

# NEET CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME



## OVERVIEW

With the aim of reducing the NEET figures in Salford Keepmoat Homes has coordinated and delivered an award-winning six-week summer programme for this year and the past four, in partnership with Salix Homes, Inspiring Communities Together, Build Salford, and Connexions, and many others.

## THE CASE STUDY

Salford has double the national average of 16 and 17-year-olds classed as NEET, and wanted homebuilder Keepmoat to reduce numbers through activities at its Riverbank View development. At first, a programme was held with young people to build a sand martin colony on the banks of the river. Feedback from those young people was very positive, but less so the following year when a horticultural programme was delivered. By taking on board the views of the young people, positive and negative, the NEET Summer Programme was developed with more construction-related activities based on what the young people found valuable.

Seven young people signed up to the course initially and at the start of the programme several thought they knew exactly which trade they wanted to progress into but after trying it first-hand, realised it was not for them. They were able to adjust their plans, assisting college course retention. Many reported that the programme raised their aspirations and confidence. All seven initial attendees progressed on to further education, employment, or training, and Salford's NEET figures reduced.

During the programme young people try their hand at plastering, tiling, and bricklaying skills. It includes a visit to a live construction site to see homebuilding first hand and meet a variety of trades. The programme ends with a presentation event to celebrate achievements and award certificates.

Salford City Council receive a case study each year from Keepmoat outlining participation, activities and outcomes.

## KEY FIGURES

- Salford 16-17 years olds NEET 5.8% (2.6% nationally).
- Programme now run for 5 years.
- 30 participants.
- 97% outcome progression into employment, training or education.

### WHAT NEXT?

2022 is the final year of the development, and the last NEET summer programme that will be coordinated by Keepmoat Homes. With this in mind, we have ensured that partners attend each of the sessions for this year's programme, so they are fully briefed on how the programme is delivered, the challenges and how to overcome these. We will also be producing a best practice delivery guide to ensure the sustainability of the programme long after we've left.

"This project has acted as a template for SCC to invest in further programme models across Salford, supporting some of our most vulnerable young people into positive post-16 destinations."

**Sarah Scanlan, Head of Participation at Salford City Council**