

YES Theory of Change

YES aims to support disadvantaged young people to obtain confidence, gain relevant skills and/or qualifications, and progress into sustainable Education, Employment, and Training (EET) opportunities. We use psychologically informed techniques to equip them with the skills they need to navigate barriers and setbacks.



Assumptions

- Demand for functional skills education and qualifications is high
- It's always better for young people to be engaged than not
- A personalised, flexible approach leads to lasting change



Target Audience

- Aged 16–25
- Faced challenges in mainstream education
- Does not have English or Maths GCSE (or equivalent qualification)
- Navigating a mix of complex needs and/or disadvantage

Activities



Referrals

- Referrals can be accepted from parents, social workers, support workers, local authorities, or directly from young people
- Accepted all year round



Induction

- 1:1 welcome and induction with trained support coach
- Meet the tutors and explore the space
- Time to ask questions, share any concerns or support needs
- Needs assessment and consent forms completed



Education

- Trauma-informed qualified teachers support both learning and personal needs
- All students start with 1:1 sessions to build trust, assess level, and boost confidence
- Group placement is based on level, needs, and availability
- Creative, engaging lessons using games, cooking or art
- Students are treated as adults, with flexibility and no punishment for lateness
- Extra 1:1 support is available when needed



Support

- Support can include:
- Travel training, bus tickets, and help with managing routines
 - Access to 1625 activities focussed on well being, building confidence and healthy relationships
 - Referrals to external specialist services for health, substance use, or wellbeing
 - Regular updates to support networks for joined-up care
 - CVs, progression planning, and help with job or education applications
 - ACT-informed support to explore values and overcome emotional barriers



Outcomes

With our support:

- 96% of student that took exams, passed at least one exam in 2023/24
- 84% of students progressed into education or employment

Within 6 months, students reported:

- 57% improved mental wellbeing
- 43% more confidence in education
- 28% better at managing finances
- 14% improved relationships



Impact

As young people move from long term NEET to sustained EET. They're more likely to:

- Access good work opportunities
- Build confidence and resilience
- Form positive adult relationships

And less likely to:

- Rely on long-term benefits
- Enter the criminal justice system
- Depend on health services
- Have children taken into care



Opportunities

Growing our offer:

- More contact time with students offering them more opportunity to engage
- Expand curriculum to include ESOL, vocational courses, and digital skills
- More capacity for visits during low engagement periods

Student Journey Examples

