



Barnardo's YouthBuild Academy

Supported by Saint Gobain UK and Ireland

Project report 2021

In partnership with



Introduction



“ The Academy has changed my life. It has given me different options which I never thought were possible. I would really recommend it to other young people who are interested in the construction industry.”

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a uniquely challenging time for all of us, but the impact on the most vulnerable young people in our society has been devastating:

- Youth long-term unemployment hit a five-year high in 2020, with more than 200,000 under 25s out of work for more than six months.
- 83% of young people with a history of mental ill health said the coronavirus pandemic had made their mental health worse
- 76% of Barnardo's project workers reported that the young people we worked with needed foodbanks, community kitchens or welfare grants

The impact of the pandemic was particularly pronounced for care leavers, who told us repeatedly about how much harder lockdown was without the support of family.

We are therefore especially proud to present our report for the Barnardo's YouthBuild Academy for 2020/21 – which outlines how our partnership has supported young people in their time of need.

With your support we were able to transform our delivery model to a blended approach, developing online resources, ways of working and content and providing all young people with devices to ensure they could continue to stay connected and engage with online learning.

We provided additional support to young people around their mental health and wellbeing through the tailored support of our project workers, providing a listening ear during a time when young people had nowhere else to turn.

And we supported 65% young people into positive destinations through the year, the highest level since our programme began at a time when the challenges have never been so difficult.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible support of Saint Gobain, whose fundraising and strategic support allowed the Academy to stay running over this period – I hope you feel incredibly proud reading the stories of young people supported.

We know the challenges facing young people following the pandemic are only just beginning- On behalf of Barnardo's and our beneficiaries I therefore wanted to say a heartfelt thanks to everyone at Saint Gobain for your long-term support. It means the world to us.



Take care and stay safe,

Emma Whitcombe

**Emma Whitcombe,
Interim Director of Fundraising**

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Our Achievements in Numbers

Despite the challenges brought on by the Coronavirus pandemic we are incredibly proud of the results that have been achieved during this period. 44% of young people referred enrolled onto the programme with 94% of those enrolled graduating.

Of the 17 young people who graduated 65% moved into positive destinations, our highest rate to date.

The pandemic brought challenges, such as delays to course start dates, the need to stay at home, and the team had to pivot their ways of working to ensure that the programme could continue successfully.

At the start of the pandemic the team moved to online delivery, interacting with young people online and providing online learning resources. Through the Barnardo's emergency appeal all learners were provided with chromebooks, tablets and phones to keep them connected and able to engage with online learning.

From October 2020 face to face delivery was able to return with online platforms still used for some workshops.



41
Referrals



65%
into positive destinations



18
Starting on programme



17
Graduating

Barnardo's continues to offer post progression to all learners who have not yet reached a positive destination.

Year	Referrals	Enrolled	Graduated	Positive destination	Positive Destination (%)
18/19	77	41	19	13	31%
19/20	140	54	38	24	45%
20/21	41	18	17	11	65%

“The course has exceeded my expectations. Learning new skills and identifying skills in myself that I did not know that I had so I can develop them further.”

Positive Destinations

We are delighted to have seen 17 young people graduate and pleased that they were able to attend their graduation ceremony in person, with guests dialling in remotely via Zoom. Mike Chaldecott (Chief Executive Officer) from Saint Gobain attended the event virtually.

Positive destinations from the most recent cohort include:

- 1 Electrical Apprenticeship – Deep Contractors
- 4 Work Placements with Dry Lining job offers on completion – Balfour Beatty
- 2 Youth Builders Void Properties Pilot – YouthBuild UK
- 4 General Labourer – Amazon/Addeco



“I wanted to access a journey of self-improvement as well as wanting to access something that would help improve my future employment prospects. The programme has done that. My expectations have not been met. They have been exceeded.”

Success story



Charlotte says:

“I’ve been suffering badly with my anxiety around covid19. The Barnardo’s Youth build support has been amazing to have, from a chat on the phone with Maucha, with her kind words of encouragement on being resilient and trying to make covid19 lockdown a more positive experience.”

