

THIS MOMENT IS YOURS



The Aim

To employ one talent coach to support 10 young people aged 18-24 who have been out of employment, education or training for twelve months or more and who need extra support to help them along their pathway to work. Talent Match is a Big Lottery Fund £108 million investment to tackle youth unemployment in 21 areas of England. Greater Manchester Talent Match supports young people in the ten districts of Greater Manchester.

Talent coaches provide personalised mentoring support to young people. This is GreaterSport's way.....

Insight

Local insight completed by Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO) showed that young people missed a highly personalised, holistic approach that supports them to overcome personal and practical barriers to employment in existing youth employment schemes.

What we do

We have taken an innovative approach in delivering Talent Match. Insight from previous employability programmes run by GreaterSport showed that ex elite athletes possess essential mentoring skills. They were able to build more effective relationships with hard to reach young people, as they have overcome their own personal barriers. We found that the young people were inspired by the athletes stories and personal journeys to success, to motivate them to start their own positive change.

We started with one talent coach but the programme was so successful we were asked to employ a second so we could double the number of young people we work with.

How we do it

Young people are at the centre. We recognise that young people don't just want any job and have talents that should be embraced and developed. Our young people aspire to increase their employability, but find it difficult to navigate their way through all the local opportunities available to them and often don't know where to start! Our athlete Talent Coaches mentor and support our young people on this journey unlocking their talents and inspiring them to achieve. With regular advice and guidance, which could be help with CV, highlighting volunteering or job opportunities or helping prepare for interviews, maybe even advice on the basics like what to wear, in addition to goal setting and monitoring the progress we are able to constantly modify and tailor our help to meet the young persons needs and aspirations.

Why we do it

GreaterSport's core values are passion, integrity and purpose. Our mentors are passionate about helping local young people make positive changes to their lives. By supporting Greater Manchester residents into local employment opportunities, we are boosting local economic growth and our young people feel valued by being able to contribute to the community.

Who we do it with

We work collaboratively with Stockport Homes (Housing Trust) as a support network to ensure we can provide the best service to our users. Close links with local authorities provide us with useful knowledge and insight of what opportunities are available in those areas. As well as strong relationships with local employers that allow us to still continue our support for young people whilst they are in work we have links with sports clubs and charities that provide volunteer and training opportunities.

Chris' Story

Chris left school at 16 had never worked and found himself in a downward spiral spending up to £120 a week on 'weed' and landing his mum in to debt in the process. After starting on our Talent Match programme (aged 21) it was clear he had caught the fitness bug after being around previous athletes and taking part in various sporting challenges. He enjoyed going to the gym and keeping himself in shape. After many conversations with Chris it was apparent that he was eager to work in the fitness industry as it had already had such a positive impact on his life. After support from his Talent Coach Chris got himself a space on a Fitness Instructing course which he successfully passed and was later offered a part time job in his local gym. This opportunity has allowed him to make more friends in the gym and has given him the knowledge and experience to support and help people close to him. **"I am now trying to use my positive experience to influence and encourage the people around me to take the same steps that I have."**

"Talent Match guided me onto the right path and encouraged me to make the right choices."



The Outcomes...

31 Young people mentored

12 Young people in full time sustainable employment

91 Learning opportunities

18 Formal qualifications

2,065 Volunteer hours