

2024-2025

SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT



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STATEMENT

This past year has been a significant period of growth and progress for Infinite Skills. What began as a community-led response to local need has continued to grow into a stronger, more sustainable organisation, reaching more people, delivering more programmes, and supporting more individuals into employment than ever before.

Over the last 12 months, we supported over 750 individuals across Sheffield, with 478 receiving targeted employment support and career guidance, and 77 progressing directly into employment. Through expanded ESOL provision, employability programmes, and skills-based learning, we continue to break down barriers and create clearer pathways into education, training, and long-term opportunity.



**AHMED
MOHAMED**
CEO & Founder, Infinite Skills

This year also marked several important milestones. We delivered our first Careers and Networking Event at Sheffield Town Hall, welcoming over 300 attendees and creating opportunities for connection, inspiration, and professional engagement. We also expanded our team through our first recruitment drive and secured our first major public contract in Employment Support strengthening our capacity as a trusted community-led provider.

Our commitment to co-creating with the communities we serve remains central to everything we do. By working alongside participants and responding to lived experience, we ensure our programmes are inclusive, relevant, and impactful. Initiatives such as Dads & Lads continue to strengthen confidence, wellbeing, and community connection.

As we look ahead, our focus remains on deepening our impact and strengthening partnerships across the city ensuring that where someone starts does not determine where they can go. Together, with the support of our staff, volunteers, partners and funders, we are creating brighter futures and stronger communities.



YEAR IN NUMBERS

762

**Individuals Supported Across
Sheffield**

77

**Programmes &
Workshops Delivered**

324

**Attendees at
Careers &
Networking Day**

67

**Into
employment**

12

**Apprenticeships
secured**

265

**Learners engaged in
ESOL and adult skills**

487

**Volunteer
hours**

83%

**of participants completing
employability programmes progressed
into employment, education or
training**

61%

**of our participants were aged
16 to 25**

OUR STRATEGY

Our strategy is built around three interconnected pillars: Learning & Skills, Employment & Enterprise, and Community & Wellbeing. Together, these create pathways to opportunity and long-term positive outcomes.

Employment & Enterprise

- CV support and career coaching
- Job readiness and progression pathways
- Careers events and employer engagement
- Entrepreneurship and business support
- Employer partnerships

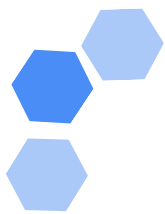
Learning & Skills

- ESOL and adult skills training
- Multiply (numeracy and life skills)
- Employability and digital skills
- Workshops and accredited learning
- Accredited qualifications



Community & Wellbeing & Youth Development

- Dads & lads and family programmes
- Safe, inclusive community spaces
- Wellbeing and confidence-building
- Community engagement and outreach
- Youth leadership
- Community voice



OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

From Access to Opportunity and Community Wealth

At Infinite Skills, we believe opportunity should not be determined by background. Many people across Sheffield, particularly from ethnically diverse communities, face barriers to education, employment and economic participation. We exist to remove those barriers through accessible, community-rooted pathways into learning, employment and entrepreneurship.

**Built by the
community, for the
community.**



By connecting communities, employers, education providers, and public services, we create pathways to opportunity through work placements, recruitment routes, and employer partnerships. We help individuals gain skills, build confidence, access employment, and explore entrepreneurship, contributing to community wealth building and stronger local economies. Learning builds skills, skills build confidence, and confidence creates opportunity. Opportunity provides stability, income, and purpose, improving wellbeing and strengthening families and communities.



**We are not an external provider. We are part of
the community.**



Breaking Down Barriers. Building Brighter Futures.

Across Sheffield, too many individuals and families face barriers to education, employment, and opportunity. Language barriers, financial hardship, social isolation, and limited access to training can prevent people from reaching their full potential. At Infinite Skills, we believe that where someone starts should not determine where they can go. Through community-led learning, employability support, and family programmes, we help people gain the skills, confidence, and opportunities they need to build brighter futures.

