

SFG Final Report to The Funding Network

1. Name of your organisation and date funded by TFN:

e:merge UK Ltd (Formerly FAST London)

2. What was the project you sought funding for from TFN?

What are its aims and objectives? Have these changed since receiving TFN funding?

The project was to fund the development of our work in our new space for FAST London on the Patmore Estate. We wanted to increase our offer to the young people and community, providing more sessions and developing work with the under 18's group, who we had not specifically targeted before. This remained the aim throughout.

3. Were you able to do this work as you described it in your application and presentation?

Yes

What evidence do you have for the success or failure of the funded project?

We are now running 4 x 2hour drop-in sessions a week, 2x 2 hour outreach sessions, at least 15 hours of 1-to-1 coaching a week and a weekly sports session.

The amount of young people we are working with has increased from 40 to 114, 55 of which we have very regular contact with.

We are now running older (16-25) and younger (11-15) drop-ins. Our employability work has continued in the older drop-ins and through workshops and one to one coaching, while the younger sessions tackle early intervention, using informal educational methods to teach on issues relevant to these young people.

In a recent questionnaire, 85% of the wider community said that young people were being transformed for the better because of the work of FAST and 100% of total people asked (wider community and young people) said that they believed the community was better because FAST was present in the community.

Please see below some cases.

4. If you were not able, please explain what happened and why?

Can you quantify any changes? Eg ...expanding number of employees, number of projects, geographical scope.

N/A

5. Can you measure, assess or describe the change that happened as a result of this work?

What actual change did the funded project generate? What proportion of the project/work did TFN fund (eg all/x%)?

In the last year we have seen 6 young people re-enter education and 8 young people enter or re-enter into employment.

Our recent questionnaire also showed the below results:

All young people asked gave the space a score of 7 out of 10 or higher.

60% of the young people said that the sessions have increased their confidence.

78% identified that the project had helped them develop goals and work towards them.

78% said that they felt they had a say in what FAST does.

90% said they were more active and connected within the community because of the project. In June there was a key moment where for the first time young people sat down with the residents association to reach an agreement on an annual memorial event that several of the young people have set up. There have been many complaints in previous years about the event but this year the

young people and older residents negotiated to agree timings and clean up. Young people are feeling more empowered to have their say and learning the communication skills to negotiate for what they want as valid members of the community while respecting others.

Other community members (residents, parents, etc) also completed a questionnaire and 65% said young people are being transformed for the better and 85% believed that the young people are more active members of the community as a result. Again 90% believed the young people had improved dreams and aspirations and 58% felt that anti-social behaviour in the area had decreased.

6. As a result of presenting at TFN, did you experience any of the following;

new subscribers to your mailing list - No
 new volunteers to your organisation - No
 further funding from individual donors - No
 further funding from institutional funders - No
 an introduction that benefited your organisation (e.g. to an individual, business or other organisation)
 other benefit (please describe) *We are awaiting to receive some impact measurement advice from one attendee at our presentation.*

7. Could you give us an estimate of how many people have been reached by the TFN funded project/work and by how much?

We are working with approximately 74 new young people since opening our space last September which is incredible and shows the high need in the area. There has been a lack of youth work of any kind in the area for over six years so to now have a highly functioning space designated to young people has made all the difference. The case studies below show the depth of work that has occurred but all this work would not be possible without a space that meets regulations, is safe, is equipped and is run by qualified, competent, motivational and inspirational staff...all of which this funding was able to help provide. On top of the young people reached, there are also the families and the community that have been impacted by the positive change in behaviour of the young people we are working with.

8. Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of funding from TFN?

O has just turned 17 and has been excluded from both his schools sixth form and the local college. He has regularly been involved in anti-social behaviour and struggles with drug use. In one drop in session, O had an extreme violent reaction to someone goading him, instantly regretting it when he calmed down and begging us not to kick him out. We came to the agreement that he would be allowed to continue coming if he agreed to one to one mentoring with our male worker to look at anger management amongst other things. These sessions transformed O. He learnt methods to control his anger and to express his frustrations in other calmer ways. He started to face the daunting question of what career path to pursue too, identifying what skills and activities he enjoyed and a few career paths that complemented his profile.

