



SOCIAL MOBILITY
BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP
Impact Report 2023



Skills Builder
Progressing in
essential skills

2023-24

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AN INTRO FROM OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Each year, the SMBP team works with businesses from right across the UK to provide students from low-income backgrounds work insight with multiple employers, resilience training and lifetime career mentoring. It is a true collaboration, with each business taking responsibility for delivering one aspect of a weeklong experience, be it a day in their offices, co-delivering a resilience day or providing volunteers to chaperone students.

This collaborative effort sees students spend a day at four different organisations engaging in business simulation activities and skills workshops. Their fifth day is spent at a professional sports club where students learn about the psychology of resilience and goal achievement models, supported by our sport and business psychology partner Cleartrack Performance. The SMBP alumni are then provided with lifetime access to the SMBP App which includes a career mentoring platform and rolling job opportunity notifications from the 198 businesses which make up the SMBP.

Since its launch, the SMBP has achieved growth year on year in three key areas: growth in the number of students that take part in the Programme, the number of businesses that support its delivery and its geographic reach across the UK. 2023 was no exception. The SMBP welcomed 630 students onto its Programmes, facilitated by 198 businesses and launched its first Devon based Programme in Exeter, led by a volunteer team from Pennon Group. In addition, existing Programmes in Belfast and London were expanded to increase student placements.

2023 also saw the launch of a transatlantic Programme, a US Pilot in Chicago. The success of this pilot has enabled SMBP to scale to a full 12 month Programme in 2024 in partnership with law firms Holland & Knight and Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath and local charity TA98.

Our focus in 2024 will be to expand our reach to Plymouth, St Austell & Truro, Newport, Derry – Londonderry and Wrexham. creating more opportunities for young students across the UK.



On behalf of the Board of Trustees,
Andrew Garard, Chair

With thanks to our Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding partners



A MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM



Barry Matthews
Founder



Jessica Clarkson
Managing Director



Rose Firth
Head of Operations
2023



Lisa Godfrey
Head of Operations
2024



Jade Emmett
Head of Technology
& Communications



Manisha Kumar
Student Sourcing
Executive



Vanessa Uweru
Delivery Executive

What a year 2023 was! We delivered increases across student attendees, businesses and geographic reach with the help of 188 businesses, an outstanding collaborative achievement. A huge thank you to all of the volunteers who made this possible and a welcome to the new businesses who took part this year; Soho House, Barbri, Hampden Park, Foot Anstey and Hogan Lovells to name just a few.

We worked with Squire Patton Boggs to launch a scholarship Programme for seven SMBP alumni students, supporting them throughout their 3 year law degree, find out more in our Case Studies. Similarly, Totum Partners released a bursary available to SMBP alumni students exclusively, to support their career aspirations. We ran our first US Pilot, in Chicago.

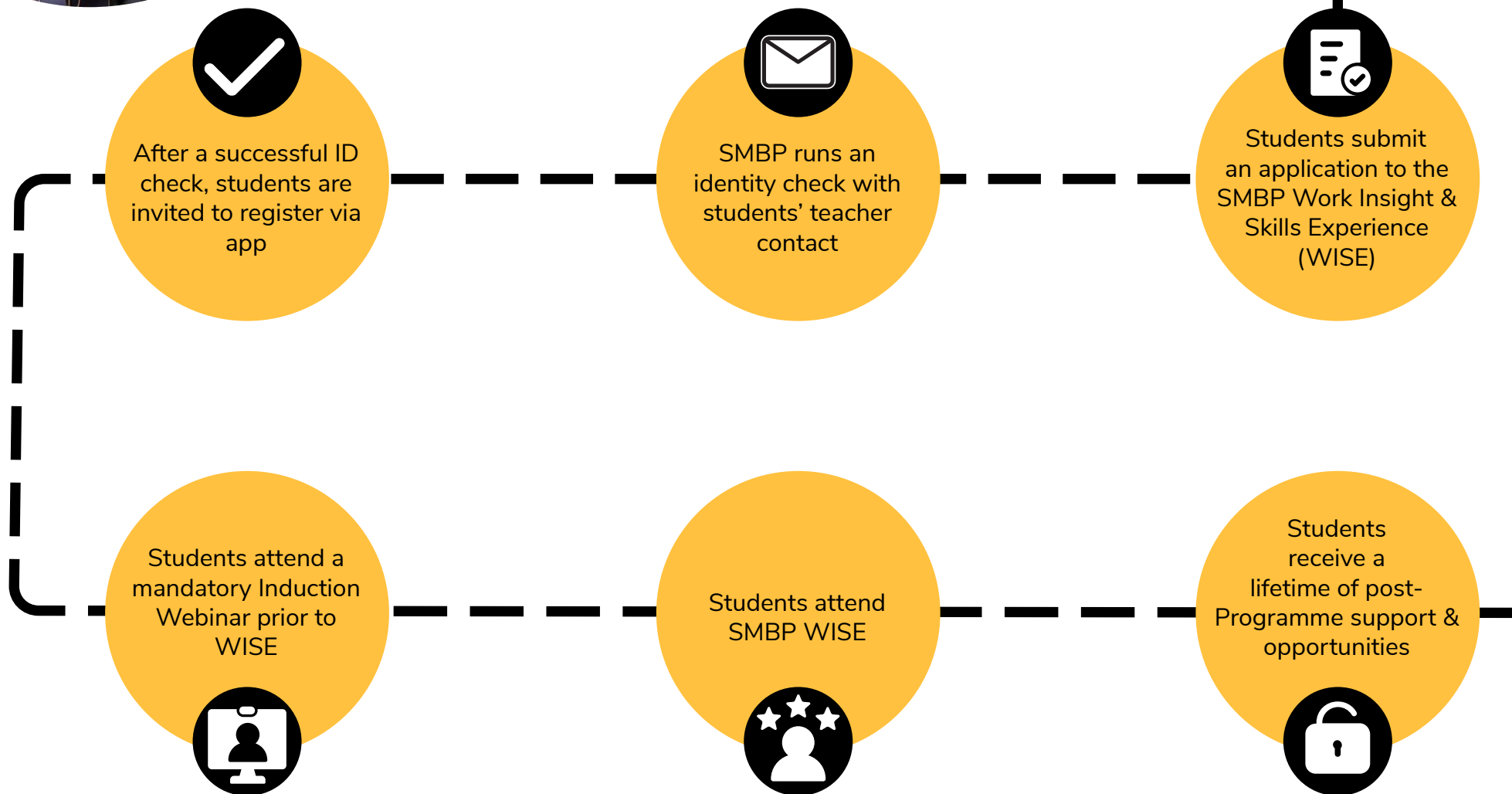
We welcomed Manisha to the full time SMBP team as a Student Sourcing Exec. Following her own experience on the SMBP Programme in 2018 and her subsequent volunteer she brings a wealth of insight! We said a sad farewell to the wonderful Rose Firth who has taken a very well earned retirement. Her impact on the SMBP over the years has been phenomenal. Stepping into the Head of Operations role is Lisa, with 30 years' experience across law, charity, consultancy and education. And from 2024, supporting Lisa on the Operations side, is our new Delivery Executive, Vanessa, who completed the SMBP Programme in 2022.

