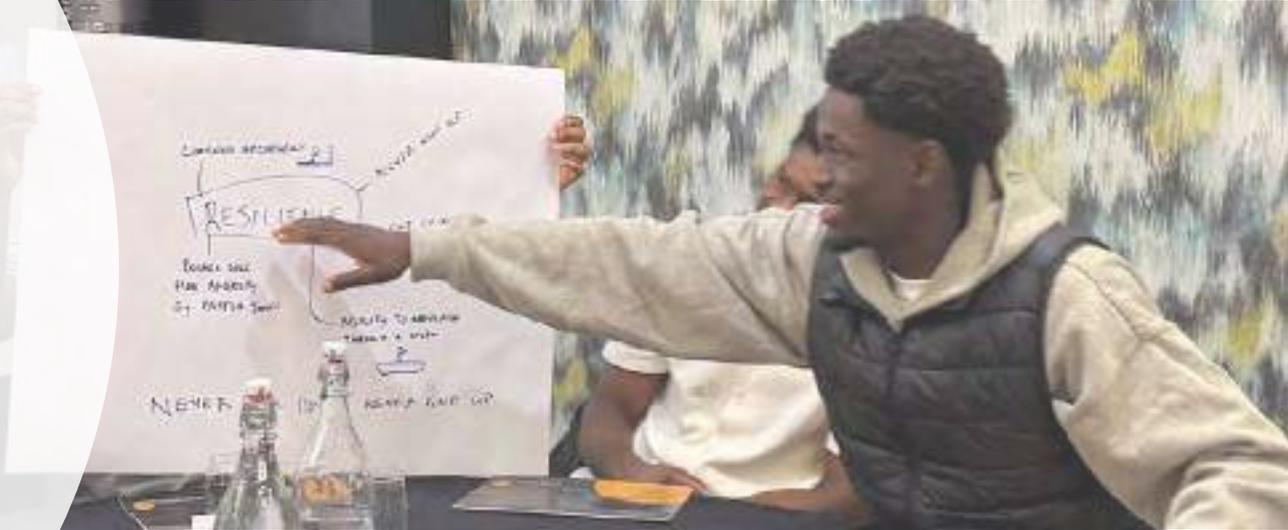




SOCIAL MOBILITY  
BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

# Impact Report 2026



**Skills Builder**  
Progressing in essential skills

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SMBP Patron, Martin Lewis, at the 2025 Fundraiser hosted by Clifford Chance



# AN INTRO FROM OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES



2025 has been a year defined by stability, resilience, and continued impact for the Social Mobility Business Partnership. In a time when many organisations across the sector have faced uncertainty, SMBP has remained consistent and dependable, delivering high-quality experiences that make a tangible difference to young people's lives.

Our ability to sustain strong programmes and reliable delivery throughout the year is a testament to the commitment of our partners, volunteers, supporters, and the SMBP Team. Their dedication ensures we continue to provide meaningful encounters with the world of work for eligible 16 to 18 year olds across the UK - experiences that inspire ambition, build essential employability skills, and continued support even after the WISE Programme.

This year, we have focused on deepening the quality of what we offer: strengthening our programme structure, reinforcing our operational foundations, and ensuring that every student who engages with SMBP receives a transformative and supportive experience. The feedback from participants continues to highlight increased confidence, knowledge in pathways available, and clearer career aspirations.

These outcomes directly support our mission to provide every eligible young person with access to the opportunities, guidance, and encouragement they need to reach their full potential, regardless of their socio-economic background. Our steadiness in 2025 has allowed us to maintain impact where it matters most - by giving young people the tools, networks, and belief in themselves to take their next steps with confidence.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to our work this year. Your continued support ensures SMBP remains an inspiring force for social mobility across the UK.

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



With thanks to our Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding partners for their support



# A MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM



Jess Clarkson



Jade Emmett



Manisha Kumar



Aasiyah Zamir



Annette Brown



Barry Matthews

2025 was an extraordinary year for the Social Mobility Business Partnership, and we are proud to share the impact we've achieved together with our partners, supporters, and the incredible young people we serve.

