



# Get Oldham Working

## Future is looking bright for Finders

A NEW project has launched in Oldham to help young adults with additional needs access employment or volunteering opportunities.

The New Bridge Group — a cluster of schools and organisations that work together to help young people — in partnership with the Stoller Charitable Trust — businessman Norman Stoller's charity — has launched the new Future Finders project.

New Bridge says it believes that every young person in Oldham should be able to access meaningful employment or volunteering opportunities and play a valuable role within our local community.

This innovative venture aims to match young adults to job roles or volunteering placements that will offer a fulfilling,

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long-term future.

The website [www.urefinders.org](http://www.urefinders.org) allows employers and young people to find out more about each other with a view to creating new prospects and working partnerships. Candidates can use it to discover appropriate openings across the town and local employers will be able to advertise positions within their organisation and see details of the candidates who are currently available.

Future Finders provides extended specialised support to both employers and young people to ensure a smooth transition into work placements that will bring mutual benefits and rewards.

New Bridge has joined forces with The Manchester College to launch a supported internship

course in September for young adults, aged 19-25, with additional needs.

The supported internships will be run from its new town centre campus at Media Square, the former First Choice Homes building, and will offer three full-time work placements across the academic year based within businesses across Oldham.

Daniel Wood, Future Finders manager, said: "We are very excited to be offering this new opportunity to young people across Oldham and we are delighted with the response from local businesses.

"We have already signed up numerous host employers throughout the town including Oldham Council, Oldham Community Leisure, Oldham Coliseum and Oldham Plastics.

"New Bridge and The Manchester College began offering their own



**FUTURE Finders** the new programme launched to help young adults with additional needs into work. Pictured, from left, Paul Thewlis (Oldham Sports Centre manager), Huzaifa Munawar, Adil Sardar, Louise McGreal (OCL head of HR), Sea Glennon, Daniel Wood (head of Future Finders at New Bridge School). Front, Josh Binder and Nathan Walker

supported internship courses over five years ago. We are extremely skilled and experienced in running these, and we have a proven track record in gaining positive outcomes for our young people with 70-80 per cent of the students on our current courses moving into paid employment."

Of the 20 interns on this

year's course at The Manchester College alone, 18 have moved into paid work.

The Stoller Charitable Trust has been instrumental in the development of the Future Finders project. In addition to financially supporting the initiative, the trust will provide 20 bursaries of up to £3,500 to

employers across Oldham who offer an apprenticeship to a Future Finders candidate.

For further information on how to sign up as a Future Finders candidate or on how to get involved if you are a local business, contact Mr Wood on 0161 883 2401 or [dwood@newbridgeschool.net](mailto:dwood@newbridgeschool.net)