We look forward to doing it all again and more in 2024!

Team SMBP



THE SMBP MODEL



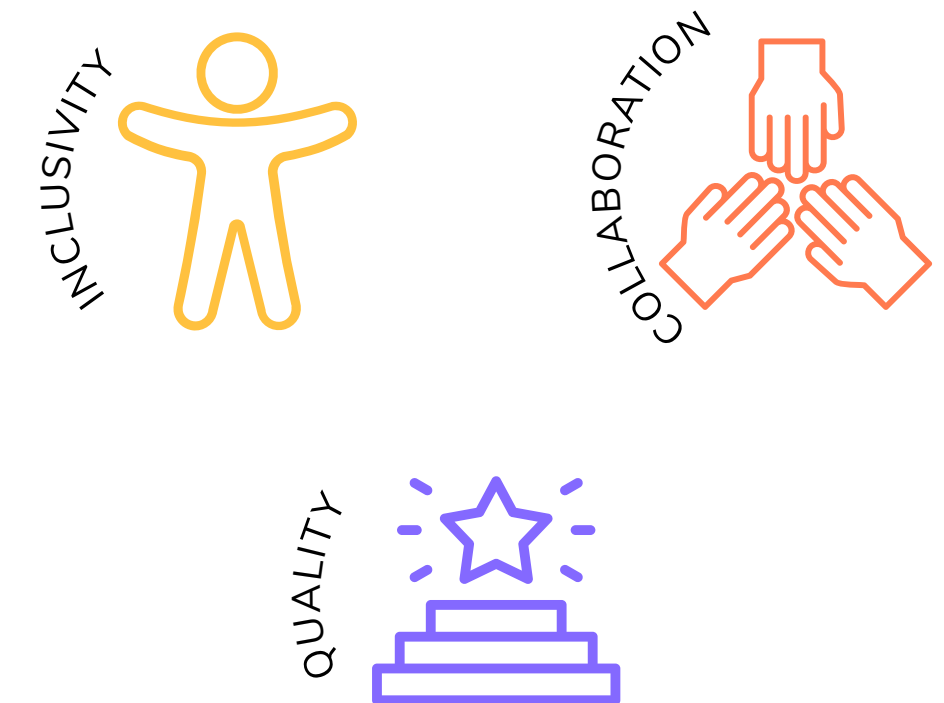
DELIVERY VALUES

At the core of SMBP is a commitment to three defining delivery values:

INCLUSIVITY, our foremost principle, champions diversity in our Work Insight & Skills Experience (WISE) programme. Although all forms of inequality are important, social mobility is an inequality that covers a range of disparities. Poverty and growing up in a low-income household cannot be limited or constrained to a particular race, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation. We strive for an environment where every participant feels valued and empowered.

COLLABORATION stands as our second delivery value, guided by the ethos of “collaboration and not competition”. We actively partner with organisations, united in the mission to broaden students’ horizons and unlock previously inaccessible opportunities.

Finally, **QUALITY** is at the forefront of our programme delivery. We pride ourselves on delivering four meaningful encounters across one week, with students engaging in business simulation workshops underpinned by an employability competency framework, rated at the highest level by the [Skills Builder Partnership](#). This is demonstrated by student feedback; 100% of students who take part in the SMBP WISE programme would recommend it to their peers.