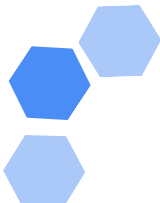
LEARNING & SKILLS

We provide practical, community-led learning opportunities that help individuals build essential skills, increase confidence, and create pathways into education, employment, and lifelong success.

EMPLOYMENT & OPPORTUNITY

Through careers guidance, employer partnerships, apprenticeships, entrepreneurship support, and community programmes, we create pathways to opportunity that help individuals build brighter futures, strengthen families, and contribute to thriving communities across Sheffield.

"At Infinite Skills, we are creating pathways to opportunity and helping build stronger individuals, stronger families, and stronger communities across Sheffield."



OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2024/25



01

Expand Employment Outcomes

We will build on our employability programmes to support more individuals into meaningful employment, education, and training. By strengthening employer links and tailored support, we aim to increase sustainable outcomes across Sheffield.



02

Tailored Community Learning

We will expand access to ESOL, adult learning, and skills-based provision, ensuring individuals from ethnically diverse communities can build confidence, gain qualifications, and progress into further opportunities.



03

Strengthen Community & Family Engagement

We will continue to grow programmes that support families, wellbeing, and community connection, creating safe and inclusive spaces where participants can engage, build relationships, and thrive.



04

Invest in Future Leaders

Following the success of our Careers & Networking Event and youth-focused programmes, we will continue creating opportunities for young people to develop confidence, explore career pathways, connect with positive role models and progress into education, employment and leadership opportunities.

PARTICIPATION, PROGRESS & COMMUNITY REACH

94%

of participants came from ethnic minority communities



88%

were from low-income or financially disadvantaged households



82%

were unemployed, economically inactive, or receiving benefits when they first engaged



61%

of all participants were aged 16–25



68%

of adult learners were women



86%

moved to employment, education training, or enterprise



82%

improved their CV, job search, or interview skills



86%

reported increased confidence and motivation



89%

felt more connected to community support networks



Our programmes reached individuals who are often underrepresented in mainstream education, employment and enterprise support. Through practical workshops, culturally responsive delivery and community-rooted engagement, participants developed skills, confidence and clearer pathways into work, learning and entrepreneurship.

“Everything was explained in a simple way. I've learned skills I can actually use in real life.” **Aisha - ESOL Learner**



Adult Classes

Our adult classes provide accessible, community-based learning for individuals across Sheffield. Through ESOL, Multiply (numeracy), and employability-focused sessions, participants develop practical skills that support everyday life, further education, and pathways into employment. Delivered in trusted, community-rooted spaces, our approach focuses on building confidence alongside capability ensuring individuals feel supported, included, and able to progress at their own pace.



Programme Reach & Engagement

**265 adult learners
engaged across
programmes**

**Majority from ethnic
minority communities
Across Sheffield**

Strong progression into further learning, employment, and training

Real Impact

These sessions go beyond learning they create meaningful, lasting change. Participants build confidence, improve communication, and develop practical skills that support everyday life, from managing finances to engaging more confidently in their communities.

For many, this is the first step back into education or towards employment, helping individuals overcome barriers and regain a sense of direction. Through consistent support and a welcoming environment, learners begin to see new possibilities for themselves and their families.

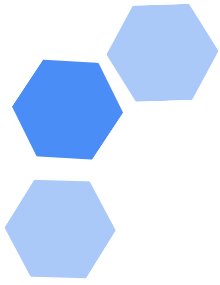
Over time, this leads to increased independence, stronger community connections, and real progression into further learning, training, and work—creating outcomes that extend far beyond the classroom.

“

“I struggled with computers before, but now I can apply for jobs online and use emails confidently.” **Amina, Employability Learner**

”





From Learning to Employment: Luul's Journey

ESOL LEARNER TO KITCHEN COORDINATOR



When Luul arrived in the UK, she faced significant challenges. As a single mother of six, she had limited English language skills, no employment, and little understanding of British systems and culture.

Through ESOL classes and tailored employability support from Infinite Skills, Luul developed her confidence, improved her communication skills, and gained the tools needed to pursue employment opportunities.

In September 2024, Luul secured employment at the Isaac Community Centre as a Kitchen Coordinator, where she now oversees day-to-day kitchen operations and supports community activities.

Her dedication and determination were recognised when she received the Return to Adult Learning Award at Sheffield Town Hall.

“

"The support I received improved my English, built my confidence, and helped me create a better future for myself and my children."

”

MEET

FAISA ABDI

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Faisa Abdi's learning journey demonstrates the power of adult education to transform lives. Through dedication, perseverance and a commitment to personal development, she embraced new opportunities, developed her confidence and achieved remarkable success through lifelong learning.

AWARD RECOGNITION

Faisa Abdi received the Return to Adult Learning Award, recognising her dedication, perseverance, and commitment to learning. Presented by the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, the award celebrates individuals who have transformed their lives through education and personal development.

“The support helped me a lot and gave me more confidence.”



136
ESOL learners supported
(2024-2025)

**Building confidence, skills, and
pathways into employment and
further learning.**

LEARNING & SKILLS: EXPANDING ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY



Creating pathways
from learning to
employment,
confidence and
opportunity.



350+ Learners

- ESOL
- Multiply
- Employability
- Adult Skills

Most participants came from ethnically diverse communities across Sheffield.

Delivery

- Community-based delivery
- Culturally responsive support
- Practical learning
- Clear progression pathways

Learning



Skills



Confidence



Progression

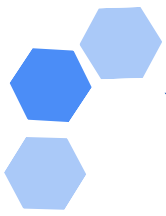
92%

Reported increased
confidence and
skills

78%

Progressed into
further
opportunities

Learning and skills programmes support both adults and young people, helping participants build confidence, gain qualifications and progress into education, employment and leadership opportunities.



Workshops: Building Skills, Confidence & Real Opportunities

“It wasn’t just learning I met people like me. It made me feel supported and less alone.”

“The mock interviews really helped. I felt prepared instead of nervous, and I knew how to answer questions properly.”

“I understand my money better now. I’ve learned how to budget and manage my bills properly.”

“The business workshops helped me understand how to start something of my own. It made it feel possible.”

“The workshops gave me confidence I didn’t have before. I now feel more prepared to take the next step.”

“Everything was explained in a simple way. I’ve learned skills I can actually use in real life.”

Our workshops provide practical, accessible, and culturally responsive support for individuals across Sheffield. We focus on real-life skills helping people build confidence, develop employability skills, and progress into education, employment, and entrepreneurship.

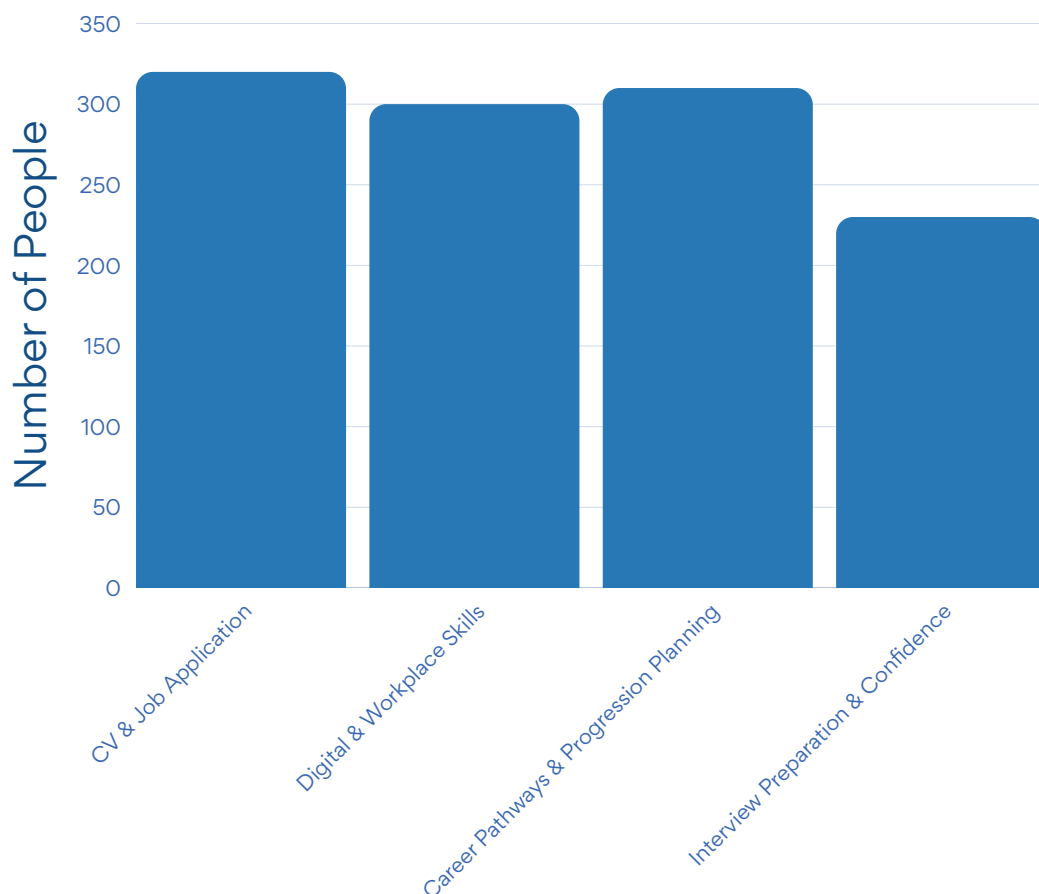
Through sessions such as CV writing, interview preparation, digital skills, financial literacy, and business development, participants are supported to take meaningful steps forward. Many join facing barriers such as unemployment, low income, or limited confidence.

By creating supportive, community-led environments, we enable individuals to learn, connect, and gain the tools needed to progress building confidence, opportunity, and long-term change.



EMPLOYABILITY

Skills & Readiness Developed



1:1 Support Sessions

370

Progression Achieved

82%

First-Time Job Seekers

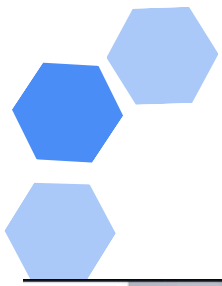
121

Sustained Employment (13+ Weeks)



Our employability programmes support individuals and families across Sheffield to build confidence, develop skills, and progress towards work and opportunity. Over the past year, we delivered 370 one-to-one support sessions and supported 82 families through tailored guidance and practical support.

Through CV writing, interview preparation, digital skills, and career planning, participants gained the tools needed to move forward. As a result, 82% progressed into employment, education, or training, while 83% of those entering employment sustained their roles for 13 weeks or more. These outcomes demonstrate our commitment to creating sustainable pathways into employment and long-term success.



MEET

Abdi-Jalal



Abdi-Jalal after securing his Engineering Machinist Apprenticeship at the AMRC Training Centre.

FROM WORKSHOP TO APPRENTICESHIP

Abdi-Jalal joined Infinite Skills through our employability and careers support, where he built confidence and developed key workplace skills. With determination and tailored guidance, he secured an Engineering Machinist Apprenticeship at the AMRC Training Centre. Today, he is continuing to grow his skills while working towards his ambition of one day running his own engineering company.

Working Together

“

"Thanks for the opportunity and support. It was a real blessing, Alhamdulillah."

”

Abdi-Jalal's journey reflects the power of partnership. Working alongside community rooted providers and employers, Infinite Skills helps young people access opportunities and build successful careers.

"Opportunity can change one life, but success can inspire a whole community."

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

SUPPORTING LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS,
START-UPS, AND SMALL BUSINESSES TO
GROW AND THRIVE.

