



THE DofE and NEETs

Developing young people's skills for life and work

How the DofE transforms young people's lives

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a voluntary, non-competitive, flexible personal development programme of activities for young people. Anyone aged between 14 and 24 can do a programme at one of the three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. There are four sections at Bronze and Silver level and five at Gold:

- **Volunteering:** undertaking service to individuals or the community. This cannot be for a business or family member but can be for a charity or for a not-for-profit organisation.
- **Physical:** improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities.
- **Skills:** developing practical and social skills and personal interests.
- **Expedition:** planning, training for and completing an unaccompanied adventurous journey in the UK or abroad. It can be by canoe, kayak or boat; on foot; on horseback; by wheelchair or by bicycle.
- At Gold level, participants must do an additional fifth **Residential** section, which involves staying and working away from home doing a shared activity.

Building a brighter future for young people

We are working with young people in every community and from every walk of life to provide a solution.

From Housing associations to young mums groups, youth centres to secondary schools and academies, young offender institutions to police cadets, we work with more than

300,000 young people, giving them the confidence and key skills employers are crying out for.

A survey of major employers, commissioned by the United Learning Trust (ULT), found that a DofE Award is the most highly valued experience when selecting employees.

How to become a DofE programme provider

This is your chance to shape the future of the UK. In the majority of areas throughout the UK, youth organisations can deliver a DofE programme under their local authority's license.

Alternatively, you can choose to become a Directly Licensed Centre

(DLC). We will help you establish a DofE programme that complements your current work with young people, helping to prepare them for life and work.

Contact your local Region/County DofE Office to discuss your options: www.DofE.org/feedback



To find out how the DofE can benefit young people you work with and how you can become a programme provider, please contact us:

info@DofE.org

or

www.DofE.org/feedback

Don't take our word for it...

Robyn Corroon

Robyn was one of the first young people to get involved in the DofE through the V Talent initiative at Ealing Council, which offers volunteering placements to young people not currently involved in full time education, employment or training.

Robyn was unemployed at the time and struggling to get interviews. Having left school without any qualifications, she initially went on to train as a mechanic, but after countless job rejections and six months out of work she lost her sense of motivation and didn't know where to turn.



"It was really hard. After so many knock backs I thought I'd never get a job. Then someone at my old youth centre suggested I apply for a work placement with Ealing Council through the V Talent programme. That's how I was introduced to the DofE. I haven't looked back."

Robyn managed to secure a sought-after apprenticeship with the DofE at Ealing Council following her placement, helping other young people to develop as she has. She is now looking to apply to university.

"Never in a million years did I think I'd go to University. When I was 16 my attitude was all wrong, I didn't care how I spoke to people. I've had to grow up fast. The DofE has turned my life around."

Emily Mailes

Emily was 16 when she fell pregnant and, after leaving school with very few qualifications, she decided to join a local youth group for teenage mums in North Kensington.

Whilst there, she began working towards her Duke of Edinburgh's Award, where she was part of the first young mums group to take their children on expedition with them.

Emily has now achieved her Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. Her positive experience led to her working as an Expedition Leader for other groups of young people.

Whilst doing her DofE, Emily re-engaged with education and obtained film making, editing, media and youth work qualifications. She became a paid youth worker at the young mothers group where she supported other young mothers doing their DofE programmes.

She is now employed as a youth services co-ordinator for Living Well and teaches sex education to young people all across London whilst studying for a degree in youth work.



"If it weren't for the DofE, I'd be sat in my flat living on benefits. It showed me that if I worked at something, I could achieve it. It gave me back my aspirations and the confidence to achieve them."

Our participants recognise the value of their DofE Awards:



A survey of DofE participants in 2013 found a fifth did their DofE because they think good grades are simply not enough to get into university or secure a job in today's climate.

"My DofE Awards demonstrate to future employers that I have plenty of transferable skills"

Jason Thomas

Bronze, Silver and Gold Award holder

"Taking part in my DofE has helped me develop my organisational skills, initiative and leadership."

Jordan Brown

Silver DofE participant

"My Gold DofE Award makes me stand out from other applicants going for the same job or university place" –

Sarah Hutchinson

Gold DofE Award holder

For more information and a list of regional contacts, visit www.DofE.org/feedback