



# Creating Opportunity

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## THE IMPACT OF OUR WORK



From all the projects and events I have been involved in, I think Soft Touch is **AMAZING!** It has changed my life so much. I am glad I joined when it was recommended by my friend Erica. By coming to Soft Touch many opportunities have been opened up which I wouldn't have had before.

Whenever I'm out doing a project or event I am able to meet new people confidently and do new things independently. My Silver Arts Award and the things I do at Soft Touch will help me get a job.

Leona Bond, 15

**Soft Touch is a fantastic organisation that works with and for young people in my constituency.**

**They have shown that there is no such thing as a 'hard to reach' young person if you provide great activities that young people want. I'll do everything I can to support them.**

**Liz Kendall  
MP for Leicester West**

## The impact and changes for people and places

- \* During 2014-15 we worked with **1500+** young people, **93%** lived in deprived neighbourhoods
- \* Our street-based creative engagement work has reached **850** young people in **3** years
- \* Police report that in **100%** of the areas we work we **reduce anti-social behaviour and crime**

### Young people and partners report:

- \*Improved skills and confidence\*
- \*reduction in anti-social behaviour and crime\*
- \*higher achievement and aspiration\*
- \*progression to education, volunteering & employment\*
- \*happier and healthier lifestyles\*
- \*positive contributions to cultural and community life\*

**Find out more about our impact:**

<http://www.soft-touch.org.uk/surveyweek/>



**Soft Touch and young people from New Parks are invited to the Houses of Parliament in October 2012 by Liz Kendall**

**Soft Touch and young people from New Parks were invited to the Houses of Parliament in October 2012 by Liz Kendall, MP to showcase their creative street work to MPs and Government policy makers**

## How we support vulnerable children and young people

**We give opportunities for participation in high-quality activities (for free) to children and young people who don't have the parental support and encouragement to help them get involved in positive out of school activities.**

**We stop vulnerable young people who have hidden barriers to achievement from spiralling into negative life situations. We support individuals who have slipped through the education and social care system and help them get back into education, into safe housing and to access the support services they need to make a positive transition into adulthood.**

**We give young people a voice and a safe way to express their feelings and emotions. Involvement in creative activities and art is a powerful tool to build confidence, self-belief and aspiration when children find it difficult to engage with mainstream education, or when they struggle to communicate and stay resilient when negative life experiences make life difficult.**

I first came across Soft Touch in 2009 working on a film project. I did further film projects then went on to do work experience and volunteer. I have never felt so comfortable and confident in life, I know my personality has grown and the skills I have gained have widened.

It's not just me who this organisation has helped but many other young people just like me who need a little support to find their way in life, express themselves and become a young person that they can be proud of. I know that the organisation will continue to help many other young people.

Abby, 18



"I've been coming to Soft Touch for over a year. It's a place with great equipment and role models - people who make a living in the arts and help young people move on. I've got so much more dedication and ambition because it's a place I like. I want to become a DJ, and teach other young people - Soft Touch can help me do that. My motivation and communication with other people is better. I've definitely progressed - Soft Touch helped me to get a job fixing lighting systems in pubs and clubs. Things could be very different - if I hadn't found Soft Touch I'd probably be in jail. Soft Touch has helped me get back on track". Stef, 17.



Soft Touch means the world to me because they gave me something no-one else could really give me. They gave me ambition, they made me realise that life isn't all about crime and drugs and stuff. I got into Soft Touch through the Youth Offending Service when I was 15 and I've never looked back. Now I work for them as a sessional worker. They're great people - like a family, it's always fun and they give people the opportunity to do something completely different; something creative. They really bring out the good qualities in the youth they work with.

Kane Johnson, 21



Soft Touch is like a family. If it wasn't for them there would be a lot more lonely children.

Jenna, 22  
Young Volunteer and former project participant



"Soft Touch have helped me make something of my life instead of doing drugs and drinking"

1500 of our photo story books for children with reading difficulties are being used in local schools

"This course has improved my confidence. In the future I think I can run my own business"

1050 people in areas where poor health is an issue are eating healthy meals thanks to our 'Well Cool' health campaign projects and volunteers

D has a diagnosis of ASD. His early years of education were in Special School placements, including a year in a Residential Special School. From age 14, he had an Education Otherwise Provision so had limited time in a school/college environment. He struggled socially and his self-esteem and self-worth was very low. He had tried to do a church related mission, which he found too socially demanding and it affected his mental health.

Through his time at Soft Touch on the Back on Track programme, D was able to regain some self-belief and confidence in his music ability and himself as a person, whilst also further developing his skills in making music. This opportunity played a part in D refocusing on his future and believing in opportunities that were achievable for him, this being a Foundation Degree at Leicester College in Sound Technology.

Joe from Soft Touch played a big part in helping D feel comfortable and confident in his ability to do this course, which D was very grateful for.

Vivienne Boulton  
Aspire Lifeskills



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