One of our standout moments came through our collaboration with Formula 1 and four of our Tier 1 funding partners - A&O Shearman, Clifford Chance, Hogan Lovells, and Travers Smith - on The Next Grand Prix Insight Day. We were thrilled to see this initiative recognised nationally, with Formula 1 winning the Innovation Award at the 2025 UK Social Mobility Awards for its groundbreaking approach to immersive career learning. Through this programme, SMBP students were able to step into simulated C-suite roles, gaining unparalleled exposure to high-level business decision-making. Feedback from participants reinforced the programme's impact: 94% gained a clearer understanding of key business roles, while 97% felt they developed vital skills such as presenting, critical thinking, and performing under pressure.

This year also marked an exciting expansion of our long-term support offering with the launch of "Breaking Barriers" a new partnership with Maikai. This programme strengthens our commitment to helping talented young people from low-income backgrounds thrive by offering industry-relevant skills training, enhanced mentoring, and improved access to apprenticeship opportunities. Through Maikai's educational innovation and our network of over 180 dedicated partner organisations, we're ensuring that potential, not privilege, shapes future career journeys.

As we reflect on 2025, we are immensely proud of the progress made. Together, we've empowered hundreds of students to build confidence, gain meaningful industry insight, and take tangible steps towards ambitious and rewarding careers. Thank you for helping us continue to drive social mobility forward across the UK.

Team SMBP

# OUR DELIVERY VALUES & DIVERSITY

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

**INCLUSIVITY**, our foremost principle, champions diversity in our Programmes. Although all forms of inequality are important, social mobility is an inequality that traverses all. Growing up in a low-income household is not confined to a particular race/ethnicity/cultural heritage, physical/mental condition, religion, or sexual orientation - poverty doesn't discriminate. Hence, we ensure our Programme is sensitive to all characteristics an individual possesses to promote an inclusive environment to enable people to bring their best self to the experience.

**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 meaningful encounters with their employers of the future and world of professional sport, with students engaging in business simulation workshops underpinned by an employability competency framework, rated at the highest level by the [Skills Builder Partnership](#) and resilience training devised by Olympic level performance coaches.

INCLUSIVITY



COLLABORATION



QUALITY



# SMBP STUDENT JOURNEY



After a successful ID check, students are invited to register via app



SMBP runs an identity check with students' teacher contact



Students submit an application to the SMBP Work Insight & Skills Experience (WISE)



Students attend a mandatory Induction Webinar prior to WISE



Students attend SMBP WISE



Students receive a lifetime of post-Programme support & opportunities

18

different ethnicities

3%

of students were carers

35%

male

62%

female

3%

other

98%

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

100%

of students state school educated

\* Have been eligible for free school meals, or live in a postcode with a Quintile 1 POLAR rating, or live in a postcode which has a Cat. 4 or 5 ACORN rating, or gross household income is equal to or less than the average household expenditure for that area

# OUR REACH

3399



days delivered to students

127



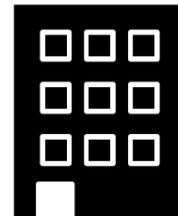
towns and cities where students reside

36



regional WISE Weeks delivered\*

187



participating businesses

750+



number of volunteers



\* including National Online Week virtual programme

# OUR 2025 DELIVERY PARTNERS



# STUDENT SKILLS & INSIGHT

At the end of each SMBP WISE Programme, students are invited to provide feedback via a post programme survey measuring their overall experience and their skills development. We have partnered with the Skills Builder Partnership to introduce a Pre and Post skills questionnaire which allows students to benchmark their abilities before and after the Programme.



21%

increase in students  
**Teamwork & Leadership**  
skills



34%

increase in students  
**Listening & Speaking**  
skills



57%

increase in students  
**Resilience & Goal Planning**  
skills



39%

increase in students  
**Creativity & Problem Solving**  
skills



97% of students said they were able to develop their employability skills



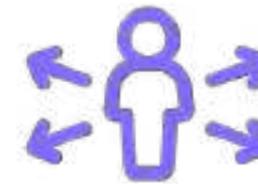
97% agree they now have a good level of knowledge on future career options at the businesses visited, i.e. apprenticeship schemes, graduate schemes and internships



86% have a better understanding of what a professional CV should include

# STUDENT CAREER ASPIRATIONS

As part of the Post Programme Survey, we asked students to reflect on their future career plans and whether these have changed as a result of their time with SMBP.



