



Going Forward – Tomorrow's People 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 organisation that we have worked with is Tomorrow's People North Edinburgh. Read on to hear more from Jackie Massie, Lead Engage Coach at Tomorrow's People.

Can you tell us a bit about what Tomorrow's People does?

Tomorrow's People was an employability and personal development course delivered in several locations across Scotland. The courses take place over a period of 6 weeks, with the goals of helping young people develop their CV's, gain interview skills, as well as developing their soft skills and enabling them to better understand their rights and the benefits that they are entitled to. The project works with young people who are not in education, employment or training, young people who come from areas of multiple deprivation, and young people who come from non-working families. There are also a number of young people recruited to the project who have disabilities, who have been in the care system or have been involved with the criminal justice system.

How did you find out about Going Forward?

I first heard about Going Forward through a colleague who had previously worked with Fast Forward. I received a handover document from the worker who had previously done my job and it had a list of all of the organisations that they had done partnership work. On the handover document, my colleague mentioned that of all the organisations that Tomorrow's People had done partnership work with, Fast Forward were the ones whose work was the most beneficial to Tomorrow's People service users. I arranged a meeting with the Going Forward project workers to discuss how the sessions that they were offering could fit in with our upcoming work.

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

The sessions that Going Forward delivered really helped to promote further discussion among the young people – particularly around issues relating to appropriate use of language. The Going Forward activities provided the young people with activities that gave them a far better understanding of issues relating to risks that the young people were already engaging in.



What did you particularly like about the sessions?

In particular, the sessions that looked at gender and relationships started a discussion that the young people had not had before. These issues are not generally tackled in schools/ other projects and it broadened their understanding of issues surrounding sexism. Conversations surrounding derogatory and misogynistic language were particularly enlightening for the young people involved.

I also found it positive that the sessions often involved physical activities and games as well as discussions as it changed the energy in the room. Many young people in the groups would have reading and writing issues as well as attention issues and getting them up and thinking for themselves. I think the fact that the workers never told the young people that they were right or wrong was really refreshing and positive for the young people.

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

The change in the young people's attitudes and approach. Before the sessions, a lot of young people had no knowledge about why something might be offensive. It increased their knowledge about risk-taking without shaming them, therefore they felt able to be open about their risk-taking, how it might be impacting their lives. I also felt it motivated them to make more positive decisions in regard to their risk-taking behaviours.

Would you recommend Going Forward to another organisation?

One hundred percent! I mention Going Forward to other organisations all the time. Most people that I speak to already know of Fast Forward based on other work of the organisation, and everything that I hear is positive.

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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