

W E A R E  
**ShineLive**

## When first seeing Joe, it was difficult to see the young man in him that he desired to be.

Instead, you saw a young angry man hurt by the separation of his parents, death of close relatives and a struggle with mental health.

From his early teenage years experimenting with drugs and alcohol, continually in trouble with the police, eventually dropping out of school and becoming homeless. Joe's story is not an unusual one, in fact, it is a common one among young people at this time.

Joe's rise to becoming the 'best version of himself he could be' was deeply rooted in having a mentoring relationship with someone older. A mentor who took time to understand Joe's past, his present behaviour and listen to his dreams and hopes for his future, empowering and supporting him to make the changes he needed to make.

Joe has now risen to become one of the countries best Shoe Shiner's, Shoe Restorers and Patina specialists. Using his creative gifts and his passion for social interaction Joe is literally 'shining'.

“There has never been a time as uniquely challenging as the present, when the pandemic has left perhaps another million young people needing urgent help to protect their futures”

P R I N C E C H A R L E S

## The current situation we are facing in our region and across the country is going to bring us a tsunami of disengaged and desperate young people.

Prince Charles was recently quoted saying ‘There has never been a time as uniquely challenging as the present, when the pandemic has left perhaps another million young people needing urgent help to protect their futures’

I have personally been involved in youth work for over 30 years and in this current period of history working with young people is the most challenging, barren, abandoned and ignored situation that we have experienced.

Yorkshire has a population bigger than the majority of states in America. With cities and towns in South Yorkshire like Sheffield, Doncaster, Rotherham and Barnsley seeing a continual increase in the problems and dangers facing our young people.

Mental health, self-esteem, suicidal thoughts, digital poverty, homeless, knife crime and crime in general among young people, anti-social behaviour, abuse of social media, bullying and hopelessness are all daily issues our young people face.

## For over a decade the funding for youth services has been continually cut.

The days of local youth centres providing a safe place to build mentoring relationships, develop a social connection, discover and learn new skills, share life's challenges and receive support, have all but disappeared. Leaving young people isolated with feelings of abandonment and hopelessness, and this has been accelerated over the past year with the ongoing challenges that we face with the COVID-19 pandemic. Young people are even more isolated, worrying about their education, self-worth and their future.

Youth centres don't only support young people in their daily challenges and struggles but they also provide a place where a young person can have fun, laugh and enjoy experiencing new activities, learn how to communicate with the wider community, discover their talents and begin to shine.

To quote Prince Charles again 'The task ahead is unquestionably vast, but it is not insurmountable'.

## Our dream is to create a ‘Shine Centre’, in which young people can connect with something and someone bigger than themselves.

A physical place where young people can come and belong, while they are becoming. Such a place could run a variety of programs, for example...

### Alternative learning

Programmes for students who struggle in mainstream education (in partnership with schools).

### Sports

Sporting programs can be run indoors, skate parks, basketball, football, etc.

### Music

Singing and instrument lessons – putting together artists, new bands and so on.

### Small Mentoring Groups

### Creative Arts

Acting, stage management and so on.

### Music Production

Recording and producing new music.

### Social evenings

simply hanging out with other young people and mentors.

### Shows

Organising and running shows that showcase young people.

### Counselling

By trained counsellors.

### Supporting families

With young people.

### Offices & rehearsal space

For trained teams to work within schools.

### Volunteer Tradespeople

Giving their time to train young people in practical skills to give them a kickstart into a trade.

## The key to such a centre running successfully will be recruiting the right team. The ones who will be the core and at the centre of activities.

I have personally worked in a number of youth worker teams and lead teams as well, with over 30 years' experience in adapting our work within the ever-changing youth culture.

Through the past ten years as well, as running a small business, I've headed up a team of creative individuals which have delivered year group and smaller classroom lessons in secondary schools, covering a variety of subjects that are currently part of the PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) curriculum.



Through live music, media and teaching we have seen tens of thousands of young people every year. Running creative events outside school, where at times we have seen up to 1,000 young people attend, has been a great experience. But one aspect that has been missing is; how do we walk alongside these young people on a daily ongoing basis as mentors? This is where we believe a Shine Centre will enable us to impact young lives daily.

## Partner with us...

We have a registered charity 'We Are Shine Live' up and running ready to administer a pilot programme. What we need now is seed funding, the use of a building or buildings and the endorsements and support of those who have a desire to see a new work with young people succeed.

I would personally love to have a chat with you, to share the dream and explore ways in which we could partner together.

You can email me at [andy@weareshinelive.com](mailto:andy@weareshinelive.com) or call me on **07800 601 445**, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

*We Are Shine Live is a registered charity (charity number 1187257). It is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (company number 12360844).*

