIY Mentoring Programme

VIY will provide a Mentoring Programme that matches Year 8-10 students (deemed at risk of disengagement) with local professional tradespeople through a mix of classroom activities and out-of-school/on-the-job volunteering opportunities and work experiences.

Students will be matched with volunteer trade skills mentors and learn and develop employability skills as a result of these personal/face-to-face mentoring interactions. Over the course of 12 weeks students will complete two in-class workshops of one hour each, followed by one day (approx. six hours) on-the-job work experience which will include an exit interview at the end of the programme.

Students will learn about skills development and job/career opportunities in the building and construction sector, develop wider employability skills such as increased self-confidence and teamwork, and gain on-the-job experience volunteering and working alongside their mentors on a community building refurbishment project. Some building refurbishment projects will be hosted, where appropriate and in response to demand, by participating schools.

Besides guiding young people in learning vocational trade skills, VIY mentors are inducted and trained to mentor young people in developing seven key broader employability skills, the impact of which will be measured in our evaluation. This is done by recording students' self-assessed confidence levels across these seven skills on programme entry and exit and through mentor-mentee conversations. The mentor induction process also covers Safeguarding, Prevent and Information, Advice and Guidance strategies.

All activities will be supported by DIY retailer Wickes, through the donation of tools/materials and the mobilisation of trade customers and staff as volunteer mentors. The recruitment of volunteer mentors will also be supported and enabled by VIY partner Which? Trusted Traders, the online trade recommendation service with a national network of checked and assessed local professional tradespeople.

For more information, or if you would like to take part in the VIY Mentoring Programme, please contact:

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