



## **Going Forward – Street League Case Study**

Since May 2017, Fast Forward's Going Forward team has worked with over 30 organisations, across Edinburgh and the Lothians, to deliver 200 group - work sessions for high-tariff, vulnerable and at-risk young people. One of the organisations that we have worked with is Street League. Read on to hear more from Ann Taylor, Street League's Progressions Coordinator in Edinburgh.

### **Can you tell us a bit about what Street League does?**

Street League is the UK's leading sport for employment charity. We operate in 14 regions across the UK with our sport for employment programmes running in 38 local communities. Our 10-12 week long programmes support unemployed 16-24 year olds to learn the key skills, gain the necessary qualifications and work experience to move into a sustainable job or further training. We have worked with many organisations and agencies to deliver sessions, such as State Street to help conduct mock interviews and provide feedback on future employment.

### **Why did you decide to get involved with the Going Forward project?**

At Street League, we want to make sure our young people are given the best opportunities to develop and progress themselves. This includes being mindful of their health and well-being and ensuring they are equipped with enough information to make sensible life decisions which might impact their future. Therefore, the Going Forward project was an ideal opportunity to pass this information to our young people from professionals.

### **How have the Going Forward sessions integrated with the work that you already deliver?**

The young people Street League work with may not be equipped with the relevant information enabling them to make the right decisions. The Going Forward project delivered sessions which were interactive and provided a safe environment, meaning the young people were able to build up the confidence to ask questions and become more involved in discussions and scenarios.

### **What did you particularly like about the sessions?**

The main thing I think our young people received from the sessions was learning and recognising the consequences of substance misuse, risk-taking behaviour and other health issues. Many of our young people are vulnerable or at risk, and may not have the knowledge in place to enable them to make the right decisions, so the Going Forward project has helped them increase their knowledge of these topics.

## **What sort of impact do you think the sessions have had on the young people that you support?**

Street League participants can be vulnerable and high risk young people. Providing them with the ability to recognise triggers that can lead to risk-taking behaviours and substance misuse, and providing them with appropriate strategies and information to help with these issues really does make an impact. A number of the young people may use the information provided by Fast Forward after they have been on a Street League programme and may not have received this information from another agency. Therefore I think it's important to provide the young people with some sort of toolkit regarding these issues, and Fast Forward helped achieve this.

## **Would you recommend Going Forward to another organisation?**

For sure! We have asked Going Forward to deliver sessions for several of the groups that we work with and we fully intend to work with them again in the future.

## **Want to find out more about Going Forward?**

To find out more about the Going Forward project, or discuss ways in which Going Forward could work with your organisation to develop and deliver a programme of sessions tailored to the specific needs of the young people that you support, simply e-mail one of the team, or give us a call:

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