

Camden Young Pathways Finder

By [London Borough of Camden](#)

The **Camden Young Pathways Finder** project, launched by the **London Borough of Camden**, provided a **tailored programme of learning, enterprise skills, and employment opportunities for young Camden residents aged 19 to 25**. The initiative targeted those at risk of involvement in youth violence, exploitation, or violent crime, aiming to empower participants and open pathways to fulfilling and aspirational lives.

The Camden Young Pathways Finder programme sought to:

- Provide young people with opportunities to explore new career paths, develop essential skills, and broaden their horizons.
- Help participants escape cycles of poverty and violence by fostering independence and long-term employability.
- Create safe, supportive environments where participants could build confidence and develop meaningful goals for the future.

The programme offered a variety of hands-on experiences, workshops, and placements designed to develop key skills and prepare young people for employment. Partner organisations worked with Camden Council to provide high-quality placements and learning opportunities, supported by ongoing pastoral care.

A placement within the programme was designed to:

- Include enrichment activities to provide participants with an understanding of the organisation and its sector.
- Facilitate one-to-one meetings with senior professionals to offer career insights.
- Include workshops and short project challenges to develop communication, teamwork, and problem-solving skills.
- Offer a few days or weeks of hands-on work experience within the organisation.
- Create opportunities for participants to gain insight into industry entry pathways.

Partner organisations played a key role in delivering the programme by offering:

- Short work experiences that provided participants with exposure to different industries.
- Paid work placements aligned with business objectives and participants' employability journeys.
- Learning opportunities for participants to develop new skills and explore new areas of interest.

The council supported both the participants and partner organisations by:

- Offering ongoing pastoral care to ensure participants felt supported throughout their placement.
- Acting as a point of contact for any queries or challenges.
- Helping organisations design engaging and inclusive experiences for young people, including in remote working environments.

Participants engaged in diverse learning experiences tailored to their interests and career aspirations. These included:

- **Enterprise – Pop-Up Business School**
Taught participants how to start a business without requiring a loan or formal business plan, focusing on practical, community-based start-up advice.
- **Construction Skills Courses**
Provided an introduction to the construction industry, covering basic skills such as plumbing, carpentry, and electrical installation.
- **Maths for Life Skills**
Helped participants improve their confidence in using maths in daily life, including understanding data, graphs, and other mathematical concepts.
- **Digital Illustration with Adobe**
A practical course teaching digital design skills using Adobe tools, enabling participants to create professional, imaginative collages.
- **IT Skills for the Office**
Offered foundational computer skills for roles in administration, reception, or secretarial work, with a focus on creating and editing documents in Word.
- **Understanding Project Management**
Introduced participants to the fundamentals of project management, covering planning, execution, and tools to manage change effectively.
- **Developing a Successful Business Plan**
Guided participants through writing a professional business plan, focusing on market strategy, branding, and presenting to investors.

The Camden Young Pathways Finder project delivered transformative opportunities for young people in the borough. By fostering confidence and employability, the programme empowered participants to create positive change in their lives.

The initiative also strengthened partnerships between Camden Council and local organisations, highlighting the value of collaboration in addressing social challenges and supporting vulnerable young people.

See more: [Camden Youth Pathways Finder](#)

"I've always had an interest in different sectors and professions, but never really knew how to get in the door - this project will help me develop skills, networks and learn what career is right for me."

