

Talent Match Middlesbrough

Partnership working: the foundation for success?



In 2012 when the Big Lottery Fund launched the Talent Match programme, it was clear that they were providing funding to local partnerships to do two things:

- I. **to support young people** on their journey towards and into employment;
- II. **bring about change** to benefit more young people beyond the lifetime of this funding.

A local interpretation of partnership working

In 2012 when the initial bid to secure the £1.5m investment was being developed, it was agreed locally that the following partnership arrangements were critical:

- Starting with **leadership through the Young People's Panel**. From the very early days to the end of the programme, we have consistently maintained a strong focus on supporting young people to be in the lead.

- The **VCS delivery partners** (Actes, The Junction Foundation and The Prince's Trust) have employed Youth Advocates to work together, supporting young people on a day-to-day basis. Through this, 457 young people have been engaged and 179 have secured employment. This has been further supported through additional delivery partners at various points of the programme on a time-limited basis.
- A **Core Partnership Group** (CPG) was established at the outset, bringing together representatives from the public, private and voluntary sectors. Working within the agreed Partnership Agreement, the CPG has had oversight of the programme at a strategic level – driving forward opportunities, providing challenge and ensuring the programme stayed true to its core purpose.
- Establishing and maintaining links with a wide-range of other **stakeholders, including employers** has been critical to the success of Talent Match Middlesbrough.

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