

<b>Organisation Name</b>	<b>Reference</b>	2021-10-YO20
Inside Connections		

<b>Visit Date</b>	<b>Visited By</b>
14/09/2023	Alison Hope

**Grant Summary**

- To provide a unique package of support to a minimum of 60 young people (30 per year) through a “youth hub” model
- Provide a youth focused mentor to caseload, provide interventions, facilitate delivery and employment outcomes

**Visit Details (People met, premises visited etc.)**

Met Oliver Sumner Director of Operations and Barbara ? his boss.  
Very impressive enthusiastic individuals.  
They support YP who are prison experienced or at risk of it.  
Our funds supported 30 YP through an employment focused engagement programme which includes both ‘character’ focused work as well as practical help.  
Lots are care experienced.  
They seem to be really good at taking an unruly/difficult bunch and developing positive behaviours.  
Their outcomes seem exceptional - of the 30, 24 have got work and 6 into FE.  
They work hard at dispelling the belief that crime pays better than employment and their founder who did time, provides sessions which helps them to see the reality. -  
Fast big cash perhaps but earnings over a lifetime, if you end up in gaol, is less than the minimum wage. He also explains how phones and cars are paid for by wage earners. E.g Car costs £30k but a wage earner can pay for it with £300 a month.  
They are particularly keen to find people jobs with good/high earning prospects.  
They lobby all their employers to pay the living wage and above to start with.  
There are good opportunities to earn well in road building, fibre optic broadband (there is a training centre nearby). They help people navigate elf employment - set up, pay taxes.

Young men are helped to get the CSCS cards (a health and safety certificate required on all building sites and some cleaning jobs). Young women and girls seem to be more interested in beauty.  
They bring employers in who have employment opportunities, to provide ready for work (attitudinal) skills, more than CV/interview skills, although they do both. The sessions are informed by employers needs, which are that YP are committed, turn up, work as part of a team, as practical skills can be developed.  
Eng and Maths is embedded by stealth e.g in sessions about money. Most of their YP have had very poor experiences of education (47% excluded/truanted, high levels of LDD, ADHD)

Many have had no experience of work. They supported YP from traveller backgrounds, who were shocked to see tax and NI deducted from their first payslip. Oliver explained to them that this is how public services were funded e.g roads and hospitals and also the prison service!

They have a particularly supportive and enlightened prison governor who is allowing those on ROTL to have a mobile phone. Inside connections have made app to support people leaving custody to find a Dr/Dentist, Drug and Alcohol Services.

They work hard to ensure that no one disappears, staff have evening 'tracker sessions' where they have a pizza evening and ring round those they haven't heard from in a while

Our funds support Mohan, the employability worker who I did not meet but who appears to go beyond the call of duty. He was a manager of a children's home,

Mo facilitated 12 interviews at Lang O'Rourke/the building of the new Everton Stadium. 11 were interviewed and 7 got jobs

#### **Information about the Organisation**

#### **Issues and Comments**

I asked about the Cranfield experience. Oliver said it was useful but couldn't remember much about it!

#### **Other Feedback**

Great interview and very pleased we are supporting them.