21
different
ethnicities

4%
of students
were carers

32% male
66% female
2% other

100%
of students from
a low-income
background* or
1st generation to
university

100%
of students state
school educated

PROGRAMME LOCATIONS



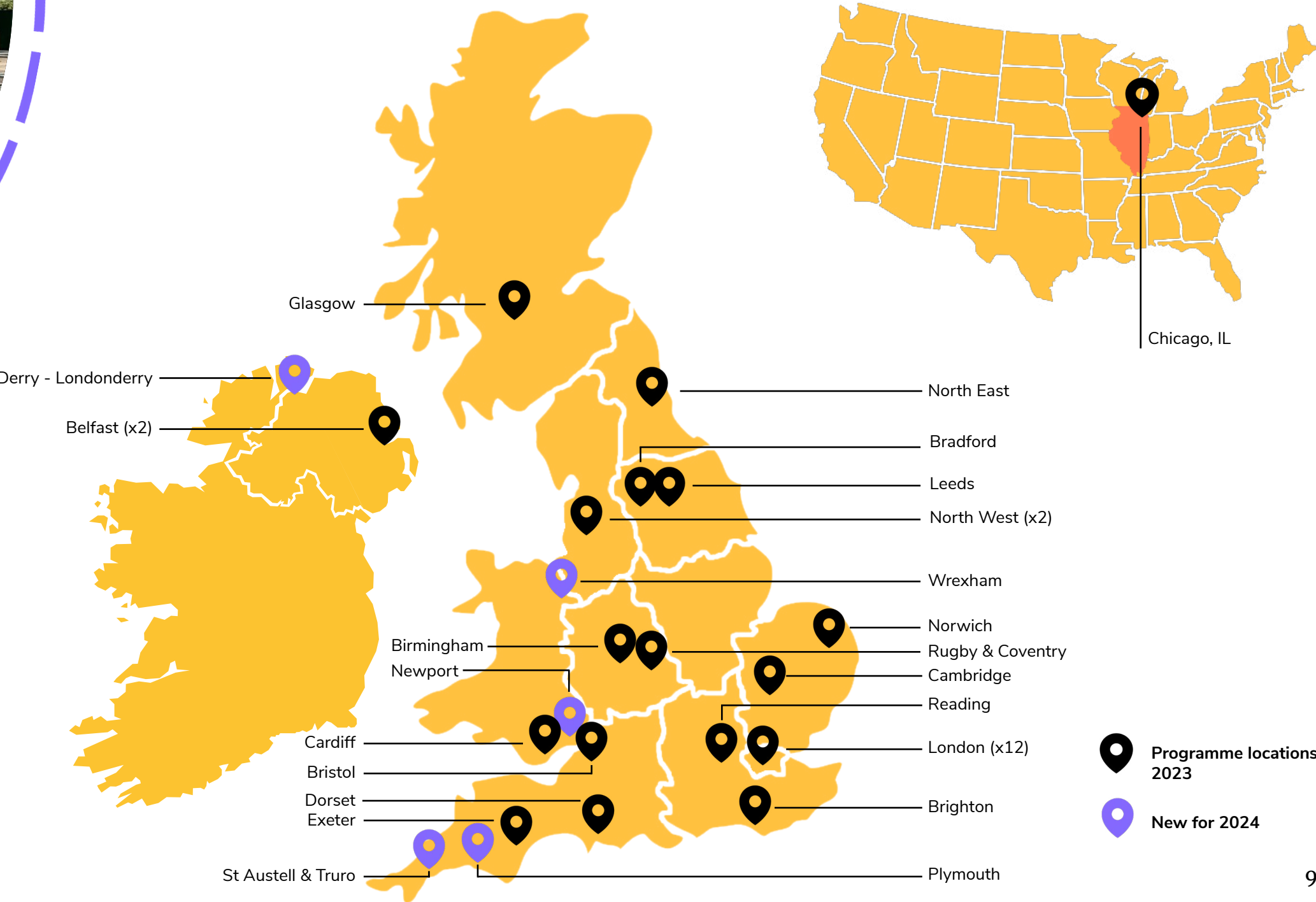
In 2023 SMBP and its partners delivered over 656 WISE weeks of student placements across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and the US. We delivered Programmes in 17 towns and cities with local employers, for students living in those towns and cities and the surrounding areas. In addition, we delivered our National Online week in the Easter term break, providing the opportunity for students in more rural areas of the UK to take part in our Programmes.

We were thrilled to launch our Exeter cluster in partnership with Pennon Group. The full details of this can be found in our Case Study. We also expanded our existing Programmes in London and Belfast to increase student placements.

We look forward to expanding further into the South West, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2024. Watch this space!



In 2023, SMBP delivered its Work Insight & Skills Experience across 30 clusters in 17 regions of the UK, and had its US debut in Chicago





OUR GROWTH HISTORY

In 2014, the SMBP (previously LSMP), embarked on a journey to reshape the landscape of career opportunities for students from low-income backgrounds in the UK. As we prepare to celebrate our 10th year of empowering students in 2024, it's worth reflecting on the remarkable growth we have experienced over the past decade.

