

NEAR NEIGHBOURS

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Catalyst Leaders Programme

Equipping Leaders, Embracing Difference, Enabling Change



The Catalyst Programme

Catalyst is a dynamic and exciting programme offering free training to young people of diverse faiths and backgrounds who are between 16 to 26 year of age.

We equip young people with the skills and confidence to take on leadership roles, develop local social action and transform their own communities







Catalyst Has Four Aims

To help young people:

- Develop the confidence and the commitment to act as agents of positive change
- Develop a positive identity for living in a multi-faith, multi-ethnic Britain
- Develop creative leaders to act as role models in local communities
- Develop the skills and experience to play their part in building a strong civil society and enhance their employability.

How it works

- Phase One: Recruitment
We do this with the help of local partners, faith based organisations, schools, youth and community groups, further or higher education institutions as well as our Near Neighbours networks'
- Phase Two: Catalyst Learning
We bring together young people from different ethnic backgrounds, providing training, dialogue and facilitated learning on a range of topics related to leadership, media and communication, peace, identity, faith and social action.
- Phase Three: Catalyst Futures
We provide ongoing connection with the programme through our events, further sessions and opportunities to apply for funding, social media and local and national networks.





Our Programmes

Catalyst takes place over four days and are delivered by suitably qualified and highly experienced trainers.

To help young people we provide:

- A safe and welcoming learning environment
- Four days of high quality leadership training
- Access to experienced trainers & inspirational speakers
- Practical skills and knowledge to build confidence, effective communication and leadership skills
- Opportunities to discuss and critically think about some of the most pressing issues of our time
- Membership on Catalyst Futures
- An opportunity to gain a leadership qualification in the future if you become a member

Learning processes

We use a variety of creative and interactive processes to offer practical experience and engage young people. These processes include group discussions, thought provoking team exercises, newspaper articles, case studies, audio and visual presentations, films and social media.



“ I loved **exploring** issues of **faith** with such a **diverse** and **wonderful** group of people. I **learned** so much, and felt **challenged** in the **best kind of way** ”



“ Catalyst is a **great opportunity** not only to **learn** more about yourself, but to **meet** many amazing people to **build friendships** with ”





Learning Outcomes

Day One: Identity, Faith & Belonging

Purpose

- To explore concepts of identity and belonging and what they mean to young people in the UK, including key points of debate.
- To reflect on and discuss the importance of living in a diverse society

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

1. Identify and explore some of the key debates around identity and belonging in Britain today
2. Understand more about their own relationship with faith and belief and that of others
3. Learn how prejudice, stereotypes and discrimination are being tackled
4. Give example of how their own identity shapes their concept of belonging and community



Day Two: Exploring Leadership

Purpose

- To hear ideas about leadership from thinking and practice and explore how young people relate to this
- To explore positive and negative leadership styles, behaviours and personality traits
- To discuss the types of leaders who inspire and motivate young people to take on leadership positions
- To explore the challenges of being a leader

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

1. Understand the complexity of being a leader and the different perspectives on leadership
2. Articulate the characteristics essential for contemporary leadership
3. Understand more about their own personality and its role in leadership
4. Critically think about whether leaders are made or born
5. Identify the type of leader they think they are
6. Reflect on how they handle taking on leadership roles



Day Three: Media & Effective Communication

Purpose

- To explore the relevance and impact of modern media communication
- To hear ideas about how to communicate more effectively and gain practical experience in presentation and public speaking skills
- To learn how to use the same material, with different angles, for multiple platforms

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

1. Deliver a presentation with confidence
2. Identify individuals who are good communicators
3. Develop and use effective key messages
4. Give examples of how social media has been used positively
5. Learn about how communities can use local media more effectively



Day Four: Social Action & Positive Change

Purpose

- To reflect on what we mean by social action and positive change
- To explore what young people would like to change within their own communities
- To outline a step by step approach to how young people can get organised and take action to transform their communities

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

1. Understand what we mean by social action
2. Share examples of what they would like to change and present how they will go about making the change
3. Identify what leadership style, communication and media approaches they would use to transform something in their neighbourhood or community
4. Learn more about possible local funding sources available
5. Understand the importance of team work and challenges of trying to bring about change

Wahida Shaffi

Wahida Shaffi is the Director of the Near Neighbours Catalyst Programme. She was previously the West Yorkshire Coordinator for the Near Neighbours Programme where she oversaw the Catalyst Programmes in the North of England and the Midlands. She held the position of National Women's Programme Lead with the Christian Muslim Forum where she has pioneered their national women's programme conducting research exploring the issues affecting women of faith across the UK amongst other events.

She has over 20 years experience of working with diverse communities. She completed her MA in international politics and security studies at the Department of Peace Studies at the University of Bradford. Since then she has gone on to facilitate, deliver training, complete research and produce films on a wide range of issues related to equality, diversity, participation, gender, conflict and interfaith both locally, nationally and internationally including Sri-Lanka, Israel, Palestine, Syria, Turkey, Romania.

She is a qualified Social Worker, Vocational Assessor and Trainer (an associate of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development) and author of a book published by Policy press titled *OurStories OutLives: Inspiring Muslim Women's Voices*.



Becky Brookman

Becky Brookman is the Deputy Director of Catalyst. With three years' experience setting up the Near Neighbours programme across 11 boroughs in West London, she is now responsible for supporting the growth of the Catalyst programme alongside the Director.

She has 7 years' experience engaging young people in volunteering in diverse communities. Becky spent over three years working with the oldest UK-based Jewish youth organisation, JLGB, to oversee their ambitious volunteering and citizenship strategy, engaging with schools and community organisations to increase the potential and engagement of young volunteers aged 8-18.

Becky is experienced in delivering training to young people on volunteering, developing social action projects, faith and cultural awareness, equality and leadership skills. She has also designed and delivered training for charities who want to offer safe, fun and effective volunteering opportunities for younger volunteers.



She also has voluntary experience leading youth activities for 8-11 year olds, and mentoring teenagers who have committed offences with Southwark Youth Offending Team. Becky recently completed her MA in Abrahamic Religions at Heythrop College, University of London, and has an interest in the role that faith communities can play in supporting people experiencing mental health issues. She lives in London.



What to do if you want to take part in a Catalyst Programme

- You can access our application form from our website.
- You have to adhere to our Catalyst Ground Rules & Values - these have been developed by young people
- If you are a group, project or organisation and would like to work with us to deliver the programme to young people in your area, we ask that you have the necessary safeguarding and health and safety policies in place. Please get in touch to discuss this further.



“ The Catalyst course was the most *interesting course* I have been on. I met some *amazing people* from *various faiths* and this has *inspired* me to *motivate* young people in particular to *explore* different *faith groups* and *communities* ”



“ Catalyst is a *fantastic programme* where you are able to *meet people* with *similar goals* but from a variety of *faiths*. It's an *opportunity* to share in *ideas* and *conversations* which enrich your own *projects* and *initiatives* ”



“ Catalyst was a *safe* place for me, to *freely debate* and *discuss contemporary issues* within *religions* ”





For an application form or further information
Please visit our website

www.near-neighbours.org.uk/catalyst

Contact our Catalyst team on:

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