



## Newsletter No 4

Wealden Works was established by the Heathfield Partnership Trust just a year ago, so we would like to share our journey throughout the last 12 months.

Our aim was to expand the programme to the wider Wealden area, the success of this has shown **35 young people** enrolling and travelling from; Hailsham, Uckfield, Horam, Polegate, Wadhurst, Burwash, Brightling, Punnetts Town, Herstmonceaux, Mayfield, Hellingly, Five Ashes Heathfield, and Eastbourne, in a rural area with limited public transport their journey has not been easy sometimes involving two bus changes; despite this, **100% completed the course**, showing how important it is to continue providing vulnerable young people the support and advice needed to move forward with their lives into employment, training and further education.

**Participant ages ranged from 16 -24, with only 3 registered with the Job Centre and claiming benefits.**

Individual personal circumstances varied: **90% had related 'mental health issues'**, and 3 young lads with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome joined the group. Contributing personal factors to our young people's emotional instability and anxiety which in turn led to low self esteem and lack of confidence, (which we found to be the main barrier to achieving their goals) included:

**Bereavement, Disabled Carer, Dyslexia, Homelessness, Self- Harming, Abusive Parenting, Ex -Offenders, Physical Health Issues, Single Parenting, Anorexia, Fostered /Adopted Young Persons, Drug and Alcohol abuse and addiction, School Exclusion, Bullying, Behavioural Issues and Depression.**

Our 1-1 mentoring, trust and relationship building with the young people enables us to address any issues they wish to disclose, (and may never have discussed previously) and if required, offer our free professional counselling service. The **'soft outcome' success** of our programme, which we are very proud of, is vital to achieve their personal targets and career goals

## Participant Achievements.

Accredited Qualifications.....82% of participants

Work Experience/Voluntary work attended ..... 88% of participants

Employment ..... 70% of participants

Apprenticeships.....14% (+ 2 pending)

Further Education .....9% (+2 pending)

**Employment Positions gained** include: Trainee Investment Advisor, Tree Surgeon, Trainee Pharmacist, Child Care Practitioner, Crew Supervisor, Barista, Horticulture Apprenticeship, Care Worker, Retail Supervisor, Butchery Apprenticeship, Warehouse Assistant, Research Assistant, Electrical Apprenticeship, Social media Assistant, Carpet/Floor Fitting Apprenticeship

Throughout the last year the Wealden Works Team have been busy ‘spreading the word’, raising awareness, forming partnerships and gaining support and financial donations by attending over **50 events and presentations** to businesses, colleges, parish councils, job centres, Rotary Clubs, and Chambers of Commerce to name a few.

Publicity articles have appeared in local press, Sussex Life, interviews on BBC Radio Sussex and Uckfield Radio, and acknowledgements from our Ambassadors Roger Daltry and Jayne Torvill



It has been hard work but a truly successful first year, and thanks go to the Trustees, Stakeholders our Ambassadors, dedicated staff, and the local Communities but most of all to the participants themselves who have begun the journey to a positive future that is a credit not only to themselves, but their families and Wealden.