Within workshop sessions he was then given the opportunity to try out one of these options, photography, and consequently given the task of being the official photographer for FAST's annual Winter Festival that took place in January. O took the role very seriously and has now found something he loves. He has since enrolled at college to do an employability course and was able to secure work experience placement with a local newspaper as a photographer intern and he is now looking for a further course in this field and opportunities to build his portfolio.

"I got kicked out of 6th form because I was an idiot and I didn't get on with my teachers. FAST has helped me find a positive route in amongst the bad. They have helped me to get motivated through the drop-ins and meeting a lot one to one with a worker. I want to be a Paramedic so

they introduced me to one and he encouraged me and told me the different ways to become one. I have now signed up to start college and I am going to try real hard to do better this time. FAST also got me some work experience with some nurses on a construction site at the Battersea Power Station which has been sweet. The future is looking peak!!”
Shannon aged 16

“My name is Sarah and I would like to tell my story...6 short months ago (that feels like a life time ago) I was at the lowest point I have ever been in my life with lots of other people having control of my life. I was drinking lots too as it helped me forget things. I was 19 years of age with nothing, I was homeless had no job and barely any family members I could rely on. I was sad all the time. That’s when I found FAST (part of e:merge). Without the help of FAST and the people that work there I don’t know where I would currently be. They have helped me with my housing and personal issues! With their help within days I was given my own place in a hostel and things have only gone up from there! It took a little while to get back onto my feet after having to start again but they encouraged me and were supportive of me to get through it. With supplying me with food, household equipment, having the time to sit with me to help me look for jobs, updating my CV and just being friends helping me sort out solutions whenever problems came up. After some work experience and being encouraged to figure out what I’m good at so I could get back out into the working world, I am now working as a Ground Floor Team Member in a hotel. I honestly believe if FAST wasn’t there I would have went more down the wrong paths in an attempt to support myself and especially put myself in some really bad situations to keep a roof over my head. I am way more happy now and feel like I have control of my life again.”

J is a 14 year old boy, who is a keen sports enthusiast, with a particular passion and talent for football having represented Walsall at youth level whilst living in Birmingham. Having been kicked out of a school in Birmingham he was out of education for six months. Upon returning with his family to live in London, he was subsequently expelled from school again after he was found to be carrying a weapon. J started attending the drop-ins around this time. Since building relationship with J in drop-ins, he is now very open about struggling with his anger, and a lot of this frustration seems to stem from his lack of personal space at home, living in close quarters with other members of his family. His relationship with his mother is often turbulent because of this and he has a very poor relationship with both his biological father and his step-father. He holds a lot of resentment for his Fathers absence in his childhood, and the violence he displayed towards his mother, of which J has vivid memories. He is also regularly frustrated with his lack of money to purchase things he feel will make him happy and compensate for his feelings of anger. This has at times led him to becoming interested in the ever present lure of quick, easy cash through illegal activity. E:merge provides both a safe space and an open environment for J to express himself through sport, discussion, games and situational activities – something which is pivotal for a young man who feels clustered mentally and physically, and is prohibited by a lack of space. He is also benefiting from one to one coaching where he is learning to be more self-aware and self-analytical as well as taking steps towards managing his anger – he is beginning to make wise choices at times where reacting with violence used to appear to be the easier option. Since September he has been in regular attendance at a pupil referral unit and is now managing to engage in the learning there. This is a huge step after almost a year out of education and discussion for reintegration into mainstream education is in progress.

9. Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any significant change(s) which our donors would be interested to know about (these changes do not need to be related to the experience of presenting at TFN).

No

10. Do you have any other comments regarding TFN funding?

Thank you so much for your investment. It has made a tremendous difference. We have some funding in place to continue this work but require more so please do contact us should you wish to invest further.

11. Can you please include any relevant photos or clips that may relate to the project.