Charlotte

Charlotte is a single mother of an 8-year-old son who has a diagnosis Autism. Charlotte lives locally to the centre and found out about the Barnardo’s Youthbuild programme through a leaflet that was delivered through her door. She decided to join the programme in March 2020. Unfortunately, the start date for the programme was put on hold due to Covid-19. Charlotte was advised to shield for 12 weeks due to coming under the vulnerable person category. This placed a huge strain on Charlotte’s mental health, which led to heightened feelings of anxiety and fear.

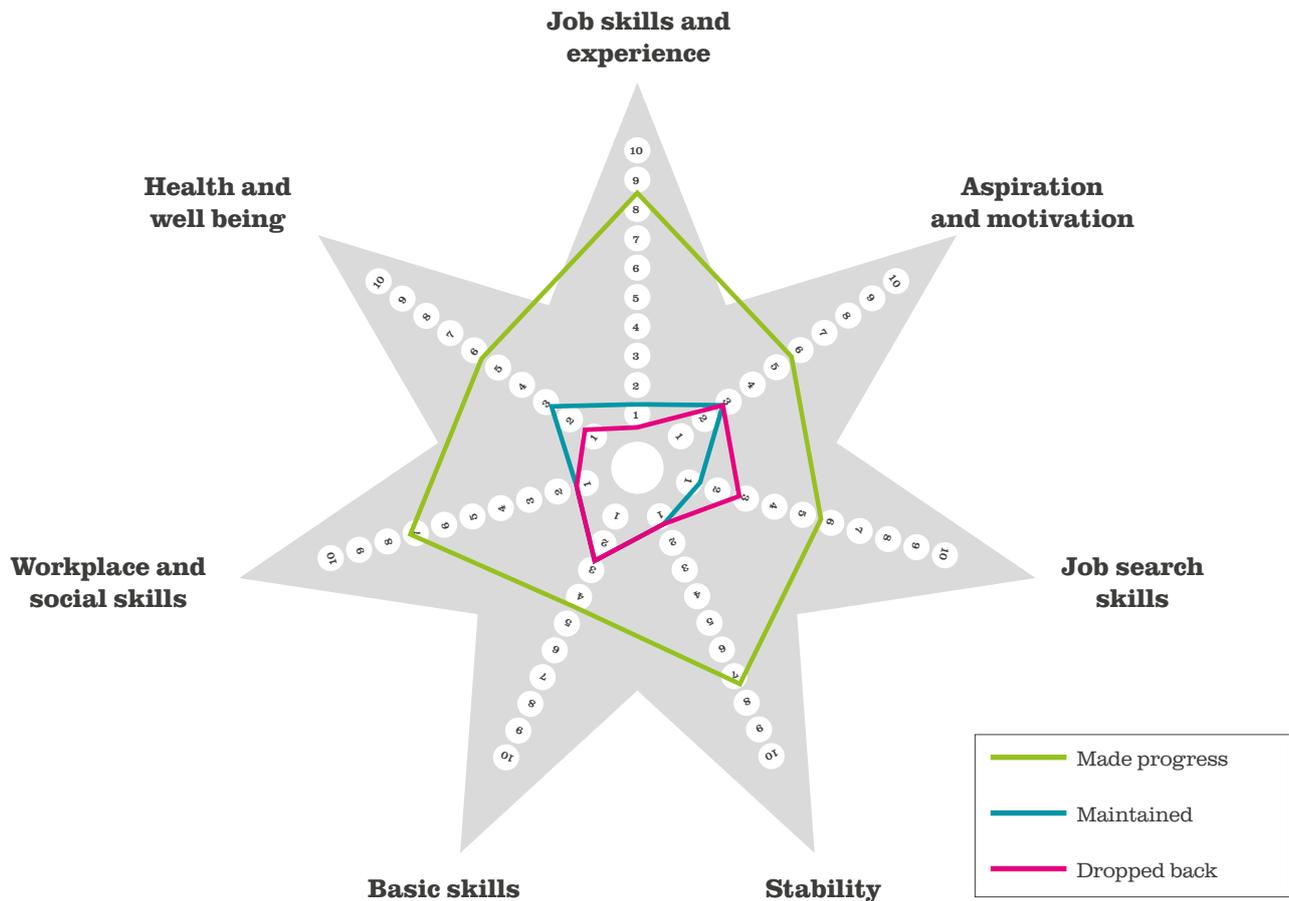
During this period Charlotte was supported by the team with regular telephone calls and weekly workshop zoom sessions. Charlotte was also provided with emergency donations such as food vouchers, device and Wi-Fi access and wellbeing packs to support her financial and emotional wellbeing during the lockdown period.

