



What is #Focus5?

#Focus5 provides unique, flexible, one-to-one support for young people aged 15-18 across Devon, Plymouth Somerset and Torbay, who need help taking small steps into education, employment or training.

The project aims to help young people develop the five main skills identified as being gateways to employment; Communication, Customer Service, Organisation, Teamwork and Problem Solving.

Who can Benefit?

#Focus5 helps young people who may be struggling to move forwards in life. We are funded to support those who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) or at risk of becoming so. We also help any young people who are home educated or out of education/employment for medical reasons.

What Support is On Offer?

Young people are assigned to a #Focus5 key worker who works one-to-one with them to build confidence, improve self-esteem and recognise strengths. Together they then create a bespoke plan of activities to meet immediate and long term aspirations.

This can include; creating a CV, applying for jobs or apprenticeships, interview training and work experience, developing organisational and life skills, learning about financial independence, mentoring to overcome barriers, and social skills activities.

We have access to a wide range of partner organisations in the region. They have been chosen for their ethos, values and commitment to helping some of the most disadvantaged young people across the area. Their services range from confidence building to specialist support for those with complex needs.

Childcare funding is available for young parents while they are working with #Focus5.

How to Refer?

If you know any young people who could benefit from #Focus5, email the team on focus5@cswgroup.co.uk or refer them via our website www.cswfocus5.co.uk

#Focus5 is funded by the European Social Fund and The National Lottery Community Fund.



Success Stories

Katie

Katie from Devon joined the project when she hadn't attended school for a long time. She was struggling with her mental health, had little or no social life and was very isolated. We explored her education and career aspirations and enrolled her with Interhigh, an online education provider. #Focus5 also helped her apply for a job and re-connect with a group of friends.



“The support from #Focus5 has helped me turn my life around.”

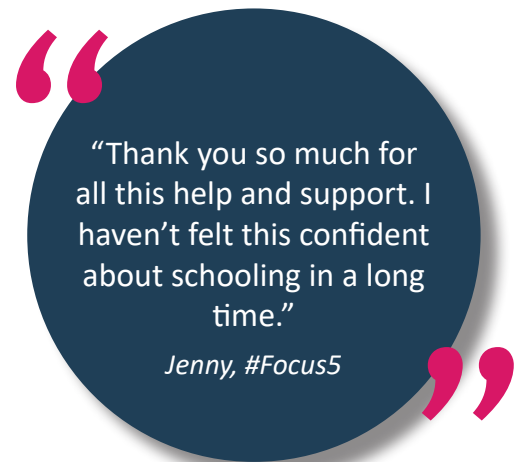
Katie, #Focus5

Kieran

Kieran from Somerset dropped out of college with mental health problems when he was referred to #Focus5. We helped him onto a Project Search internship at a local hospital where he has been learning the business side of health and social care, armed with the Brain in Hand app. Kieran hopes to gain enough skills within their ICT team to go on to study computer science at University.

Jenny

Jenny has complex medical needs and needed to find an alternative style of education where her mum could be her 1:1 helper. #Focus5 approached CMT Services in Somerset and despite some initial anxiety, they convinced her she could achieve her goals, so she signed up on the spot!



“Thank you so much for all this help and support. I haven't felt this confident about schooling in a long time.”

Jenny, #Focus5



“My key worker gave me the extra help I needed to get where I wanted to be.”

David, #Focus5

David

David from Plymouth has joined an apprenticeship with Everyone Active at the Plymouth Life Centre. Having dropped out of school, David knew what he wanted to do but lacked the skills and confidence to achieve his dreams. #Focus5 supported him through work experience and into a Level 2 apprenticeship in gym instruction. He now looks forward to becoming a personal instructor.