

Street League and Shoosmiths Foundation End of Year Report 2022

Giving young people across Yorkshire the opportunity to build a brighter future

At Street League, we use sport and education to support young into work. We work with unemployed young people (aged 16-30) living in areas of high deprivation across 12 major cities in the UK. We teach employability skills, deliver qualifications in maths and English and engage young people in physical activity every day. Sport is at the heart of what we do and what makes us successful. We support young people holistically, recognising the inextricable links between wellbeing, health and employment. Street League works in schools, communities, and with employers to equip young people with the confidence, motivation, essential skills, and qualifications needed to succeed in the world of work.

The project: From November 2021 – December 2022 Street League delivered qualifications to 16-24 year olds across Leeds and Sheffield who left school with low or no qualifications. With Shoosmiths Foundation's support, we aimed for over 50 young people to start Street League's qualification programme, each developing key workplace skills and increasing their physical fitness whilst gaining qualifications and improved mental health. We aimed for 48 young people to achieve at least one (and up to three) qualifications as part of their journey with Street League, with 40 young people progressing into employment, education or further training.

Whilst all the headlines are telling us about record lows in unemployment. **Youth unemployment in the UK is currently almost triple the national average (10.8% compared to 3.8%)** (Youth Unemployment Statistics Nov 2022; House of Commons Library) and because we work with young people living in some of the most disadvantaged areas, we're seeing as high as one in four young people out of work.

With mental health issues amongst young people ever more prevalent post-pandemic, with young people and their families choosing between heating and eating, and with school leavers having missed out on formative educational and social experiences, the need to support Street League's work is greater than ever.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Shoosmiths for supporting Street League's work in Yorkshire – helping young people who face disadvantage achieve qualifications and find work.

From November 2021 – October 2022, across Leeds and Sheffield

187 young people have started our qualifications programme across Yorkshire, including Alishba who had low confidence, no work experience and had faced cultural barriers to securing work. [Target: 53 young people]

187 young people engaged in daily sports, making new friends whilst increasing their physical and mental wellbeing. [Target: 53 young people]

155 out of a total **190** qualifications achieved a pass (an 82% achievement rate), including GCSE level English and maths. [Target: 48 young people to achieve at least 1 qualification]

So far, **82** young people have moved into employment [46], education [19] or further training [17].
[Target: 30 employment, education or training outcomes]

89% have sustained their job outcome for three months.

62% have sustained their job outcome for six months. [Target: 60% sustainment rate]

*Shoosmiths Foundation funding contributes towards Street League Leeds and Sheffield's qualification Academy programme, including the salaries of Functional Skills Tutors who deliver English and maths GCSE level qualifications. These statistics refer to the programme as a whole.

“Street League helped me with motivation and supported me to take the functional skills maths and English exams to my maximum ability. They also helped me make new friends. I also learnt new skills and got support on my CV to help me get into employment.”

- a young person supported thanks to funding from Shoosmiths



Impact story: Saleh

Saleh found out about Street League through his local boxing club in Sheffield and joined in 2021. Initially very shy and reserved, Saleh wanted to gain his maths and English qualifications to support him to get a job and wanted our help to reach his goals.

Our frontline team saw his confidence, communication, listening and teamwork skills improve in abundance, which led to him smashing his goals! Not only has Saleh now achieved what he set out to – gaining his maths and English qualifications – he’s also completed and passed accredited qualification in both sports and employability as well as undertaking a work placement to improve his experience.

We’re delighted to share that after developing his CV with our team and doing lots of interview practice, Saleh was successful in securing a customer service role with a marketing company in Sheffield and is doing really well.

*Saleh’s story is applicable to Street League’s Sheffield Academy programme as a whole, and not specific to funding from the Shoosmiths Foundation.

Employee engagement with Shoosmiths

Shoosmiths volunteering day at Street League, Leeds.

In November 2022, Shoosmiths volunteered at Street League Leeds, delivering a session to Street League participants, supporting with maths and English in the classroom and getting involved in the afternoon sports session. You can find more information about the day [here](#).

“The session in Leeds really opened my eyes to the positive impact a warm and welcoming, safe space can have on young people. I spent time speaking to a number of young people currently benefiting from the Shoosmiths Foundation grant, many of which prior to joining the course had no Maths or English qualifications. Now waiting for their results, on passing they will be armed with the tools to help them gain employment or go on to further education. It is clear that Street League are doing an impeccable job in changing the lives of young people who would otherwise have fallen through the cracks and it was a pleasure spending to the day with Harry and his team”.

– Lauren Bowkett, Principal Associate, Shoosmiths (Leeds)



“I’ve learnt more at Street League in the last 10 weeks than I did at school in five years”

– a Street League participant from Leeds

Other partnership activity

Interview with Street League CEO Dougie Stevenson: <https://www.shoosmiths.co.uk/our-responsibility/shoosmiths-foundation>.

Street League's Head of Corporate Partnerships and Leeds Progressions Coordinator joined Shoosmiths lunch and learn staff webinar in April 2022 to talk about Street League's work and the project supported by Shoosmiths Foundation.

Street League contributed to Shoosmiths Insight on *Diversity and Inclusion – Measuring the Impact*: <https://www.shoosmiths.co.uk/insights/investing-in-tomorrow-esg/diversity-and-inclusion--measuring-the-impact>

Street League supporting Shoosmiths in the BITC Making Work Work Campaign <https://www.bitc.org.uk/case-study/shoosmiths-is-making-work-work-for-people-and-the-planet/>.

Amy Ruff, Graduate Recruitment Senior Advisor at Shoosmiths gave paralegal advice to a young person in London interested in exploring a legal career.

Shoosmiths volunteering day in Leeds in November 2022 gained attention from the Yorkshire Evening Post.

We are so grateful for your support over the last year. Thanks to the Shoosmiths Foundation, young people across Yorkshire now have the opportunity of a better future despite the challenges they've faced in their lives. This is such a crucial time, with record levels of poverty and mental health issues, to be there for young people.

Thank you, from all of us at Street League for all of your support.

