



## SUPPORTING EDUCATION & TRAINING

### **Project:** The Prince's Trust Northamptonshire

The Prince's Trust Northamptonshire Teams are run by Tresham College, (part of The Bedford College Group), and have been transforming the lives of local young people in the community for over 20 years.

The Group funds all elements of The Prince's Trust Northamptonshire programmes, ensuring that they are completely accessible to local disadvantaged young people. This includes covering the costs of travel and a 4-day long residential in the Peak District.

Four Prince's Trust Teams in Northamptonshire: Northampton North; Northampton South; Northampton Kettering (also covering Corby); and Northampton Wellingborough (also covering Rushden) work with young people from a variety of backgrounds. This includes: 16-25 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs); young offenders; those in care; and young people suffering with mental illnesses such as addictions and anxiety.

These individuals are often stuck in challenging, negative behaviour patterns that have a detrimental impact on their local communities. The 12-week programme provides the intensive support they need to completely transform their outlook on life and gain a range of skills including communication; problem solving; leadership; caring for others; motivation; tolerance; teamwork; reliability; setting and achieving goals; alongside a recognised qualification: Level 1 Certificate in Employment, Teamwork and Community Skills, which acts as springboard into employment or further education.

As well as supporting the local young people who need it most, The Prince's Trust delivers a wide range of practical, redevelopment projects across the county including renovating churches, schools and community centres.

There are usually 15 young people on each 12-week programme who undertake:

- **A local community project** from planning to achieving their goals. The Team raise money for the project as well as getting involved with all the practical work. These projects prove to be rewarding for the individuals involved but also provide lasting benefits to local communities and offer great experience for the Team to talk about at interviews for jobs and further education courses.
- **A residential trip away** providing a break from their current situation to join in on a range of team building activities including: rock climbing; caving; canoeing and abseiling.
- **Work placements** to put the skills they have learnt into practice in the workplace.
- **Career planning exercises** including support for writing CV's, interview skills and making applications.
- **Team challenge** for the local community such as supporting Northampton's homeless community by handing out care packages of food; toiletries and clothing.

The final week of celebrations for the The Prince's Trust Teams sees the Team presenting in front of an audience – something that many thought would be impossible at the start of their journey only 12 weeks before.

The Prince's Trust Northamptonshire Teams have achieved outstanding results over the past 20 years. In 2020-21, 100% of the young people on the programme achieved the Level 1 Certificate in Employment, Teamwork and Community Skills. The previous year, 81% had progressed on to positive destinations: 40% into further education; 36% into employment and 5% into volunteering positions.



## Team programme

Senior Team Leader Paul Hamblin, who has been running Northampton North Prince's Trust Teams for over 20 years said: "Companies like Ricoh and Reed Employment often ask us for a reference about time-keeping and commitment regarding our young people. They trust us because we have a proven record of maintaining great relationships with employers."

In addition to these excellent progression stories for young people, there are a huge number of community projects across Northamptonshire that have been delivered over the past 20 years. One of the most recent initiatives was refurbishing the Abington Avenue United Reform Church in Northampton, completed in July 2021.

A unique part of The Prince's Trust Northampton North programme is how participants volunteer at "Revitalise", a holiday for disabled people. The Team meet with disabled people on their Revitalise holiday who are cheerful in the face of tremendous physical difficulties, often providing a whole new positive perspective on the participants' own lives.

Amongst the most recent external recognition of the Prince's Trust Northamptonshire's excellent work was in 2020 when the Northampton South Team won the Dell Technologies Community Impact Award at a special Prince's Trust regional ceremony held in Nottingham.

Cheryl Needham, Head of Adult and Community Learning at The Bedford College Group said: "The Prince's Trust Northamptonshire Teams have helped some of the most challenging young people in our local community and provided them with life-changing, long-term, sustainable skills and prospects. What's more, their work has rippled out into the wider community - from schools to churches to community centres - all benefitting from a broad range of practical renovations and refurbishments."

Becky Dalton, Registered Manager at Park Avenue care home said: "We have noticed such a change in one of our young men since he's been working with the Prince's Trust Northamptonshire Team. He said to me the other day: "The Prince's Trust has totally changed me". It has given him structure and life skills."

The latest Prince's Trust Annual Quality Review (AQR) stated that: "Tresham College continues to be a committed and quality delivery partner for The Prince's Trust Team programme, supporting approximately 527 young people in 2020-2021, with 100% of them achieving a qualification. The Delivery Partner Manager, Cheryl Needham, continues to look for fresh ideas while being an enthusiastic champion for The Trust. All Team Leaders show a passion for the programme and demonstrate excellent pastoral care skills by supporting high need individuals to achieve."

Lynn Worrall, Prince's Trust Executive, approved the latest AQR stating that it: "still reflects the outstanding work delivering the programme."



L-R (Front) Paul Hamblin and Cheryl Needham with The Prince's Trust Team