In October 2020 face to face programme delivery was finally able to resume. Charlotte fully engaged with all aspects of the programme. Charlotte managed extremely well to juggle her home life, her worries, and fears. Charlotte has made significant progress in the areas of her confidence, self-esteem and presenting herself within other professional settings (virtual). Charlotte has also formed positive friendships with her peers and staff. She is now a valued member of the Voice Board, where she actively speaks on behalf of the group. During an employer panel workshop, Charlotte was able to impress a perspective employer, which resulted in a job offer for a full-time apprentice role as Roofer Trainer.

Measuring Impact – Outcome Star

To support with measuring the impact of our Academy, each young person completes an outcome STAR assessment tool at the beginning and end of the programme.

This allows young people and the project worker to discuss and reflect upon their progress in relation to agreed goals. The data collected showed that overall young people made significant progress across all outcome's areas. Young people on average made **81%** change across all outcome areas. On a scale of 1-10 the initial average score for a young person is **4 - 5**, with the final scores increasing to **7 - 8**. Jobs skills and work experience was the largest increase at **86%**, with stability at **71%**.



Covid-19 still has a significant impact on the young people we support. We have found young people are struggling in the areas of substance misuse, low motivation, emotional mental wellbeing, feelings of loneliness and isolation. Despite these challenges young people have made increment changes to address these issues, remained focused on completing the programme, and have shown admirable resilience and determination to achieve their goals.

Success story



Susan says:

“The level of support that I received I don’t think I would have gotten that anywhere else. The staff really helped develop a range of skills especially interpersonal skills. The life skills that I learned are invaluable; things like employees’ rights, understanding tax codes are not taught in school but is important for the world of work. Without Barnardos Youthbuild I don’t think I would be where I am now.”

Susan

How it started

Susan joined the programme in 2019. She liked the idea of practical work and desired to work in quantity surveying; she thought this would be the perfect programme for her.

Whilst on the programme, despite being a bright young lady, Susan struggled with social interaction and her communication skills. She practically found it difficult working in group settings.

Because of her challenges with communication, 1-1 sessions were difficult as she was not open to exploring the root of her anxieties, and often came across as being very reserved, however we persevered.

By the end of the programme Susan’s persona was transformed, although she still felt uncomfortable in large group settings, she was able to communicate more effectively and adapted different strategies that enabled her to cope when she felt overwhelmed.

Susan became a role model and she has participated in various panels telling potential partners and young people about the impact that the programme has had on her life.

Where is Susan now

Susan is now working towards a Level 4 apprenticeship in Business Administration support with a Landscape construction company. She is currently managing 4 of her own projects.

Future Focus

We are incredibly proud of what we have been able to achieve, transforming the lives of some of the most vulnerable young people in our communities, during an especially challenging year and we look forward to continuing to build on the achievements of this year.

- We are excited to continue to embed our new delivery model with a longer study programme and bootcamp offer, to reach even more young people, offering different opportunities to different groups depending on their age.
- In addition to the key areas of construction, leadership, functional skills and employability, the new programme will now include a 30 hour work placement. A work placement will provide learners with valuable real life meaningful work experience.
- YouthBuild UK set up a YouthBuilder Void pilot project, working with Phoenix Housing, offering paid opportunities for graduates on the barnardo's YouthBuild programme. This exciting opportunity will support young people beyond the programme with real opportunities, building their confidence, further developing their construction skills, provide a real sense of community engagement and ultimately help them get into sustainable employment.
- We look forward to continuing to support colleagues across Saint-Gobain brands, throughout the UK, with their amazing fundraising efforts in support of our partnership.

Thank you for your incredible support

We are excited and hopeful for what the future holds for our young people supported through the Academy, and we look forward to continuing to develop opportunities to work together, with Saint-Gobain to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable young people in our communities.

Thank you.



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