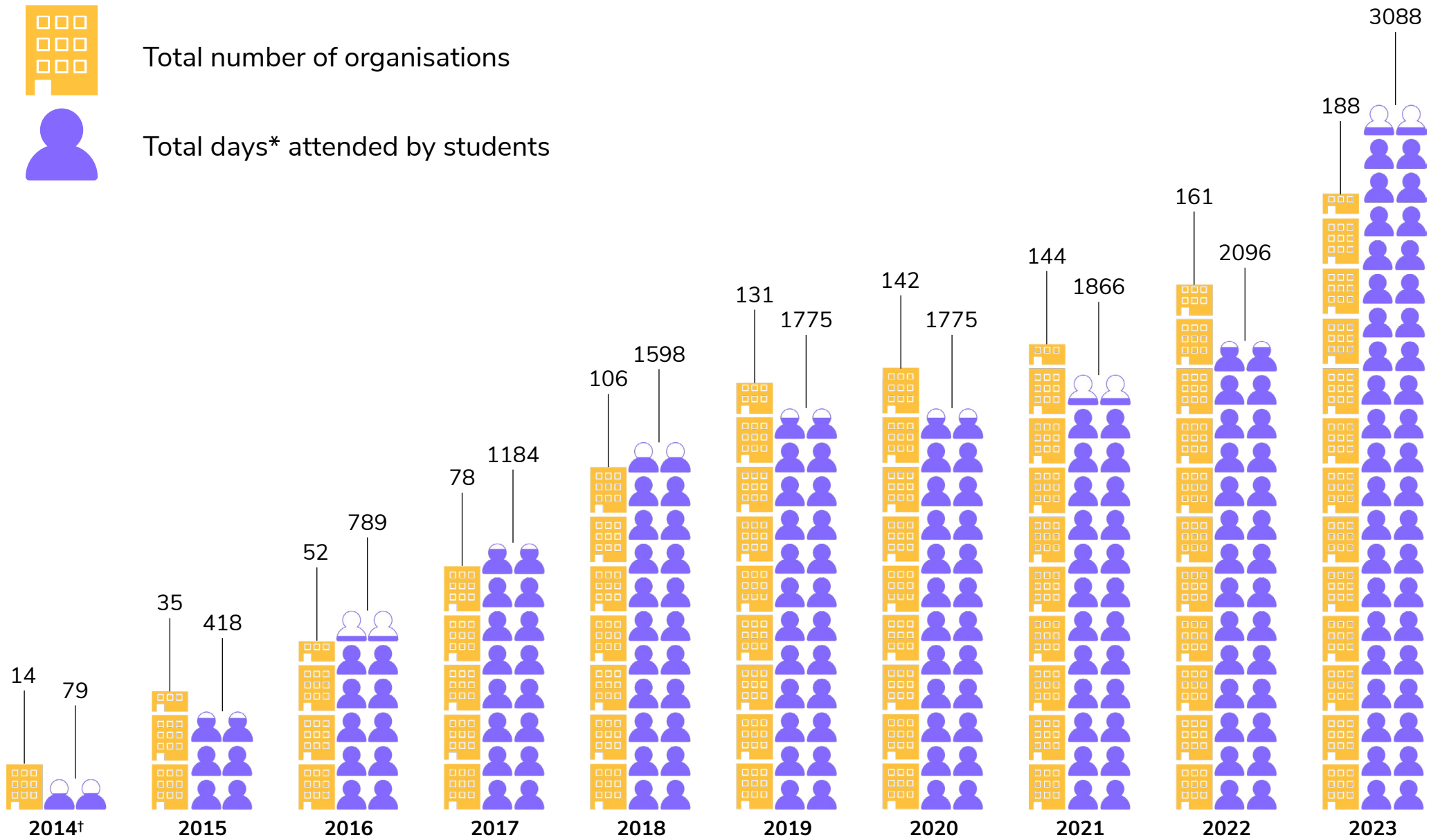
From our humble beginnings in London, where we initially provided opportunities to 20 students, we have burgeoned into a nationwide force for change. Our collaborative efforts, bringing together over 180 commercial organisations, professional services firms, and professional sports teams, have been instrumental in our transformative impact on student lives.

Our unique approach involves fostering partnerships between these entities and students in towns and cities across the UK. By uniting forces, the participating organisations share a common commitment: to support students from low socio-economic backgrounds in their pursuit of meaningful and fulfilling careers.

In just under a decade, we have expanded our reach exponentially. We now offer over 650 student places across the entire United Kingdom as of 2023. This expansion underscores the increasing recognition and endorsement of our mission by a diverse array of stakeholders.

Beyond the numbers, our growth speaks volumes about the efficacy of our collaborative model. The symbiotic relationship between commercial organisations, professional services firms, and professional sports teams, working in tandem with students, has created a dynamic ecosystem that fosters real, tangible opportunities.

As we approach our 10th-year milestone, we stand as a testament to the transformative power of collaboration and commitment. The growth in our reach and impact highlights the enduring importance of initiatives that prioritise social mobility and empower the next generation to break through barriers and realise their full potential.



* Consisting of SMBP's regional, National Online, and Chicago weeks, Ambassador Programme, and F1 taster days
† London only

PROGRAMME DELIVERY HIGHLIGHTS

At the end of each SMBP WISE programme, students are invited to provide feedback by completing a post programme survey measuring their overall experience. After 2023's feedback, we saw that students confirmed the following:



100% of students said they would recommend the SMBP Programme to other students



82% of students rated their SMBP WISE week very good



99% of students said they have a better or firm idea what they would like to do for a job/career



93% are aware of how a business operates & what they are looking for in employees



96% rated their understanding of the different career opportunities available to them within the organisations which hosted sessions **good or very good**



87% agree the experience will help strengthen their personal statement



91% now rated their self confidence **good or very good**

STUDENT COMPETENCY STATISTICS

As part of students continuous improvement, we have partnered with the Skills Builder Partnership to introduce a Pre and Post skills questionnaire which allows students to benchmark their ability in our key competencies before and after the programme.

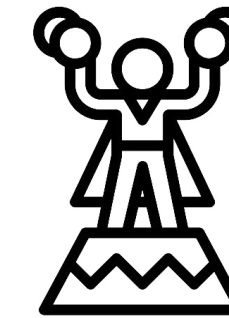
Students are given a series of statements and asked how often they did each. Each answer is attributed a numerical score with the lowest frequency earning 1 point and the highest earning 4. This allows us to understand how much students are developing their competencies across the SMBP week. The results for 2023 were as follows:



13%
increase in students
Teamwork & Leadership
skills



16%
increase in students
Communication
skills



15%
increase in students
Resilience & Goal Planning
skills



16%
increase in students
Creativity & Problem Solving
skills

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

Leah Benjafield
Cambridge
2023



“ I am particularly interested in miniature design and I would love to do this in the future. The SMBP bought me closer to achieving this dream and during the week we learnt about idea generation, resilience, and teamwork. I heard about the SMBP week through my sixth form.

I feel like the week has benefitted me. I visited Cambridge University Press and Assessment, Kettles Yard, Cambridge City Events at Anglia Ruskin University, and Cambridge Junction to learn about a variety of things such as sound and music. We also learnt how to work under pressure and deal with problems surrounding ethics. I have learnt a variety of skills that will benefit me and my CV. I took this a step further by becoming an SMBP Ambassador as I can put these skills to the test and show students what I have learnt and share my experiences.

