



CASE STUDY

Future Leaders Future Leaders Programme

✉ Email

🌐 Website

OVERVIEW

Future Leaders Programme is a community-based youth leadership and social activism project working with young people (aged 16–18). The project mixes two cohorts of beneficiaries: aspiring youth activists dedicated to promoting social causes; and individuals with identified risk factors for extremism, many of whom were referred by local authorities, schools, social workers and Prevent teams. The project delivers four 6-month courses to groups of up to 150 beneficiaries, covering a variety of topics, including guest sessions by various extremism experts. In addition, beneficiaries also participate in a range of field trips to visit the UK's democratic and legal institutions. Through these activities, the project builds young people's resilience to hate and extremism while equipping them with the knowledge and skills to act as leaders in their communities. To this end, beneficiaries are also supported to launch their own social action initiative promoting cohesion and tolerance in their schools.

BENEFICIARIES

- **600** young people in out-of-school settings
- **19** boroughs

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Leadership and Activism Course – This course consists of 22 weekly workshops delivered to groups of 150 beneficiaries, alternating between in-person and online delivery. The sessions explore a wide range of topics, including in-depth introductions to various extremist ideologies, narratives and counter-narratives; media and digital literacy; civic education; and presentations from former extremists, survivors and extremism experts. The course also includes practical skill-building workshops in conflict resolution, bystander intervention, incident reporting and public speaking.

Field Trips – Alongside the workshops, beneficiaries participate in six field trips, providing real-world exposure to the UK's democratic institutions and legal systems. Visits include Parliament, 10 Downing Street, Snaresbrook Crown Court and meetings with MPs, judges and civil servants, all focused on first-hand learning about democracy, civil liberties, the rule of law and the value of active citizenship.

PROJECT RESULTS

37%

awareness and concern about extremist ideologies and narratives, the radicalisation process and their effects on individuals and society

26%

increase sense of meaning and purpose in life

27%

increase sense of belonging in their communities

24%

increase tolerance for difference and diversity

38%

increase sense of community engagement and responsibility

43%

increase ability and intention to challenge prejudiced and hateful views

37%

increase ability and intention to conduct bystander interventions

TESTIMONIAL

B is a young person from Palestine. Following Israel's military action in Gaza, B made a number of remarks, which made some of the other beneficiaries on the project feel uncomfortable. To address this issue, Future Leaders partnered with specialist organisation Solutions Not Sides to deliver a series of workshops on the conflict, which allowed beneficiaries to understand the history and hear directly from Israeli and Palestinian peace activists living in the area. After these workshops, B had formed views that all people's safety and human rights should be upheld, and that win-win rather than win-lose solutions were the long-term route to peace in the region. B even collaborated with the other beneficiaries on a peacebuilding project, saying: 'We all just want to live in peace'.