92%

of students said they felt confident in choosing their career path after their WISE Week

*“I have now considered going into different sectors of business that I hadn’t been considering beforehand”*

*“Before I was interested in law but I wasn’t really sure. Taking part in SMBP and actually networking with solicitors has helped me make up my mind. I have discovered alternative career paths I might be interested in pursuing, such as the insurance sector”*



39%

of students said that their career goal has changed since attending their WISE Week

*“I have the knowledge that my career isn’t set in stone and that there is room to change and adapt as my career goes on”*

*“Before the week, I wasn’t considering a degree apprenticeship, but now it is definitely something I will apply to”*

*“I am now open minded about my career, knowing my passion for maths can be applied in many areas, not just finance”*

*“I still aspire to become a doctor but I understand how competitive it is to get into medical school, so it was valuable to learn about other potential career pathways for if the medical route doesn’t work out”*

# STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

Harman  
National Online Week  
2025



“ Throughout the week, I had the opportunity to take part in inspiring sessions with companies like CMS UK, Rolls-Royce, Milbank LLP and Hedley May. I learned how to use the STARR method for applications and interviews, improved my CV and interview skills, and practised my elevator pitch. I also had the chance to speak directly with employees from different industries, which really boosted my confidence.

Some of my biggest takeaways were that transferable skills are powerful, networking opens new doors, confidence grows through practice, and resilience helps you grow through challenges. Although this work experience was online, it really helped me to develop and boost my confidence and communication skills. With practice, I felt less nervous when answering questions. I'm grateful for everything I've learned, and excited to keep applying these lessons moving forward!

”

Yacine  
Leeds Cluster  
2025



“ I had the incredible opportunity to complete the SMBP WISE week and I have to say it has genuinely been one of the best experiences ever. I visited DLA Piper where I was able to develop my teamworking skills, Aviva where we investigated a fraudulent expense claim and trialled an interview with the claimant, HM Revenue & Customs where I took part in creating a pitch for where a £20 million budget should be used, Reed Smith LLP where we pitched and presented why other companies should partner with Reed Smith, and finally Squire Patton Boggs where we researched company values and created another pitch - our team won!

I'm so grateful for this opportunity. Thank you so much to the Social Mobility Business Partnership for organising this prestigious event.

”

“ I applied to SMBP WISE because of the opportunity to explore different industries and learn about various career paths. Visiting the businesses' offices was a valuable experience that allowed me to branch out and discover new areas of interest. My highlights were visiting Veolia where we learned about their work in environmental transition and gave me the chance to deepen my curiosity, the whistleblowing activity at Aviva which challenged me and developed important transferable skills, and I also enjoyed hearing from the hosts and guests across the week through Q&A panels, networking sessions and activities. Hearing about their personal experiences was very inspiring and their advice helped me better understand different career roles.

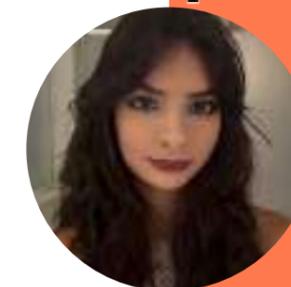
I am extremely grateful for the privilege of taking part in SMBP and the experience has greatly informed my academic and career decisions by showing me how many opportunities are truly available to me and by helping me build my confidence.

”

“ I was fortunate enough to attend the Social Mobility Business Partnership WISE Week in Exeter, visiting law businesses such as Ashfords LLP and Foot Anstey. Gaining insight from professionals in the field offered a different perspective through my interests in law. Also, attending offices and organisations such as Pennon Group Plc and University of Exeter gave an eye opening experience on my future.

Throughout the week, I gained practical skills, career insight, and meeting some of the nicest people I've ever met. This just shows me how no matter what your background is, there are opportunities for everyone. Huge thank you to SMBP and the partnering staff for giving me such a valuable experience!

