

One young person was excluded from mainstream school and struggled to engage with any alternative provision. Since joining the Skill Mill he has recorded 100% attendance at work, and is now cycling into work using a bike which was donated. The Skill Mill has enabled him to pick up new skills and experience whilst earning a regular wage. Since being involved with the project he has also worked hard to improve his numeracy & literacy and gained other work related qualifications.



In partnership with:



in partnership with  
**Environment  
Agency**



## Support the Skill Mill

Please contact us if you can provide:

- work contracts for the Skill Mill to deliver
- education/training opportunities
- new life experiences for young people



Company Limited By Guarantee –  
Not For Profit

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**The Social Enterprise Providing Employment for  
Young People in Watercourse and  
Horticultural Services**

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### **What is the Skill Mill?**

The Skill Mill Ltd is a Not-For-Profit Social Enterprise which aims to provide training and employment to enable young people aged 16-18 with a long history of offending to change their lives. The model was first established in Newcastle and following successful outcomes with their young people and winning three national awards, it expanded to set up in West Yorkshire in partnership with Leeds Youth Offending Service from August 2015.

Young people are recruited through the Youth Offending Service. The model is a three day working week on site with a day release to education, although this is flexible depending on the needs of the job. On any job the Skill Mill will provide:

- A team of four young people with a supervisor on site
- Risk assessments
- Delivery of work on site to an agreed standard
- Van, protective clothing and equipment for the young people
- Mentoring support and pastoral care to the young person to enable them to fulfill their work commitments and progress to training/employment
- Contact points and regular review of progress
- Participation in media work as appropriate
- Education placements for the young people

The Skill Mill has Health and Safety and related policies available on request, and public insurance liability cover. Because the team are in their first jobs the cost of hiring the team is financially competitive – please contact us to discuss

### **Examples of work**

- Flood recovery assistance in Kirkstall
- School playground improvements at Gildersome Primary School
- Giant Hogweed removal at Thwaite Mill
- Dry Stone Walling at Otley
- Bench building and installation at various locations in West Leeds
- Tree work in Meanwood
- Steps in Rodley & Burley
- Hedge Laying at Calverley picnic site
- Garden maintenance and landscaping in Hunslet
- Vegetation clearance work at Lin Syke & the River Aire (Castleford)



### **Why work with the Skill Mill?**

The Skill Mill innovatively brings together the private, public and voluntary sector to co-produce an approach to reducing crime, increasing community safety, improving the lives of young people and improving the public realm. We help to remove the barriers to employment faced by this marginalised group through providing a real opportunity to gain education and employment and access to the wider labour market. We challenge the discrimination they face by employers and the wider community. Employees demonstrate pro-social modelling to their peers who are still active in offending and promote desistance and raise aspirations.

The Skill Mill has an active Advisory Group which includes senior representatives of The Environment Agency, Yorkshire FutureWorks, Leeds City Council, Leeds Youth Justice Service, Yorkshire Water Ltd, The Canal and Rivers Trust, Groundwork, the ESH group, Royal Haskoning, Leeds College of Building, Leeds University and others. It has received grant funding support from the South and West Yorkshire Resettlement Consortium and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire.