

THE JOHN HAWKINS AWARD

DAY
Inspire



INSPIRE DAY

Coventry Youth Justice Service (CYJS)

Have you ever been told "you're not good enough", or "you've done that wrong", or "you won't become anything in life"? Well... at Coventry Youth Justice Service we do not believe this.

Every child has something special and can reach their goals, and we want to help them find their passions in life. Whether it's ideas about future jobs/careers, wanting to experience something new, or building on confidence and self-esteem, we will support and nurture.

Many of our children and young people have faced high levels of disadvantage, and so life hasn't been easy. We are proud of the work that we do in breaking down barriers and giving all children the best opportunities for their future. We create new and exciting ways for children to learn new skills and develop aspirations in life. We have ideas to stimulate all children to find their own spark.

This is why we designed the INSPIRE program.

What does it look like?

This programme is a one-day event that runs twice a year, which involves:

1. Inspirational speakers give an overview about their life, their goals, and how they accomplished them.
2. A range of workshops which are linked to the speakers jobs and talents.
3. A sit down lunch with the speakers and Youth Justice Service staff.
4. A fun activity/trip which is linked to challenge and a sense of achievement.
5. Each child receives a certificate for attendance and AQA Awards linked to the day.

What is the purpose of INSPIRE?

There are so many different jobs in the world, it is sometimes hard to know what you want to do. We want to open doors for young people and let them discover jobs that they didn't know existed or thought was not possible to achieve.

CYJS have listened to our young people and have broken down their goals and interests into four 'pathways': Construction, Industry, the Arts, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths (STEM). This allows the young people who access our service, to work towards their dreams.

While the day is designed to inspire, we also build the children's skills in communication, trust, working together, relationships, and empathy towards others. It also allows the children to grow in confidence and increase their self-esteem.

The children we work with often carry a lot of responsibilities within their life that they should not have at their age. INSPIRE allows them to 'be themselves' and explore new things in a safe space and at their own pace.

The speakers invited to the day have their own life experiences, set backs, and struggles, and are relatable to the young people. They have come from all walks of life and inspire the young people to never give up on themselves, or their dreams.

INSPIRE day is designed to bring opportunities to life, and show children that their dreams and goals are possible.

Who is it for?

This is designed for all children, aged 10-17, who are being supported by Coventry Youth Justice Service and would like to broaden their horizons in the different interests which are available to them. It is a chance to experience something new and exciting. We have the capacity to have 20 young children attending on each INSPIRE day.

WARWICK UNIVERSITY

INSPIRE day is held at the University of Warwick as a way to further inspire the children to think about their future and the possibilities of going to a university. By visiting, children are able to experience what it is like on a university campus, explore student life, and get some awareness of lecture theatres. They are able to see the culture and diverse nature of what university has to offer.



The children had one of their activity here.



The children conquered fears and pushed through barriers which they didn't think they would be able to do.



The children had their INSPIRE experience here.



The children have sit down meals with staff and speakers to continue the day.



THE SPEAKERS



A privilege to speak to the children

I am also inspired by the other speakers

The first INSPIRE day was based around the 'Arts' pathway and we were supported by the following speakers:

- Rapper & Actor - Real Artillery (RA)
- Entrepreneur - Chris Clacken
- Actor - Ryan Hayes
- BBC Radio Presenter - Sandra Godley
- Tattoo Artist & Business Owner - 'Paddy' O'Rafferty
- Global Gymnast & Stunt Artist - Nancy Gibson

The group then went to Warwick Sports centre in the afternoon to do rock climbing.



The second INSPIRE day was based on a range of different career paths, and we were supported by the following speakers:

- Free Radio & World Champion Irish Dancer - Roisin McCourt
- Free Radio - 'Producer' Paul
- Entrepreneur - Daniel Elkerton
- Youth Worker & Gaelic Footballer - James Ogunde
- Graphic Designer & Nail Tech - Kirsty Kalnins
- University of Warwick STEM & Outreach Lecturers

The group then went to TeamSport in the afternoon to do go-karting.



The third INSPIRE day was based around 'Sports' and we were supported by the following speakers:

- Aston Villa Football Club - Tom & Cabdi
- Personal Trainer, Ex-footballer & TV Personality - Isaac Phillips
- Strength & Conditioning Coach for Derby County Football Club - Nathan Plaskett
- Netball Coach - Brittany Hawke

The group then went to Go-Ape centre in the afternoon to the Treetop Adventure course.



The children were amazing

The community needs to hear about the fantastic work you are doing as an organisation

It is such a good day for the children

THE CHILDREN

I was able to talk to the speakers and get ideas about how I can reach my goals for the future.



Over the three INSPIRE days, the children who attended gave positive feedback and enjoyed their day. General comments were that it was great to meet new people, it was organised well, and fun.



I really connected with him and he said if I ever want to chat, speak to YJS and he will be there.

My mum put it on the fridge - I had never got one before.

I was so proud when my parents saw what I had achieved.

I thought this day was going to be awful but it has truly inspired me.



It was a great fun day to meet new people. Staff are fun and welcoming.



I haven't had that much fun in one day in ages. Good length of time and good challenge.

It made me think about giving things a go, even if I don't get it the first time.



She was so good to listen to. She made me feel safe.



I think the day helps you have a positive mentality and keeps you active. They might enjoy it and find it fun.





PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

This is now an established programme that runs twice a year, and reaches up to 40 children.

We include the children and young people's ideas and voices when planning our events and will continue to do this.

We will continue to involve lots of speakers from the different pathways to share their life experiences, knowledge, and skills.

We want to continue to support children to learn, and offer a range of workshops and fun activities for them to try, that they may not have had the chance to experience in the past.

We aim to empower young people and give them a sense of achievement.

Other Youth Justice Service's have reached out to Coventry about this programme, and as part of our plan moving forward is to support other Youth Justice Service's to develop their own INSPIRE Day.