”



Victoria  
London Cluster  
2025



Malek  
Exeter Cluster  
2025

# PARTNER TESTIMONIALS



“ The SMBP experience is an important part of our programme in supporting students to reach those aspirational destinations; it provides quality experiences with top employers at a time when students have the capacity to make the most of them. Our young people come back more confident and with a real insight into the world of work. The skills students gain from their five days have supported applications to top employers and top universities. ”

**Heidi Cullingham, Futures Manager, East Norfolk Sixth Form College**

“ Getting involved in the SMBP WISE weeks has always been a deeply rewarding experience for the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA). We love the opportunity to share with engaged young people some of the work our organisation does, and support future solicitors with where to find resources on qualification, admission and even future job opportunities. All our staff who are involved in putting together the day always speak highly of the experience and usually get involved again the next year! SMBP is very supportive throughout the process of developing a WISE day and making sure it meets all competencies. They produce clear guidance and safeguarding documents, and arrange regular meetings to touch base on how the development is going year on year. The students particularly enjoy our case study tasks, where they get to take on the role of being an investigator into alleged solicitor misconduct, all based on real life cases, and supported by our very own investigation officers. Putting on a day for students from our local community is very special, and we wholeheartedly believe in SMBP’s mission to help close the socio-economic gap in profession careers. ”

**Tegan Berry, EDI Officer, Solicitors Regulation Authority**



**Balfour Beatty**

“ It’s great to see how much the students enjoyed the day, particularly the bridge-building activity and the networking sessions, and that they felt engaged and took away valuable insights from meeting our team. ”

We have shared the volunteering opportunity with our colleagues and volunteers to grow our involvement with SMBP WISE, and will be exploring ways we can make our day at Balfour Beatty even better for next year. Thanks again to Team SMBP for all the coordination and support. It’s a pleasure to be involved in such a meaningful initiative for young people. ”

**Bee Karwal, Social Impact Manager, Balfour Beatty**

“ Linklaters is proud to partner with SMBP, aligning our resources and influence with a long-term commitment to improving social mobility and broadening access to different professions. Supporting SMBP reflects our values in action: using our position as a leading London-based law firm to open up high-quality opportunities for young people in underserved and underrepresented communities across the UK, while advancing our strategic objective to build a more inclusive talent pipeline. ”

Through the Linklaters-funded Newport & Cardiff WISE Week, our people, as well as a range of professionals from different organisations, engage directly with young people in the local area, helping them build confidence, skills and insight into professional careers. Our partnership with SMBP has been a fantastic addition to portfolio of work that we deliver as a member of the Business in the Community Pride of Place programme in Newport, Wales, ensuring that our investment in the area is mutually reinforcing, joined-up and focused on long-term impact. ”

**Jonathan Tait, Corporate Responsibility Senior Advisor, Linklaters**

**Linklaters**





## MILLS & REEVE

Increasing representation of people from underrepresented groups and embedding inclusive cultures and decision making in law are at the heart of our 2030 strategy at Mills & Reeve; objectives that echo SMBP's mission perfectly. M&R has hosted a WISE Day in the Norwich Cluster for the last two cycles and has committed to run another this year. In 2025 we offered sessions on negotiation of a settlement, affordable housing schemes and alternative routes into qualification as a solicitor alongside running a carousel Q&A event with members of the M&R team from trainee to principal associate. Students opened up throughout the day and posed interesting, considered (and sometimes challenging!) questions.

Feedback from students has been hugely positive, which is amazing as we hope that each attendee gets as much from our sessions as we do from running them. Our mantra is to achieve more, together and this is what we hope we can help each student to do through our ongoing relationship with SMBP.

Having taken part in WISE days since working at the firm, I find the engagement, dedication and, in many cases, clarity of thought about future careers laudable year on year. I know I speak for the firm when I say we are proud to be a sponsor of SMBP and everything it represents.

**Anthony Loftus, Associate, Mills & Reeve**

SMBP offered quite a unique opportunity for students, as they visited a number of employers across the week as part of the SMBP Leeds Programme. This helped them to develop their confidence in a range of professional environments and learn more about what they would like for their future career. By investing in work experience, SMBP and their partners help to foster a more confident workforce of the future. A very professional organisation who deliver on expectations.

**Helen Lonsdale, Progression Manager, New College Pontefract**  
**Jayne Ramskill, Work Placement Co-ordinator, New College Pontefract**



It has been wonderful to partner and collaborate with SMBP on their WISE Programme for several years now. They are a great organisation to work with, providing impactful opportunities for our Sutton Trust students and efficient and friendly support along the way.

