

The Mighty Creatives launch Mighty Employers as part of the DWP's Kickstart scheme, creating over 270 job opportunities for young people

The Mighty Creatives have launched Mighty Employers to help transform the lives of young people by creating new work placements for 16 to 24-year-olds.

22 February 2021, Leicester, UK – The Mighty Creatives, the leading cultural education charity in the East Midlands, has been confirmed as an Intermediary Organisation (or Gateway Organisation) for the Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) Kickstart scheme.

The Kickstart Scheme was first announced in July 2020 by the Chancellor as part of the Plan for Jobs. A £2 billion fund, it is designed to create high quality 6-month work placements for young people aged between 16-24. The scheme targets the most at-risk young people on Universal Credit to prevent them from falling into long-term unemployment.

The role of The Mighty Creatives is to recruit and support organisations in the creation of new job placements for young people. To achieve this, The Mighty Creatives have established a group of employers from the cultural digital industry, known as the 'Mighty Employers'. To date, The Mighty Creatives have recruited 72 organisations nationwide, with 270 job placements in the creative, cultural, digital and third sectors approved by the DWP thus far.

For a full list of approved organisations from across 2 cohorts, visit [The Mighty Creatives website](#).

The Mighty Creatives have considerable experience supporting young people through training programmes and as young employees. Over the last 10 years, the team has directly engaged apprentices, work experience placements and interns over the years – as well as cultivating young staff and contractors. This experience, combined with strong connections in the East Midlands and beyond, means The Mighty Creatives are best placed to support organisations with their contractual obligations to employees recruited through Kickstart.

Magna Vitae Trust for Leisure & Culture are just one of the organisations that has joined the Mighty Employers programme. It is offering fifteen new roles, with positions in Skegness at the Embassy Theatre, the high-ropes adventure experience Altitude44, Café Magna, and Louth's London Road Sports Pavilion. There are also additional opportunities in Marketing, Arts Festival and Event operations on offer.

Although the period of employment is initially for six months as part of the Kickstart scheme, Magna Vitae hope to offer some permanent positions.

Aeneas Richardson, Executive Director of Operations at Magna Vitae, speaks of the organisation's hopes as a Mighty Employer:

"This is a really exciting chance for Magna Vitae to give young people across East Lindsey a step onto the employment ladder from which they can progress – and if not with us, then they have had the necessary experience to move elsewhere with more confidence."

Another organisation on board as a Mighty Employer with The Mighty Creatives is Speed Stacks UK Limited, the worldwide leader in Sport Stacking and the sponsor of the World Sport Stacking Association. Its plans as a Mighty Employer are to provide valuable experience and coaching to young adults, designed to help them gain full time employment. Speed Stacks UK Limited envisions that working with these young adults will empower and help the team to improve its operations and continue to support young people in the future.

Jeremy Simmonds, Director at Speed Stacks UK Limited, comments on becoming a Mighty Employer:

"We have been very keen over the years to help young people develop and grow within our companies. With the added pressures and growth of unemployment due to the current pandemic, we felt this was a perfect time to offer our services to help. When we discovered The Mighty Creatives through initial investigations into the Kickstart scheme, we thought it was a perfect fit."

The Mighty Creatives have been brilliant in supporting our companies through the Kickstart process. From the initial email, Nick and his team have been extremely informative and helpful with very prompt support. So much so, we will be looking at ways we can continue to work with The Mighty Creatives in the future."

Dr. Nick Owen, CEO at The Mighty Creatives, comments on the Mighty Employers programme:

"The Covid-19 pandemic is causing many young people to have serious anxieties about their futures. The Mighty Creatives and our Mighty Employers are determined to play our part in re-creating positive futures for young people by offering meaningful employment and training through our Kickstart programme. We wholeheartedly welcome the support of the DWP and salute the spirit and enthusiasm of all our Mighty Employers in wanting to make a real difference to the lives of our young people."

If your organisation is interested in becoming a Mighty Employer, please visit **The Mighty Creatives website** for more information and to download an Expression of Interest form. Alternatively, please email **kickstart@themightycreatives.com**.

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About The Mighty Creatives

Established in 2009, The Mighty Creatives is a charity which has transformed the lives of children and young people through arts, culture and creativity. Based at the heart of the cultural quarter in Leicester, our beneficiaries are children and young people from birth to 30 years old across the East Midlands.

We work in partnership with children and young people, key funders and sector partners to champion, develop, deliver and grow:

- services that can be scaled up, demonstrate reach and result in significant and measurable cultural and social impacts
- inspiring opportunities for children and young people to engage with arts and culture
- investment in children and young people's own creative skills, knowledge and practice
- capacity in the cultural and education sectors to support the infrastructure of the region
- programmes of cultural and creative education regionally, nationally and internationally
- models of practice which ensure that the creative voices of children and young people are at the heart of all our programmes.

For other press and media enquiries please contact Bethany@themightycreatives.com or call 0754 066 8251