

Degrees of Opportunity: Shaping Positive Futures

Degrees of Opportunity enables young people aged 16-24 years old who are NEET from minority and marginalised groups to break down their barriers to employment, with all significantly moving towards or entering employment, enterprise, or further education on program completion, at their own pace.

This is achieved through, support, exposure to differing opportunities, experiences, volunteering, and work experience that the young people create, meeting their individual needs, interests and developing their soft, technical, and employability skills.

Led and planned by the young people allows us to support them in their plan, and ensure we work in partnerships, providing the young people with a holistic, coordinated, triangle of support."

Overview: Degrees of Opportunity, is an innovative program designed to empower young people, particularly those who have faced challenges within the traditional education system, those at risk, and young migrants. This initiative emerged from a pivotal gathering in Stockholm, attended by leading youth-focused organisations and supported by a renowned Swedish philanthropist. It draws inspiration from successful projects like UnLtd India and MyBnk, created by CIVA, and extends to impactful ventures like Arpan and OSCAR.

Our Mission: At Degrees of Opportunity, we are committed to unlocking the potential of young people. Our mission is to inspire and challenge them to engage actively in shaping a brighter future for themselves. We focus on fostering a range of skills and encouraging personal development, with a keen emphasis on recognising and celebrating their efforts and achievements.

Collaborative Approach: Our approach is collaborative, bringing together diverse organisations that work in areas such as music, sports, enterprise, and personal development. We believe in a unified strategy, where synergy among these sectors can create a more impactful and sustainable change in the lives of young people.

Program Development: In 2020-21, we engaged with young individuals across three boroughs in West London, collaborating closely with youth service providers, local councils, and statutory bodies, including the Probation Service. This groundwork sets the stage for an expansive roll-out of the program, slated for a formal launch in 2022.

Celebrating Youth Achievement: Degrees of Opportunity is more than a program; it's a movement to celebrate the achievements of young people. We provide them with a platform to further develop their skills and leadership qualities, extending beyond their current engagements. Our goal is to offer a diverse "menu of opportunities," encouraging

participation in various activities, from entrepreneurship and volunteering to cultural and environmental initiatives.

Empowering Through Skills and Recognition: The essence of Degrees of Opportunity lies in recognising and validating the 'Their Smartness' – the innate or acquired skills and resilience, that young people possess. We connect them with organisations that can provide not accredited, and accredited, validation for their skills, fostering a Curriculum of Life that enhances their life and learning skills.