The wide variety of firms and organisations that our students get to meet and engage with over their WISE Week is such a valuable experience for them as it allows them to explore a breadth of sectors, roles and career pathways. Alongside this, students get to develop and practise key employability skills which will be transferable to any future career they choose to embark on. The large geographical reach of the WISE programme is also hugely beneficial and has a real positive impact. With the work placement weeks taking place both online and in regional clusters across the country, the accessibility is fantastic for our students and is a great opportunity for students to explore employers in their region. We look forward to continuing our partnership.

**Abigail Honour, Senior Programmes Officer: Employability (Law), The Sutton Trust**





# CASE STUDY: SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Squire Patton Boggs has been a supporter of SMBP since its launch. The firm is always looking for new ways to increase the impact of its many volunteers from across their UK offices, from running point in the North West to delivering Work Insight days with clients. The launch of their Access to Law Scholarship Programme in the UK in 2023 is testament to the firm's dedication to increasing social mobility. SMBP were pleased to work with Squire Patton Boggs' on this initiative, providing financial assistance to students from less advantaged backgrounds seeking a career in law.

The three-year Programme supported a number of SMBP alumni, covering their university tuition fees and providing an annual bursary for cost of living expenses. The Programme also included 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.

We were very thrilled to learn that one of the students who secured a placement on the Access to Law Scholarship Programme has successfully secured a training contract at Squire Patton Boggs. Congratulations to all of the students who secured a placement and Squire Patton Boggs for delivering a programme that truly has unlocked the student's potential.



“ 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 with our Programme, we have been able to provide focused support to students with great potential on their journey through university. We are excited that one of these students has successfully applied for a training contract at the firm and we look forward to their arrival and continuing to support them as they develop their legal career. ”

**Rob Elvin, Partner, Squire Patton Boggs**

Thank you to our supporting partner





## CASE STUDY: DELIVERY PARTNER MULTI-UK LOCATION CLUSTERS

This year, SMBP is proud to have strengthened its commitment to collaboration by expanding multi-cluster delivery across the UK. This approach enables our partner organisations to deliver multiple SMBP WISE days in different regions, ensuring more students benefit from invaluable exposure to the world of work.

adidas exemplified this model by hosting sessions across two SMBP clusters in a single day, covering both Manchester and London.

Uber also embraced this opportunity, delivering separate days for London Cluster 3 and London Cluster 11. Meanwhile, Aviva PLC demonstrated the power of regional engagement by delivering impactful experiences in Leeds, Norwich, and London.

Our delivery model - built on collaboration, not competition - makes it easy for businesses to involve their regional offices and extend their reach. By working together, we create a network of opportunities that spans multiple regions, amplifying the impact for young people nationwide.

This year's success reflects the strength of our partnerships and the shared belief that every student deserves access to meaningful career insights. Together, we're building bridges to brighter futures.

adidas has proudly partnered with SMBP since its inception in Manchester in 2015. Each summer, we host an insight day for around 15-20 students at our Stockport office, offering them a unique opportunity to explore careers within HR, talent development, retail, sales, sports marketing and law. Our sessions combine interactive activities, career insights, and skills development, all designed to inspire and empower students from all backgrounds to pursue their ambitions.

The feedback we receive from students is consistently positive - they value the chance to learn about roles they may never have considered and to engage with adidas colleagues who share their own career journeys. Last year, SMBP approached us to expand our involvement by hosting an additional day at our London office, which we were delighted to support. Our partnership with SMBP reflects our commitment to diversity, inclusion, and inspiring the next generation of future talent. We're excited to continue expanding this collaboration and creating opportunities that make a lasting impact in the years ahead.

**Rosemary Hughes, Senior Director, Global Legal, adidas**  
**Uswa Shafiq, Project Specialist Paralegal, adidas**



Uber have partnered with SMBP's WISE Programme for over four years, welcoming hundreds of students to Uber to learn about in-house legal counsel. In 2025, Uber wanted to expand the partnership and its impact even further, hosting a second WISE day in a separate London cluster. Over the two days, we hosted Dragon's Den competitions, networking sessions, fireside chats, with over 40 Uber employees volunteering to take part across the sessions to give back to local students. It was a true pleasure to welcome so many SMBP students into our offices across WISE week - and look forward to doing so again in 2026!