AMBITION

Helping aspiring entrepreneurs turn ideas into sustainable businesses that create opportunities for themselves and their communities.

STRATEGIC PILLARS

- Business Planning
- Skills Development
- Financial Advice
- Networking Opportunities
- Community Wealth Building

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

Strengthening local economies by supporting entrepreneurs, start-ups, and small businesses to grow and succeed.



17

Businesses supported

EXECUTION PHASES

EXPLORE

LEARN

LAUNCH

THRIVE

DEVELOP IDEAS AND
CONFIDENCE.

BUILD BUSINESS
SKILLS.

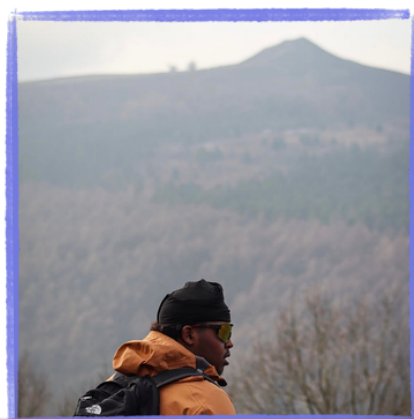
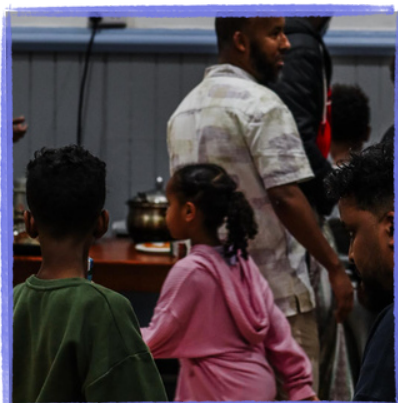
START AND GROW
A BUSINESS.

CREATE LASTING
COMMUNITY
IMPACT.

THROUGH THE LENS OF CD

TURNING CREATIVITY INTO OPPORTUNITY

Saeed is a young photographer from Sheffield who turned his passion for photography into a growing business. Through support from Infinite Skills, he accessed mentoring, networking opportunities, and practical business guidance to help develop his skills, build confidence, and grow his client base. Today, Lens of CD captures events, portraits, and community stories across Sheffield, creating high-quality content while continuing to develop as a creative entrepreneur.



How We Supported Saeed



PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT
BUILT A PROFESSIONAL
PHOTOGRAPHY PORTFOLIO.



MENTORING & GUIDANCE
RECEIVED ADVICE AND SUPPORT
TO GROW HIS BUSINESS.



NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES
CONNECTED WITH COMMUNITY
EVENTS AND NEW CLIENTS.

"The guidance and opportunities I received through Infinite Skills helped me turn my passion for photography into something positive."

Connecting Communities to Opportunity

CAREERS & NETWORKING EVENT
SHEFFIELD TOWN HALL

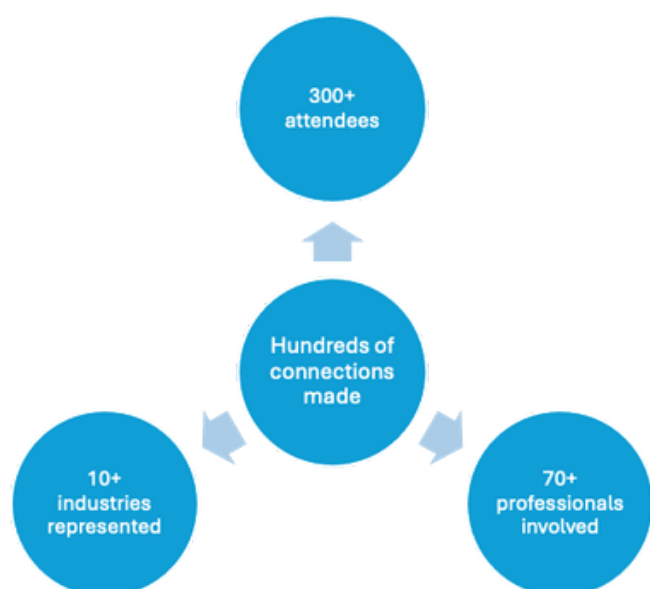


Careers & Networking Event Connecting Communities to Opportunity

Our Careers & Networking Event brought together professionals, employers, and community members to create a powerful space for connection, inspiration, and opportunity. Held at Sheffield Town Hall, the event welcomed over 300 attendees, providing direct access to industry insights, career pathways, and real-world advice.

