



GRASSROOT COMMUNITIES & THE GRASSROOT ACTIVATORS PROGRAMME (GAP)

**EMPOWER
BRISTOL'S YOUTH:
INVEST IN THEIR
FUTURE AND
CHANGE LIVES AS
A SPONSOR**





HELP EMPOWER BRISTOL'S YOUNG PEOPLE: INVEST IN GRASSROOT ACTIVATORS PROGRAMME (GAP)

GAP is an important initiative that provides young people from disadvantaged backgrounds across Bristol with education, training, employment opportunities, mentoring, and support to help them reach their full potential.

However, we need your help to make it happen.

WHAT DO WE NEED?

We are looking to secure other business partnerships and individual sponsorships to cover the remaining £70,000 as soon as possible.

With this funding, we can confirm the GAP's 2nd-year cohort in good time and start recruiting and onboarding young people to support each individual's needs, so we are ready to deliver GAP in September 2023.

As a potential investor, we seek your support in contributing to the programme's budget. We understand that not everyone is in a position to commit large sums of money in the current economic climate. We welcome funds ranging from £2,000 to £10,000 to continue delivering and improving GAP in year two and beyond.

For example, £6,700 would pay for one young person to engage in the yearlong programme.

All donors will be invited to the GAP year one Celebration event or a launch event for GAP year two. Investors will be publicised via our website, social media, and newsletters, and larger investors will have the opportunity to get involved as mentors with the young people completing GAP.

We appreciate your consideration in supporting this critical initiative, and we hope you will join us in enabling young people in Bristol to reach their full potential. By investing in GAP, you are making a tangible difference in the lives of young people in Bristol, empowering them to contribute to positive social change.



WHO WE ARE

Grassroot Communities is a community-based organisation that inspires young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to reach their full potential. They do this by providing them with access to education, youth work, training, employment opportunities, mentoring, and support. They work across Bristol and focus on youth work and community development. They engage young people in the community and provide them with the skills and resources they need to succeed.

www.grassrootcommunities.org

GRASSROOTS ACTIVATORS PROGRAM (GAP)

GAP is delivered two days a week over a year. It provides young people the tools and opportunities to achieve their full potential in education, employment, volunteering, and training.

GAP focuses on:

- Leadership
- Youth Work
- Mentoring
- Community Development
- Community Social Action projects
- Entrepreneurship
- Work placements
- Social Enterprise projects
- Nature Connection and Survival Adventure
- Community Food Growing and Cooking
- Wellbeing
- Environmental Action Projects



OUR IMPACT

The Grassroot Activators Programme (GAP) significantly impacts young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in Bristol. Here are some of the ways GAP helps them to thrive:-

- It creates opportunities for young people to participate in training and helps them move into employment in a field they are passionate about.
- Provides a chance for young people to make connections in the wider Bristol business and voluntary sector communities.
- Amplifies young people's skills and talents and helps them gain confidence in themselves and their abilities.
- Builds the capacity of young people to become active citizens in their communities and the wider city.
- Develops realistic pathways for young people to achieve their full potential in employment, education, volunteering, apprenticeships, and training.

We are halfway through the first GAP initiative, and the impact on young people is already being seen.

- Solomon has been offered a job in the NovaHotel in the kitchens, after completing his GAP work experience.
- Racaine has been accepted into the RAF.
- Theo has been accepted at University to study psychology.
- Leigha has been offered a job and level 3 training as a youth worker.



POSITIVE IMPACT OF GAP ON SOLOMON'S FUTURE

Solomon reflects on the positive impact that GAP has had on his future, helping him explore his interests and set clear goals for himself. He feels more confident and optimistic about the future and is excited to see where his newfound passions and experiences will take him. All this has been achieved 1/3rd into the yearlong programme! His mental health has improved, and he is able to explore what he loves and he feels positive about the future.

"GAP has been a valuable experience for me. My business mentor helped me find a cool work placement, and my youth work mentor has been there for me whenever I needed him. I'm figuring out what I'm into and feeling more positive about my future. Through GAP, I am exploring my interests and am feeling more optimistic about my future. Cooking is great, but I also really enjoyed the planning and execution of the social action project. Seeing the final outcome and the impact we made was incredible. I'm looking forward to completing GAP, and actively taking part in the tasks we are set each term. It's a positive thing for me".

"GAP has helped me make better decisions and figure out what I really want to do. I've got goals, and I'm ready to smash them. 2023 is going to be good. Not sure what's next after GAP, but I'm excited to see where life takes me. I'm just riding the wave right now."



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SOLOMON FERGUSON

Solomon with his GAP mentor, Steve Bluff of Redcliffe & Temple BID team.



WHAT WE WANT TO DO

- Grassroot Activators Programme (GAP) wants to help young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in Bristol with the tools and opportunities they need to create a brighter future for themselves, away from the hardships of their past.
- We want to change the fact that many young people from marginalised communities face significant challenges, such as limited access to training, employment, and education.
- We want to support young people to realise pathways to future opportunities based on their passions, develop their skills and confidence, and build their capacity to participate in community and environmental leadership.
- Young people have all the talent but, in many cases, limited opportunities. Through GAP, we want to create a more optimistic future for young people in Bristol.





WHAT LOCAL PEOPLE SAY ABOUT GAP

The following people from Bristol-based businesses discussed with Ben Carpenter why GAP is crucial in supporting young people in the city.