**Lauren Saxon, Operations Manager, Uber**

Thank you to our supporting partners



# CASE STUDY: THE NEXT GRAND PRIX

Since 2024, SMBP has joined forces with Formula 1 to deliver an award-winning Work Insight & Skills Experience for students, 'The Next Grand Prix'. This bespoke event for SMBP students combines creativity and business strategy, by putting students in the driver's seat to design bids to host the next Grand Prix.

Formula 1 has welcomed over 500 students to take on the challenge since it was established, and we're thrilled to celebrate Formula 1's win in the Innovation category at the 2025 UK Social Mobility Awards for The Next Grand Prix Insight Day.

We are proud to have collaborated with Formula 1 and four leading law firms - A&O Shearman, Clifford Chance, Hogan Lovells and Travers Smith - to bring the experience to life. The initiative offers meaningful hands-on experience introducing students to roles in marketing, legal, finance, sustainability, and commercial to tackle real-world challenges and build skills that will shape their futures.

After competitive heats, the Finale takes place at Formula 1's world-class Media and Technology Centre, where the top teams compete head to head in one last challenge before the ultimate winner is announced.

A huge thank you to the volunteers at Formula 1, Clifford Chance, A&O Shearman, Hogan Lovells, and Travers Smith for their support in delivering this unique opportunity!

“ The Next Grand Prix's™ (TNGP) aim has always been to build students' confidence to start their career journeys by delivering genuinely meaningful work experience, where participants learn by doing, not just listening. Since we launched TNGP in 2022, we've had over 500 students take part and we're incredibly grateful to SMBP for all their support with student recruitment and helping to build a delivery model that has helped to scale the initiative. ”

**Alex Edmiston, Lead Counsel, Media and Content, Formula 1**

“ The F1 x SMBP' Grand Prix workshop programme has been an incredible opportunity to immerse myself into the intersecting worlds of business and F1. Getting to experience real-life business roles such as Head of Marketing has deepened my appreciation for the time and care that goes into the development of a business' vision & growth strategy, and has highlighted skill sets within myself that I previously didn't recognise. Overall, I would highly recommend this workshop to anyone who has an interest in developing their understanding of the commercial world! ”

**Imran, The Next Grand Prix Winner 2025**

Thank you to our supporting partner



# SMBP ALUMNI: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



“ When I participated in my WISE Week, I already knew university wasn't the right pathway for me. I knew the ability to learn whilst you earn gaining valuable experience through an apprenticeship was something I truly desired. Visiting companies like Google and King & Spalding gave me the confidence to thrive in corporate settings and gain valuable skills to beat the competition.



I would soon go onto reap the benefits from my WISE Week, landing an apprenticeship in management consulting at PwC. Areas I have worked in span from global and governmental defence to learning and development, teaching AI solutions to internal firm services members. To top that off I was privileged to win the Jack Petchey Award for my contribution to helping young people.

If you are a young person still figuring things out, this programme will teach you everything you need to achieve greater clarity, skills and motivation. ”

Jaydon, Class of 2024

“ SMBP was fundamental in helping me understand what careers suited me, where my interests lay, and how my strengths could translate into the professional world. Through the programme, as part of my PRIME Work Experience with Clifford Chance, I was given the opportunity to explore a range of industries including media, sports and finance in a concise, structured and genuinely accessible way. The exposure SMBP provided went far beyond insight days. It helped me build confidence, develop commercial awareness, and understand how different sectors operate and intersect. Perhaps most importantly, it allowed me to make informed decisions about my future, rather than feeling limited by a lack of access or information.



Although I ultimately pursued a career in corporate law and am now a trainee solicitor at a Magic Circle law firm, the skills, industry knowledge and relationships I developed through SMBP continue to add value to my career today. SMBP plays a vital role in widening access to professional careers, and I would strongly recommend the programme to any student seeking clarity, confidence and meaningful exposure to the world of work. ”

Mary-Grace, Class of 2020

“ Throughout my SMBP WISE week, I gained valuable experience in my understanding of a range of career pathways, developed my employability skills, and formed friendships with others across the programme. The ability to connect with other like-minded young people pursuing similar and different career paths to my own allowed me to not only expand my network, but also collaborate with others, building my transferable skills. These have played a crucial role as an Audit Degree Apprentice at J.P.Morgan where I am learning directly from industry professionals.