Participants had the opportunity to engage with professionals across a wide range of sectors, including IT, healthcare, law, engineering, business, media, education, and the public sector. Through conversations, networking, and shared experiences, attendees gained a clearer understanding of career routes and the steps needed to achieve their goals.

For many attendees, particularly young people from underrepresented communities, the event provided an opportunity to meet professionals who reflected their backgrounds and experiences, helping them broaden aspirations and see new possibilities for their future. Many attendees reported increased confidence, motivation, and a stronger sense of direction following the event.



"Meeting professionals from different industries helped me believe that these careers could be possible for me."



**"First networking event
done right! Great
conversations, genuine
connections, and I left
feeling confident,
comfortable" *Franchesca***



DADS & LADS

Dads & Lads is a community-led programme that brings fathers and young people together through shared activities, mentoring and positive role modelling, helping strengthen relationships, confidence, wellbeing and aspirations.



70

PARTICIPANTS ENGAGED

The Lads & Dads programme engaged 70 participants across the year, supporting young people and families from ethnically diverse communities.

FATHERS ENGAGED

Supports young people and fathers from ethnically diverse communities to build stronger relationships, confidence, and wellbeing.

35



85%

POSITIVE IMPACT

85% of participants reported a positive impact on their family life and wellbeing

FAMILIES SUPPORTED

The programme worked with around 26 families, creating opportunities for shared experiences, stronger relationships, and positive engagement through structured sessions and activities.

26



20+

20+ SESSIONS DELIVERED

Through shared activities, mentoring, and structured sessions, the programme creates safe and inclusive spaces that celebrate culture, strengthen family bonds, and promote positive male role models.



Encouraging a sense of belonging and stronger local connections.

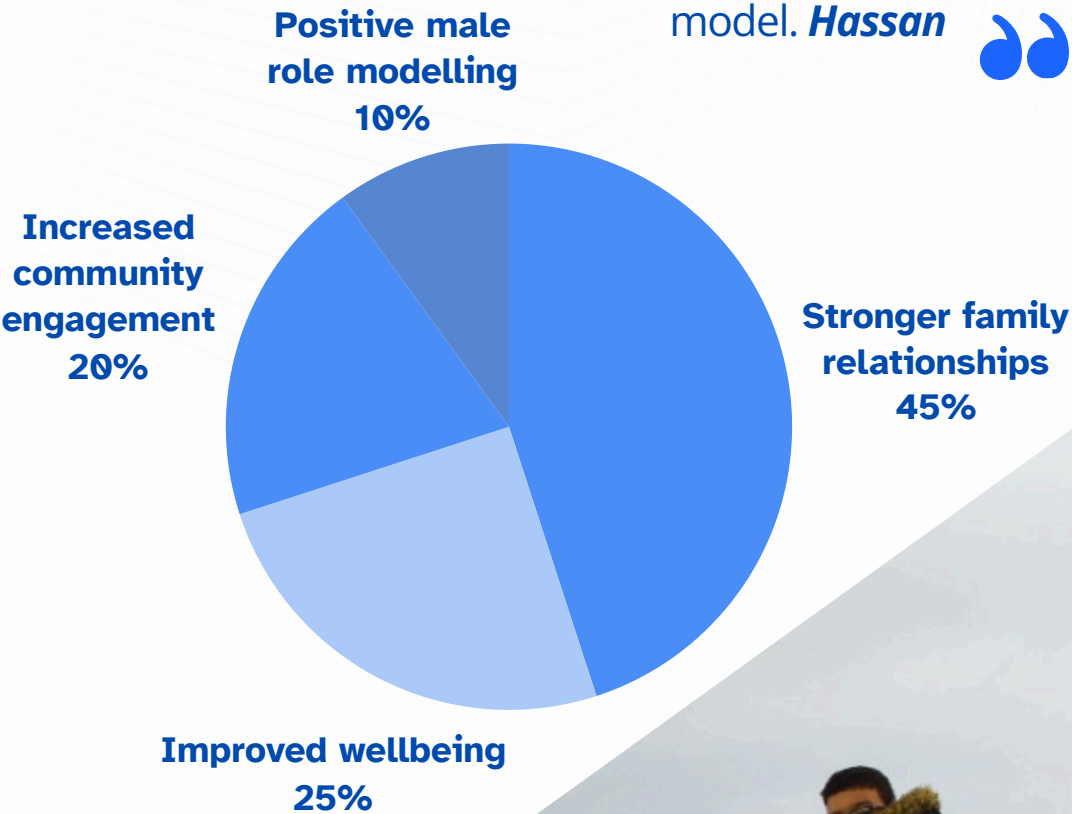
Stronger family relationships helping build trust, better communication, and more stable home environments.