"We've developed a year-long initiative called the Grassroot Activators Programme, what happens at the end is simple, GAP creates a pathway for young people from 18 to 30 years old, to find themselves in a situation where they've got enough confidence to grasp future opportunities".

Ben Carpenter, Grassroot Communities

"As we all know youth provision has been hit severely over many years, for me, it just took the heart out of the work that was going on in the community. GAP is looking to change that".

Asher Craig, Deputy Mayor

"I think we've seen it over and over again that communities which are neglected fall into all sorts of health problems, mental health problems, social and family problems, and the cycle of self destruction can set in if you're not careful. It is devastating. Drugs, alcohol abuse, all sorts of things can happen".

Andy Forbes, Former Principle - City of Bristol College

"With the Grassroot Activators Programme. I just think it'd be a real benefit now. The things that have worked really well in the past have been projects which have taken young people, given them a bit of responsibility, taken them out of the area and given them a basic set of skills, which are life skills".

Jackie Eddy, Senior Youth Worker for 40 years in Bristol

"GAP would support the whole city and all providers across it. Just to focus in on the needs of young people that are often left off the list and the many lists of opportunities".

Desmond Brown, Director - Growing Futures



WHAT LOCAL BUSINESSES SAY ABOUT US

"It would be fantastic. If we could develop some young community leaders, people who are really interested in the social and environmental aspects of their communities".

Sandra Meadows - Former CEO, VOSCUR

"I think businesses right across our city can get involved with GAP by providing opportunities or supporting sponsoring for young people to get through GAP. Ultimately, they get to work, set up a business or do an apprenticeship. Businesses can get involved in many ways, directly helping young people".

James Durie, Director of Business West

"I'm really pleased to be talking about the GAP initiative today, which is really needed. I think under the framing of hope for young people in Bristol, and I'd hope that funders take notice and think about this programme very carefully".

Ed Rowberry, CEO, Bristol & Bath Regional Capital

"We've got so many young people in this part of Bristol who have so many ideas and so many skills and so many talents to share and they just need the space and they just need somebody to believe in them and they just need the opportunities to kind of develop those skills. We'd love the opportunity to sponsor a young person from Southmead to go through GAP because I feel that would enable us to support somebody from the community to really develop life skills and develop confidence. And it would just be a great opportunity for us as a trust and a great opportunity for that young person as well".

Amy Kinnear, CEO, Southmead Development Trust



WHAT GAP SPONSORS SAY

"Ben, the proposition, and his belief motivated me to sponsor a young person through Grassroot Communities - GAP. It also ties in perfectly with ADLIB's commitment to supporting an annual project that directly creates an impact within an underserved socioeconomic community. Due to the nature of the outcome being work-oriented, this supported the connection to ADLIB even more.

Working with Grassroot Communities has been eye-opening. The commitment from Ben, Judit, and the other GAP mentors to actually make things happen is incredible. Over the years, you hear so many people just talking rather than doing, and the achievement is beyond words.

As a result of my sponsorship, I've seen the impact on Abbey, the young person I support, who sent me a message saying 'I am loving my placement. It has helped me so much I couldn't be any more grateful.' You can't get any better than seeing that. Reality is, she did everything, just needed a bit of help to get there.

I would absolutely recommend sponsoring a young person through GAP to others considering supporting this cause. In fact, we already do. This experience has been great to share the progression internally, and the whole company backs us sponsoring again this year".

Nick Dean, Director
Adlib Recruitment



ADLIB

"We've been keen to support the Grassroot Activators Programme as part of our commitments to responsible business. Enabling young people to step up, develop their skills and help improve the communities from which they are from makes so much sense. The programme is run with real passion and clearly has a tangible impact. We've really appreciated the opportunity to not only provide financial support but to provide business mentors too. This makes for a much deeper collaboration and a meaningful relationship."

Kirsty Green-Mann
Head of Corporate Responsibility – Burges Salmon



**Burges
Salmon**



WHAT GAP SPONSORS SAY

"Sponsoring a young person through Grassroot Communities - GAP has been a privilege. Working with Ben and Judit has been great, and the social action projects have been a big success.

I would definitely recommend supporting this cause. The money is well-spent, and it's clear that the work placements are opening doors for young people.

This experience has affected my business positively. The BID represents over 200 businesses, and many are keen to support young people.

Mentoring young people has been an enriching experience for me."

Steve Bluff

Redcliffe & Temple BID team



"I am committed to supporting the most disadvantaged in our city, including young people with untapped potential, so sponsoring a young person was a 'no-brainer' for me. My experience working with Grassroot Communities has been positive so far, and I hope to see a positive impact from my GAP sponsorship in due course. I highly recommend sponsoring a young person and supporting Grassroot Communities to others. At this stage, I wouldn't change anything about my experience with Grassroot Communities or the GAP sponsorship process."

Andy Street

Personal Sponsor

"As a group that supports hundreds of charities in communities across the country, we were thrilled to back the Grassroot Activators Programme. It's a great example of a well-organised programme that provides young people with the support and inspiration they need to be more confident and successful, and equips them with the skills to tackle life's challenges. Our team was particularly inspired by the challenge of funding a place for a student, which gave our fundraising efforts a real boost. We're excited to see the difference our funding will make and to continue supporting important programmes like this one."

Denise Cockrem

Group CFO at Benefact Group





**FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO SPONSOR A
YOUNG PERSON CONTACT:**

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