”

“ I applied to the SMBP programme so I could have a valuable and productive experience over the summer. I particularly enjoyed visiting Aviva; it was a really good experience because through another programme I took part in during sixth form, I had previously had the opportunity to visit their office in Sheffield. And to be able to visit their office in York was really interesting opportunity to learn more around the company and its employees. I also enjoyed my visit to Bupa, where they gave us tips on useful techniques for enhancing our presentation skills in front of a large audience.

My overall experience was beneficial and positive as it helped me with reissuing my decision of pursuing a legal career and becoming an immigration solicitor, mainly focusing on international immigration.

”

“ I thought that it was a great experience. I found that it was really useful to actually learn what employers expected from young people going to into the world of work. It was really interesting to find out exactly what employers look for when they are recruiting people into their organisations. The most useful session was on interview techniques, where I learned how important it is to know what to say during an interview. It was a great opportunity to visit different companies and see where people work. For example, at PwC, we had a full guided tour of the facilities and offices and therefore we could really experience life in that company. It was also really useful to hear the background that people come from and their pathways into what they are doing now. Overall, it was an excellent experience.

”

“ I first found out about the programme through social media. I was nervous at first because I did not know anyone, but my worries were put to rest by the amazing team. We were taught integral skills and learnt how to develop a growth mindset go to through the rest of the week. The first day at Vanquis Banking I look back with fondness because I was offered a further professional placement there. This boosted my confidence for the rest of the week. In addition, I visited PwC and learnt about the different ways to pitch to people and the routes into the firm. At GXO Logistics, I gained an insight into the roles available and the methods for processing different things. Lastly, I visited Squire Patton Boggs, partnered with Morrisons where I developed pitching skills.

From this experience, I developed my confidence and learnt how to establish myself in a professional setting by honing my public speaking and presentation skills.

”



Jaydn Conlon
North East
2023



Zara Ullah
Bradford
2023



DELIVERY PARTNER TESTIMONIALS



“ Morrisons hosted our first SMBP Insight Day in July 2023. Squire Patton Boggs also joined us for the day. The students were very engaged and interested in hearing about the company and the degree apprentice and graduates schemes on offer. They learnt about the history of Morrisons, conducted taste testing with our chef, and particularly enjoyed the opportunity to meet with colleagues at Morrisons who are on our early careers schemes. We were delighted to have the opportunity to host the students and have asked to do this again in 2024. ”

Alison Guest, Senior People Manager - Talent, Morrisons

“ This was The Pension Regulator’s (TPR) first year of collaborating with SMBP and it was a pleasure to work with them. TPR lead the first day of a week-long programme. Our role was to focus on resilience and its importance when facing the world around us. We did this by having a fun, interactive day of activities that helped to bring some nervous looking teenagers out of their shells. The day gave the students an understanding of the importance of resilience in achieving goals; they were encouraged to consider their own resilience qualities and start to build their own toolkit to enable them to thrive under life’s pressures. ”

It was a privilege to be able to help the individuals build their knowledge, confidence and resilience resources. All TPR staff involved enjoyed the fantastic opportunity to work with, and support, young students in our local community.

Sally Pitt, Operational Lead, The Pensions Regulator



“ Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP’s Birmingham office presented this year’s SMBP Resilience and Goal planning day for the Birmingham cluster of students, kindly hosted by Wolverhampton Wanderers FC. We found the students keen, proactive, and willing to contribute to the sessions. Their engagement really helped them get the most out of the session. The stellar training put on by SMPB and Cleartrack was something that the presenters also benefitted from, in both their personal and professional capacities. ”

We are very grateful for our ongoing relationship with SMBP, which supports us in offering targeted support and guidance to those who most need it. All the volunteers involved in the day really enjoyed their session, and the feedback from students was hugely positive. We look forward to continuing our long-lasting partnership with SMBP.

Oliver Ward-Jones, Director & Birmingham Social Mobility Champion, Squire Patton Boggs

“ We were delighted to be introduced to SMBP back in 2022 and took part in their resilience day at the Emirates Stadium. We were blown away with the scale and enthusiasm of the young people taking part! We committed there and then to host a day for SMBP in 2023 and we can’t wait for the next one in 2024. ”

Our experience in 2023 of hosting an SMBP day was hugely positive and the SMBP team were extremely supportive and communicative throughout the whole process. We delivered a fun and engaging suite of content on the day and the students seemed to thoroughly enjoy it, whilst at the same time receiving an insightful, hands-on experience of how the law is applied in daily life through lots of interactive activities. Along with a team of 6 BARBRI employees helping to facilitate the day, we were also joined by a few of our former students, themselves with social mobility backgrounds, to showcase their experiences and ambitions for a future legal career.

Rob Dudley, Head of Employability & Engagement, Barbri



STUDENT SOURCING PARTNER TESTIMONIALS

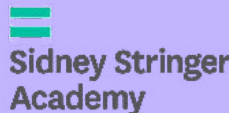


“ We have been delighted to work with SMBP over the past year and to share their high quality opportunities with our network of schools and students. Student placements are incredibly important; many of our schools and students report challenges in accessing experiences that allow them to meaningfully engage with the workplace whilst developing skills. The SMPB Work Insight and Skills Experience provides students with the opportunity to grow not only in their skills but in confidence. Sharing similar goals whilst working in partnership to support our young people to succeed is key to our successful relationship with SMBP and we look forward to working with them in the future. ”

Jayne Taylor, CEO, The Elephant Group

“ Our experiences with SMBP have been massively impactful for our students. The sessions run inside the academy have been motivational and have encouraged students to pursue personal development opportunities. All of our students who attended the work experience week enjoyed the week and managed to develop several skills that they have used within their post 18 applications. I would highly recommend this scheme to any young person. ”

Thomas Martin, Assistant Principal Post 16, Sidney Stringer Academy Coventry



“ At Oldham College we have an improvement partner, who at multiple points of the year, conducts a series of deep dive quality checks that replicate the Ofsted process. They had chosen to deep dive our Level 3 Business groups. They fed back that learners have access to a very good range of initiatives which promote social mobility and career aspiration which they spoke knowledgeably about. These initiatives include opportunities with SMBP, which learners value highly. This scheme offers work insight and access to a range of other support such as mentoring and internships which learners say helps with their course and their future. Learners who are first generation going to university can apply for the SMBP programme which includes placement, access to networks and an opportunity for degree apprenticeships. ”

This experience is well planned. Learners talk about how this has improved their confidence, helped them develop networks with new people, and given them a good understanding of how the workplace operates. They feel this work experience has prepared them well for the future.