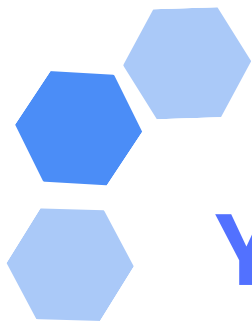
Supporting better mental health, confidence, and emotional resilience.

Providing guidance, consistency, and positive influence for younger participants



“ This programme brought us closer as a family and helped me be a better role model. **Hassan** ”





Leadership

Youth Voice & Future Opportunities

Safe Spaces

Supportive and inclusive environments for young people.



Skills & Confidence

Building leadership, teamwork, and employability skills.



Positive Pathways

Supporting progression into education, employment, volunteering and leadership opportunities.



Youth Voice & Participation

Giving young people opportunities to influence programmes and shape decisions.

Empowering Future Leaders

Through sports, mentoring, employability workshops, careers events, and leadership activities, Infinite Skills supports young people to build confidence, develop skills and explore positive futures. Over 450 young people engaged in activities that strengthened wellbeing, leadership, community participation and career aspirations while giving them a voice in shaping opportunities for the future.

**450+
Young People
Engaged**

youth

Creating Social Value and Lasting Impact



Infinite Skills creates measurable social and economic value by supporting individuals into employment, education, and enterprise while strengthening families and communities. In 2025, our work generated an estimated £186,000 in public sector savings, driven by reduced reliance on welfare and support services as participants progressed into work and training. For every £1 invested, we generate £6.10 in social value, reflecting improved earnings, greater independence, and stronger community resilience. A key part of this impact comes from reducing the number of young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET) by supporting them into apprenticeships, further education, and job opportunities.

Alongside this, our investment in youth engagement, including sports and football activities, provides early intervention that builds confidence and prevents disengagement. Our work also supports families and fathers, improving financial stability and strengthening relationships through programmes such as Dads & Lads. Together, this creates both immediate outcomes and long-term savings for public services, healthier communities, and sustainable local economic growth.



Social value estimates are based on participant progression into employment, education and training, alongside recognised social value methodologies and internal impact calculations.

Our Funders & Partners

The achievements highlighted throughout this report would not be possible without the support, collaboration, and commitment of our funders, partners, employers, and community organisations. We are grateful to the organisations that continue to invest in our work, share our vision, and help create opportunities for individuals, families, and communities across Sheffield. Together, we are building stronger pathways into education, employment, enterprise, and community wellbeing.



"None of our impact would be possible without the trust, collaboration and commitment of our funders, partners and communities."



Contact Us

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