

Spear Camden December Newsletter



This autumn term has come with many encouragements and changes. We have completed two Spear Foundation phases of our programme with 21 young people. From our October 2015 programme almost 80% of our young people are already in employment.

As Spear Camden continues we are aware that the work is only made possible through the generous support of our volunteers, donors and supporters. Thank you so much for partnering with us to help transform the lives of 16-24 year olds through employment.

Please see below some highlights from last term as well as some dates for your diary!

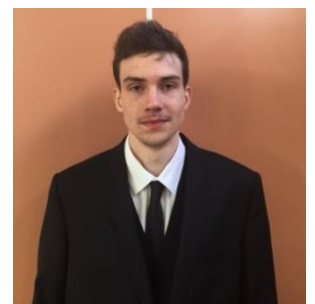


Trainees from our 14th Spear programme on a company visit

Stuart's Story

Trainee from September 2015 programme

Stuart came to Spear having been recently diagnosed with anger management issues. He did not feel he had the ability or patience to interact with a group of people and was unsure of the kind of career he would be able to go into. Throughout Spear, Stuart was given feedback from the coaches using our work readiness indicators, one of which is the ability to manage emotions. Stuart started to become a leader within the group and was friendly and confident speaking to all his peers. The coaches were so impressed with Stuart's progress that we put him forward for our employer's team opportunity at Marks & Spencer. This was Stuart's first professional interview, in which he was successful, and he started his position after completing Spear Foundation. Stuart is still being supported by Spear and is in weekly contact with his Spear Career Coach, Katie. After only being in the role for 3 weeks his manager asked him to oversee some new starters and help train them on the job. It is amazing to see how Stuart is now passing on his knowledge of the workplace and thriving in his role.



Did you know?

The annual cost of the NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) to the UK economy is estimated to be at least £22 billion. That is £22,000 per year per young person.

A Spear programme with 15 young people of whom 75% find work or education, saves the UK economy approx. £250,000 per year. It costs only £25,000 for a Spear programme (£1,500 per trainee) not a bad return on investment!

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Spear Camden young person on the BBC

We are really proud that our young person, Reece, who completed Spear Camden in July 2015 features in the new Spear film available on our website. Reece was stabbed as a result of mistaken identity just before Spear began. During Spear he rebuilt his confidence and decided to go back to college to complete his Level 3 in Business whilst also working at Chicken Cottage. Reece said, *'I felt like a different person when I finished Spear'*.

In November, Tom Jackson (Resurgo CEO) and Reece were interviewed on BBC London Lunchtime news, as part of a story about knife crime affecting young people. This is our biggest press hit ever, and you can still watch this on our Vimeo channel:

Changes to our curriculum and language

We have celebrated two sets of Trainees' completing the newly written Spear Foundation. Our Spear Celebration Evenings now take place on a Tuesday. We have enjoyed the new addition to the evening of inviting past Spear members to talk about their success post Spear and their experience of Career Coaching.

What is the Spear Programme and what's the new language?

Spear is a twelve-month programme beginning with an intensive six-week foundation phase aimed at getting young people ready for work. Our Career Coaches continue working with young people for twelve months to help them find, sustain and progress in work or further training.

Students are now called **trainees**. Each centre has a Centre Manager, Lead Coach, **Graduate Coach** and a **Career Coach**. The Career Coach will work with candidates to help them find a job and then support them in ironing out any teething problems and provide advice on how to **progress in their career**.



Save the date

Spear Mock Interviews on Friday 5th February at 3pm

Spear Celebration evening is Tuesday 16th February, 7pm at Holy Trinity Swiss Cottage, NW3 5HT.

Camden Spear Trust Fundraiser is Thursday 12th May at Burgh House, NW3 1LT... invites to follow!

Spear Team: Claire Pearson (Centre Manager), Katie Akhurst (Career Coach), Ginny Bown (Lead Coach), Megan Reilly (Graduate Coach)

Camden Spear Trustees: Rev Andy Keighley, Bronwyn Boumendil (Vice Chair), Chi-Chi Obuaya, Anna Holdsworth, Rev Kristin Breuss (Chair), Obi Ezenwa, Sarah Tyrwhitt-Drake, Sam Amoako, Chris Holdsworth