

Boss Your Future Bolton – Midway Impact Report



Together We Can Change Lives.



TOGETHER WE ARE RESTORING YOUNG FUTURES THROUGH COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE.

INTRODUCTION

Programme: Boss Your Future

Location: Bolton (expansion from Salford)

Timeline Covered: June 2025 - October 2025

Funded by: Bolton Fund Managed by Bolton CVS

Delivered by: Genuine Futures CIC, in partnership with:-

- **Entrepreneurs Unlocked** – Business start-up support for young people
- **Recycle IT** – digital training and their successful START Programme
- **Metro Retail Park** - Home of **The Scrappers** – and now permanent home of the **Young Futures Hub**, in-kind donation of offices, car wash forecourt & valet area
- **We Shine Any Car** – youth-led car care and vehicle maintenance enterprise
- **HM Pasties & HM Pasties Foundation** – food with purpose and second chances

The **Boss Your Future** Programme is a **Genuine Futures** flagship initiative empowering young people into entrepreneurship aged 15–24 (and up to 25 with SEND) who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET).

It began in Salford, with funding being provided to **Genuine Futures CIC** and **Entrepreneurs Unlocked CIC** by **Salford City Council**, the partnership has since grown into Bolton with the support of the **Bolton Fund**. At its heart is now the **Young Futures Hub**, based at **Metro Retail Park**, designed by young people themselves as a space for learning, enterprise, and belonging.

This report captures the journey so far — the achievements, voices, and the challenges that still need to be overcome.

Key Achievements

- 40 young people engaged through the programme in Bolton.
- 2 participants enrolled in college for the first time.
- Several micro-businesses launched (baking, art, creative enterprise).
- Seed funding provided by Entrepreneurs Unlocked enabled start-up activity.
- Hands-on experience at **We Shine Any Car**, our youth-led car wash.
- Mindfulness and storytelling sessions improved wellbeing and resilience.
- Thrilling outdoor activities built teamwork and confidence.
- Pop-up car wash in Oldham showcased enterprise in action beyond Bolton.
- 100% of participants reported increased confidence, resilience, and hope.
- 1-2-1 and group coaching and mentoring support.

Voices of Change

"Right from the start, he would come home proud of what he achieved each day. It's given him purpose and confidence." – Parent

"This gave me a reason to get up and connect again. Now I'm helping others find their voice too." – Participant

"I've had so much motivation from speaking to people. A lot more opportunities have come to light – it wouldn't have happened if I wasn't here. It's been amazing." – Participant

"I sold a lot of my cheesecakes today. It's been fabulous, I've loved it." – Participant

Programme Activities

Boss Your Future has delivered a rich programme of support and experiences:

- **Enterprise Training:** Sessions on working for yourself, business planning, and pitching ideas, alongside seed funding opportunities through Entrepreneurs Unlocked.
- **Meet & Motivate Sessions:** Delivered in schools and youth organisations, using lived experience storytelling to inspire young people.
- **Wellbeing & Values:** Mindfulness, values-based storytelling, and group reflection to build inner strength.



Experiential Learning:

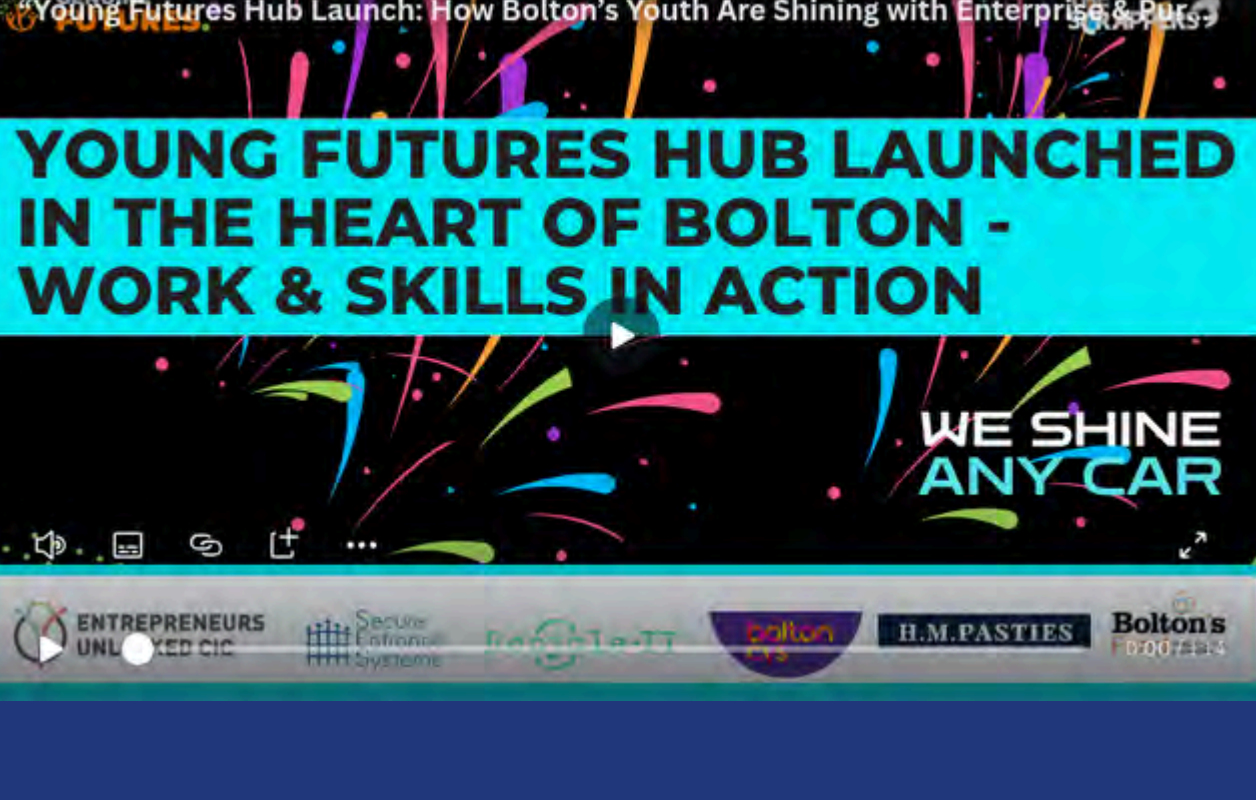
Thrilling outdoor activities and team challenges.