John Pietrzak, Head of Sport & Public Services and Financial & Professional Services, Oldham College





CASE STUDY: SMBP EXETER

Pennon Group (made up of Bournemouth, Bristol and South West Water) started its SMBP journey when Barry Mathews joined the company in 2023. Barry's enthusiasm for SMBP as one of its founders quickly rubbed off on the team and later that year, we welcomed the first SMBP cluster to Devon.

The Exeter cluster was formed in only a few months with the invaluable support of the SMBP team. We sourced students with the help of the University of Exeter and went into local schools to engage students and teachers. Five other fantastic businesses joined South West Water on delivering the SMBP Exeter week providing a variety of different commercial settings - Ashfords Solicitors supporting Exeter Chiefs on the resilience day, Princess Yachts, University of Exeter and Foot Anstey Solicitors.

During the week, the students engaged fully and impressed all of the partner businesses with how they threw themselves straight into any

tasks set. The students were given real life problems to solve including drought resilience, sustainability, and legal work. They tackled these scenarios head on through negotiations, business proposals and speed networking whilst developing key business skills from resilience to commerciality. As a chaperone, it was rewarding to watch the students grow in confidence throughout the week and thrive in a business setting.

Pennon is proud to continue its SMBP journey by facilitating additional SMBP clusters across our whole patch in the south west, including the first cluster coming to Cornwall in 2024! It is a privilege to play a part in shaping these students lives and provide work experience opportunities to low-income students who may not otherwise have had the confidence to experience the corporate world.

Bryony Franco, Trainee Solicitor, Pennon Group

“ The University of Exeter Law School enthusiastically welcomed students to our first SMBP Insight Day in July 2023. We were lucky enough to have the input of a range of legal practitioner alumni, including trainee solicitors and a judge.

Students mentioned that this gave them a huge insight into the legal profession. The students took part in various employability tasks and we ran a negotiation workshop and had a campus tour. We even had networking over a Devon cream tea!

We really enjoyed hosting the students on the day and the involvement with the SMBP team both before and during the event was so helpful. Looking forward to the next one!

Professor Sue Prince, Law School, University of Exeter



“ We are proud to have hosted an SMBP Insight Day at Foot Anstey LLP as part of the first ever Exeter SMBP week.

The students were thoughtful and enthusiastic and a pleasure to have at the firm. Our staff volunteers really enjoyed sharing their experiences and participating in the transferable business skills activities with the students.

Hopefully we will welcome some of the students back soon to Foot Anstey, this time as employees!

Alastair Nuttall, Solicitor, Foot Anstey LLP

With thanks to the following organisations for their contribution throughout the week:





MANISHA'S JOURNEY

“ Before Year 12, I was unsure what career I wanted to pursue. I took a range of A-Levels with the hopes that I'd find my interest; however, by mid-Year 12, I still was unsure what I wanted to study at university. My Head of 6th Form delivered an assembly about the SMBP Programme. It was exactly what I needed at the time. In summer 2018, I participated in the SMBP Reading Cluster. Participating in the SMBP Programme was eye-opening as I had not had exposure to Law and Business. I learnt so much about lawyers, the type of work they carry out, and the differences between in-house and private practice. It was also invaluable to see people with a similar background to myself establish strong corporate careers.

In 2019 I started university, studying my newfound passion for Law. During my third year of university, SMBP were recruiting for the Alumni Advisory Committee. I applied and, after a successful interview, became one of ten committee members. Being part of the Alumni Advisory Committee was a great way to give back to a programme that benefitted me so much.

After completing my final year, I joined the SMBP Team full-time as the Student Sourcing Executive. Through working at the SMBP, I am given so much responsibility on various projects that have allowed me to develop different skills. I have also gained an understanding of how charities, businesses and law firms operate. I ultimately aim to become a solicitor, and working at the SMBP is getting me one step closer to achieving this dream! ”

SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS BURSARY

SMBP were thrilled to work with Squire Patton Boggs' to launch its Access to Law Scholarship Programme in the UK, an initiative to provide financial assistance to students from less advantaged backgrounds seeking a career in law. The Programme is part of the firm's wider social mobility efforts which have seen it rank in the top 10 employers in the [Social Mobility Employer Index](#). The three-year Programme will support seven Year 13 SMBP alumni, covering their university tuition fees and providing an annual bursary of £2,500 for cost of living expenses. The Programme also includes mentoring, work experience at one of the firm's UK offices and the opportunity to join its summer vacation scheme to secure a training contract. Partner Rob Elvin, who leads the firm's Social Mobility Resource Group, commented: “Ability is not the preserve of the privileged. The cost-of-living crisis has made it even harder for young people from diverse and less advantaged backgrounds to be able to go to university, gain further qualifications and achieve the careers they deserve.” “We've met so many talented people through our work with the SMBP and, with their help, we have been able to launch this Programme to provide focused support to seven students with great potential who we look forward to supporting on their journey through university and in their future career.”