SMBP WISE definitely pushed me outside my comfort zone and made my strengths and interests more apparent, which I went on to pursue. I'm extremely grateful for the highly-motivating experience I had, which increased my clarity on my future aspirations and definitely assisted me in landing my dream degree apprenticeship. I will continue to talk positively about this programme as it continues to support students from low-income backgrounds and gives us the opportunity we may otherwise not have had! ”

Ayesha, Class of 2024

“ During my WISE Week I visited Willis Towers Watson, Lloyds of London, Aviva Investors, and Utility Warehouse. I came back for more as an SMBP Ambassador for 2025, coming full circle.



I am now a Wealth Management apprentice at Rothschild & Co for the account opening team. Throughout my first six months I have been tasked with presenting for 3 separate projects. I credit the SMBP WISE Week for building my confidence in presenting and collaborating with various types of people to help my presentations be successful. I will go on to complete the Level 4 CISI qualification over the course of my apprenticeship.

The soft skills built during my time with SMBP has helped me navigate the corporate world, and the London city maze of offices. I would highly recommend this programme. ”

Meredita, Class of 2024

# 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](mailto:info@smbp.org.uk)

# SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



## Sponsor a Local Resilience and Goal Planning Day

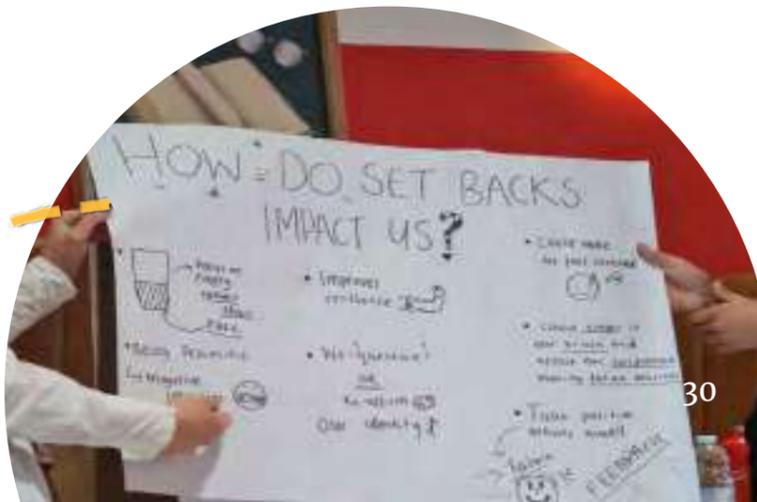
The Resilience and Goal Planning Day is at the heart of the SMBP Work Insight & Skills Experience (WISE) week. It is delivered to all students attending a weeklong Programme, across the UK in partnership with a professional sports club (including Manchester United, Arsenal, and Leicester City). During 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 Olympic level sports performance experts [Cleartrack Performance](#), a senior FTSE100 executive, and validated by a child psychologist who is also a secondary school head teacher.

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](mailto:info@smbp.org.uk)



“SMBP did wonders for my confidence, as well as their fabulous mentoring program reminding me constantly that you can do anything regardless of where you come from”

- Kira, SMBP Alumni

# 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



**Andy Boucher**  
Director of Partnerships



**Annette Brown**  
Chief Technology Officer



**Barry Murphy**  
Director of Policy



**Chris Wade**  
Director of Communications



**James Smith**  
Strategic Advisor



**Muhammad Gangat**  
Head of Alumni Communications



**Robert Henson**  
Head of Finance



**Shama Aktar**  
Head of Impact



**Shelley Bezalel**  
General Counsel



**Symrun Gakhil**  
Head of Student Experience

## Alumni Advisory Committee Members 2025

Daisy Wu  
Fateha Jesmi  
Fiona Berhe  
Kerry Lewis

Nasra Hassan  
Megan Fisher  
Tara Waldman  
Tenishia Prah

# A MESSAGE FROM THE SMBP PATRONS

*“Now that SMBP is truly national, working in all four countries of the UK, we are delighted that we can reach so many more young people and - with thanks to all our vital partners - support these students to ensure they achieve their full career potential.”*



**Martin Lewis CBE**  
Money Saving Expert



**Helen Mahy CBE**  
Non-Exec Director, Gowling  
WLG (UK) LLP



**Baroness Prashar of Runnymede CBE**  
House of Lords



**Mark Soden**  
Managing Director,  
Cleartrack Performance



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