



Independent People's Upfront Project takes young people who have experienced homelessness into schools to deliver workshops about youth homelessness.

These workshops will help young people aged 14-16 to:

- **find out the realities of leaving home, including the risks**
- **be inspired and motivated to leave home in a planned way,**
- **challenge misconceptions of youth homelessness,**
- **get information on how to access services and information if they ever face problems at home.**

The Workshops

We take peer educators into schools to deliver tailored workshops, designed to fit around the curriculum, to pupils in year 10 & 11.

We use a variety of activities, discussions and real life stories to deliver our message, and to make the workshops appealing and exciting. We make sure young people know the realities of leaving home at a young age, and give them the advice and knowledge that will help to lower their risk of becoming homeless.

We use a range of learning and engagement techniques, such as debate and decision making.

The workshops will also give them an insight into a diverse community within the UK.

Young people need to be encouraged to plan leaving home, rather than it being a reaction to crisis

How the Upfront Project benefits schools

Works around the Citizenship and PSHE curriculum.

Its targeted to tackle the issues and problems that affect your pupils

Tailored to help you deliver the aims of the curriculum.

Support schools with their duty of care to young people and the Ofsted School Inspection Framework.

We leave teachers and advisors with information and contact details of local youth homelessness services.

We monitor our effectiveness through evaluations after the workshops, and maintain contact with the school. We also offer follow up workshops to monitor the effectiveness of our workshops, and to aid any follow up work being done by the schools.

Why the project is needed

Many problems facing young people today, such as drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, and young offending, can often be linked to a lack of communication and breakdown in relationships at home.

Once a young person is homeless they are less likely to seek advice, and more likely to try and 'go it alone'. So its all about timing, we need to make them aware of advice services early on, and give them the tools to work through problems at home, so they are at less risk of becoming homeless.

"Peer educator quote"

'I got involved because I wanted to help people who've had the same experiences so they don't make the same mistakes when leaving home. It's important because it helps stop people from becoming homeless, trying to solve the problems before they leave home.'



Contact Details

If you would like to find out more or to arrange a workshop for your school, please contact Christine Townsend, Peer Education Coordinator.

0787 5074262

Christine.townsend@1625ip.co.uk

Or visit www.1625ip.co.uk



Why use Peer Educators?

We believe that using Peer Educators is an exciting and diverse way to engage young people with the work that we are doing. Our Peer Educators are all aged 16-25 and have the motivation and passion to make a difference to young people's lives.

They have first hand experience of homelessness and services that most teachers and other youth workers don't have. This experience is an extremely powerful learning tool, delivered using language that young people can relate to. The Peer Educators have a personal knowledge of what works and what doesn't, and most importantly, they know what they would have liked to have been told in school to stop them becoming homeless.

They want to get involved because they know that if someone had told them what it was like to end up homeless while they were still at school, it would have made a difference to some of the choices they made.

Our Peer Educators get the opportunity to turn their experience into a positive learning tool.