“ Receiving the Squire Patton Boggs SMBP Bursary has significantly shaped my academic journey. The invaluable combination of mentoring and financial support has been crucial in allowing me to concentrate on my studies and continue pursuing my passion for law. ”

- Harisah Malik, North West Cluster, 2022



SMBP ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



“ The SMBP Work Insight and Skills Experience was the best decision I made. I knew university was not my first option as I knew my skills and abilities were best suited to a work environment; however, it was not going to fall into my lap – I had to take action.



When I attended this week, I was lucky enough to visit Aviva. Aviva is a worldwide large company which I have been applying to multiple times and I could not get through. I got rejected 12 times and I was not sure why. I spent the whole day with the people from Aviva where I learnt their stories, where they started to where they are now at such a young age inspired me. Speaking to these people really inspired me and showed me Aviva is where I want to be. I was speaking with a woman who gave me an interview, I was lucky enough to get through to the next stage and, in September I started my new role at Aviva.

If it was not for attending the SMBP week, I would not be where I am today. University is not always the way forward and if that is not for you, that is ok. There are so many options, and you are not limited.”

- Inaya Ayub, Norwich Cluster, 2023

“ Before I completed the London SMBP programme in 2017, becoming a lawyer felt like an almost impossible challenge. I applied for the programme on the off chance that I would gain a place which, looking back, was the best choice I could have made as a 16-year-old. The professional skills and experiences I gained through the programme still form the basis of how I present myself in interviews, which has proved invaluable and given me the confidence I needed to pursue a career in the profession. I luckily secured a role as an in-house trainee solicitor at Penson Group earlier this year, training through the new apprenticeship route and completing the SQE in early 2025. Training in-house has been an incredible experience thus far and has particularly helped in developing my understanding of the law in a commercial setting. I was given the opportunity to support with the launch and delivery of the SMBP in the South West, which was a very surreal full-circle moment for me. It's important to me that those who want to pursue a career in the law profession feel as confident in their goals as I do now – which wouldn't have happened without the SMBP!”



- Lewis Drew, London Cluster, 2017

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“ In the Summer of 2022, I completed my SMBP week where I visited five well-established companies such as Manchester United, BooHoo plc, Squire Patton Boggs, PWC and ITV! It honestly exceeded my expectations. As a student, I was captivated by the attention to detail that SMBP put to accommodate the options for entry level participants. It significantly impacted my awareness to the working environment in several businesses and it improved my skills, increased my confidence, public speaking, networking, critical thinking and much more. Since then, my SMBP journey has been remarkably progressive, through from student and now as SMBPs Delivery Executive! It has been a privilege to share my insight to new students as an SMBP Ambassador, chaperone, and alumni. Through contributing to the influential vision that SMBP has, it drives me to perform more for people with a similar background as me, first-generation students in their family to attend university and eager students that want to follow their dream careers but aren't given the right the resources to do so.”



- Vanessa Uweru, North West Cluster, 2022

“ SMBP was an invaluable experience which played a pivotal role in shaping my future career choices. Prior to the programme I had heard of commercial law however the first time I ever entered into a large commercial law firm was on Programme. What I value most to this day is the early exposure I gained into what working in the city may look like. Furthermore, having the opportunity to speak to future trainees such as yourself, enabled me to have a strong grasp on how to break into the legal sector. The combination of visibly seeing my goal and being given clear directions on how to potentially achieve it definitely set a strong foundation for me to build upon going into my final year of A levels and university.



Following sixth form I studied Law and recently graduated from Fitzwilliam College at the University of Cambridge. During my second year of University I participated in vacation schemes at Slaughter and May and Hogan Lovells. I will start my training contract at Hogan Lovells in spring 2025.”

- Gareth Effiom, Birmingham Cluster, 2019

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VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Deliver a SMBP WISE Day

SMBP are looking for businesses based across the UK to deliver a Work Insight & Skills Experience (WISE) day and provide lunch for a group of 20-25 students during the summer holidays. The day should give students an overview of your company, an understanding of the employment opportunities with a focus on apprenticeships and grad schemes and provide students with an opportunity to develop their key competencies during interactive business games.

SMBP will work with local education contacts to recruit bright and engaged eligible students and oversee the student registration process including guardian consent and management of any student requirements. A Volunteer Cluster Co-ordinator will organise monthly meetings to ensure partners are on course to deliver their day, provide guidance on how a Work Insight and Skills day should be structured and delivered in line with SMBP's Safeguarding Policy. SMBP will also organise and pay for student travel from their home to each venue, and provide students with access to the SMBP App to assist with the coordination and delivery of your day.

To find out more and hear from the students themselves check out [this video](#).

Online Career Mentoring for SMBP Alumni

Following each SMBP WISE week, students are granted lifetime access to the SMBP Career Mentoring Platform. SMBP Alumni can access mentors throughout their career to provide support relating to CV or personal statements, and end to end support with applications for jobs or promotions.

SMBP has created a bespoke group mentoring structure based on the retail banking secure messaging model. Our mentors are alerted by email when alumni questions are asked. This allows our volunteer mentors to pick up queries they feel they are best placed to answer and only when they have the capacity to do so.

Partners provide volunteers from within their organisation to assist students with career advice when they have the capacity to do so.

SMBP provides: compulsory safeguarding training to all volunteers; a secure online platform for volunteers to communicate with students in a safe and professional space; a flexible volunteering opportunity which fits around employee time and commitments; and access to the SMBP Career Mentoring Guide, authored by senior HR Leads from the SMBP participating partner businesses. Finally, companies can access an annual report summarising volunteer activity for their own impact reporting.