- **Pop-Up Events:** A youth-led car wash in Oldham, demonstrating enterprise in action.
- **Digital & Practical Skills:** With Recycle IT's START Programme
- **The Scrappers'** on-site activities.
- **Community & Business Engagement:** From public events to local MP Kirith Entwistle's marketplace event. [Youth voice in action](#)
- **BBC Highlights:** Impact of **Boss Your Future** and **We Shine Any Car** in Bolton

The Young Futures Hub

Thanks to **The Scrappers**, the Hub offers:

- Donated office space, car wash forecourt, and valet bays.
- A youth-designed environment reflecting creativity, identity, and pride.
- A safe space where connection, conversation, and collaboration improve mental health.
- A permanent home for **We Shine Any Car**, proving the power of youth-led enterprise.



Challenges

- Some organisations have been slow to engage, despite high local need.
- Youth Justice disengagement is particularly disappointing, as justice-experienced young people are among the most vulnerable.
- Systemic barriers, from silo-ed services to stigma, continue to let young people fall through the cracks.

Partnership Power

- **Entrepreneurs Unlocked** – Taste of self employment, how to start a business.
- **Recycle IT** – digital and recycling training through START.
- **The Scrappers** – provided the home, forecourt, and belief in the project.
- **We Shine Any Car** – youth-led enterprise giving skills, structure, and pride.
- **HM Pasties Foundation** – food with purpose and second chances.
- **Bolton Fund/ Bolton CVS** – investment and belief in our young people.



Why It Matters

Bolton has one of the highest **NEET** rates in Greater Manchester. Many participants are SEND learners, care leavers, or justice-experienced, struggling with isolation and lack of **opportunity**.

Boss Your Future addresses this head-on with:

- **Belonging** – a safe, inclusive space.
- **Purpose** – enterprise, experiential learning, and creative expression.
- **Futures** – clear progression routes into education, apprenticeships, employment or support to start a business.

Looking Ahead

- Engage 100+ young people annually.
- Expand **We Shine Any Car** with professional wash bays and eco-friendly kit.
- Grow **Meet & Motivate** outreach in schools, PRUs, and community organisations.
- Strengthen engagement with services, especially Youth Justice.
- Build sustainable routes into education, apprenticeships, and work.

"Boss Your Future Bolton has given young people real hands-on experience — not just in refurbishing tech, but in rebuilding confidence. For many, it's been a first step into meaningful work and community connection. We're proud to be part of a partnership that's genuinely changing lives."

John Hastings, Founder, Recycle-IT!

Next Cohort – Now Recruiting

We are now recruiting for the next **Boss Your Future** cohort in Bolton.

Aged 15–24 (or up to 25 with SEND)?
Not in education, employment, or training?
Looking for confidence, skills, and opportunity?

This fully-funded programme is for you.

We also welcome referrals from schools, Connexions, youth services, and community organisations.

Register here:



**THE JOURNEY TO
EMPOWERING NEET
YOUNG PEOPLE IS
ONGOING. IT
REQUIRES
COMMITMENT,
CREATIVITY, AND
COLLABORATION.**

Marginalised young people deserve more than temporary fixes, talent is everywhere and opportunity is not—they deserve pathways to lasting brighter futures. Together, we can empower them to boss their own future through meaningful enterprise.

What could happen if every young person had the chance to learn, earn, and belong?

Let's build genuine futures—one enterprise at a time.

DISCOVER MORE

Genuine Futures Youth Enterprise Hub,
Metro Business Park, 228 Waterloo St, Bolton
BL1 8HU
e: hello@genuinefutures.co.uk

