

Making Strides Programme





Vision and Mission

Our Vision

That every young person is empowered to gain the confidence, independence and skills they need for a better and brighter future.

Our Mission

ThinkForward delivers unique, personalised coaching programmes for young people at a key stage in their lives, enabling them to overcome the challenges they face and make a successful transition into work. Every young person takes part in workplace activities to develop their life goals and readiness for work. We raise the voices of our young people and support employers to provide fair access to opportunities.



About ThinkForward

ThinkForward provides long-term coaching that gets young people ready for the world of work. The key to our success is our highly skilled coaches who build consistent, trusted relationships with young people through one-to-one coaching sessions.

We develop the skills that young people need, help them overcome the challenges they face, and facilitate employability activities to broaden their horizons and provide experience of the workplace.

Our [FutureMe](#) programme works with young people who face challenges on their path to success, to get them ready for the world of work. Our coaches are based in schools in London, Nottingham and Kent, across 17 schools and a reach of 1300 young people on programme

The Making Strides programme works in London, Birmingham and Sandwell with 160 young adults who have learning disabilities and/or autism, with the aim of supporting them into sustainable paid employment.

The first phase of the [Future Leaders](#) programme ran in 8 London boroughs over the course of one year, to support young 62 black young men who had been excluded or were at risk of exclusion from mainstream education.



The need

Adults with learning disabilities and/or autism have been historically underrepresented in the workforce, and face significant challenges in accessing sustainable employment opportunities.

Only 4.8% of adults with a Learning Disability are in paid employment.

Nearly 60% of all London boroughs have lower than national averages of adults with learning disabilities in employment – as low as 0.9%. In Hounslow, this figure is 3.2%.

22% of adults with autism are in paid employment.

This is in comparison to a 75% employment rate in the general population.

Ref:

1. BASE UK 2020/21
2. ONS 2020
3. ONS 2024



The aim

Young people aged 18 – 25 with a learning disability and/or autism are supported to transition into paid employment.



Programme offer

- A two-year programme
- Tailored to individual needs
- Puts young people and their circle of support at the centre of decision making
- One-to-one coaching
- Group Workshops
- Employer engagement including:
 - Business Mentoring
 - Insight days
 - Extended Recruitment Programme



Meet the coach



Katrina Serette has a varied career working with and supporting vulnerable children, young adults and adults in the health and social care sector.

She has worked in health, wellbeing, supported housing, residential, outreach and education sectors before deciding that her real passion is working with neurodiverse individuals supporting them into suitable education or employment pathways so they can lead fulfilling lives.



Referrals

Referrals can be made by professionals.

The referral window is open now and will be closed on 8th April 2024.

Referrals can be made here:

For queries and further information, contact
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Contact us



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Forward**

Coaching
Connecting
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Young People