If you or your organisation are interested in volunteering with SMBP, please get in touch via email at info@smbp.org.uk

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

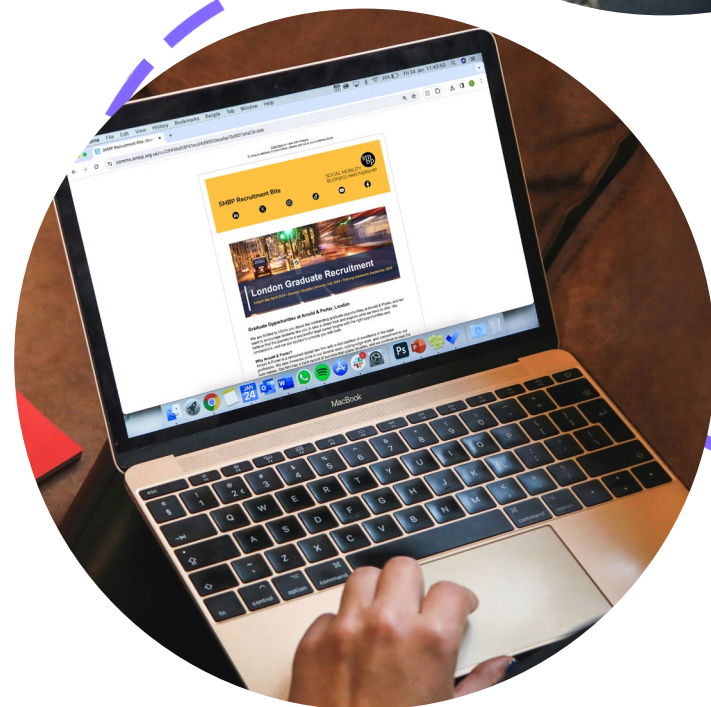
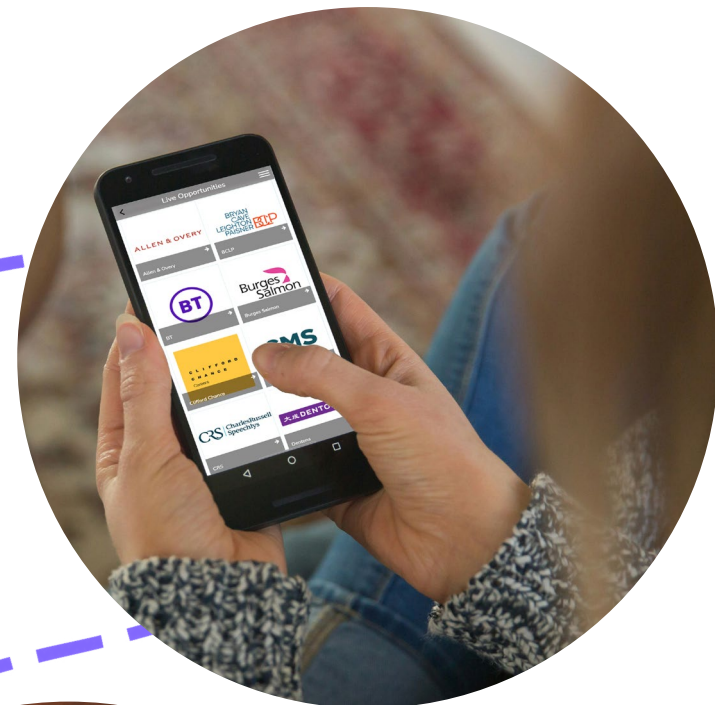
SMBP's Talent Pipeline

SMBP's Student App currently has over 2,300 registered alumni students who are bright, engaged and ready for their next opportunity. These students are kept up to date on opportunities from our business partners via the Live Opportunities section within the app, in addition to our regular SMBP Recruitment Bite emails and communications via the SMBP Alumni LinkedIn group.

Our Live Opportunities listings are an exclusive opportunity available for all Tier 1 and 2 SMBP funding partners.

Sponsors provide information on career opportunities, graduate and vacation schemes, or entry level positions suitable for SMBP alumni within your organisation.

In return, SMBP provides a branded section within the SMBP app to raise students' awareness of the sponsoring business and its career opportunities. Additional features include push notifications to students via the app when applications for your employment opportunities open and also a week before the application deadline.



Sponsor a Local Resilience and Goal Planning Day

The Resilience and Goal Planning Day is at the heart of the SMBP Work Insight & Skills Experience (WISE) week. It is delivered to all students attending a weeklong Programmes, across the UK at professional sports club (including Manchester United, Arsenal and Leicester City). During the day students learn about the psychology of resilience, how to deal with setbacks and goal achievement models.

The SMBP Resilience Programme has been authored by an Olympic level sports performance expert ([Cleartrack Performance](#)), a senior FTSE100 executive and validated by a child psychologist.

Sponsors make a donation towards the catering and venue hire costs; provide volunteers to attend a Train the Trainer event in London with Cleartrack Performance; and assist with delivery at a local Resilience and Goal Planning Day.

SMBP provides annual resilience training for volunteers including: access to the SMBP Resilience Trainer Handbook; access to the existing network of experienced Delivery Leads to provide peer support; and an opportunity for volunteers to visit and engage with elite sports clubs across the UK. This is a unique and inspirational initiative for employers seeking development opportunities for their own employees.

If your organisation would like to discuss sponsorship opportunities with SMBP, please get in touch via email at info@smbp.org.uk



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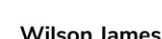
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OUR CORE VOLUNTEERS & ALUMNI ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A huge thank you to our Senior Volunteer Team and Alumni Advisory Committee for your hard work and continued support



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Director of Strategic Partnerships



Annette Brown
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Robert Henson
Head of Finance



Shelley Bezalel
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A MESSAGE FROM THE SMBP PATRONS

A huge thank you to our students, sponsors, partners, trustees, alumni and all the SMBP team for an impressive 2023. With your continuing support SMBP will achieve even more in 2024 and beyond.



Martin Lewis OBE
Money Saving Expert



Helen Mahy CBE
Non-Exec Director, SSE plc



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