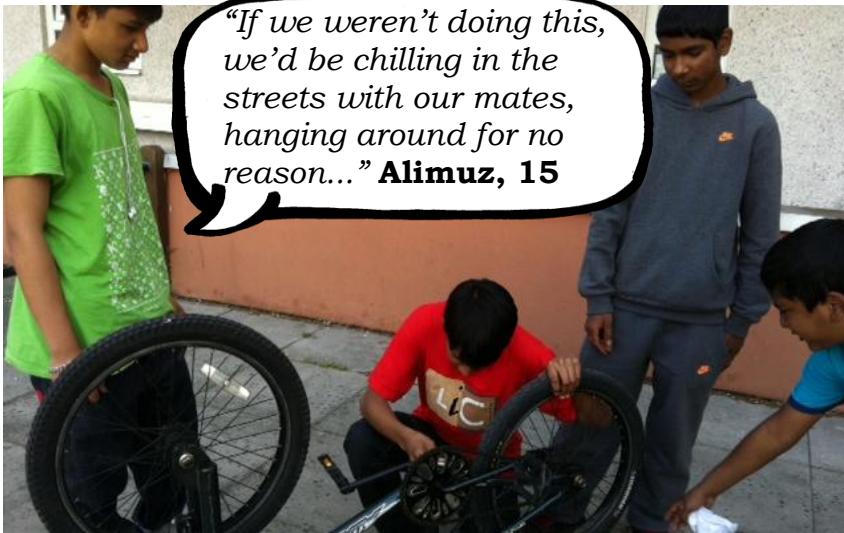


In a borough where 28% of young people are unemployed, youth workers are working to stop today's problems of boredom and debt becoming tomorrow's ills of anti-social behaviour and crime.

Back in November 2010, MyBnk were called in by youth empowerment group, Leaders in Community, to get a group of young people's business ideas off the ground and help them take control of their financial lives.



"If we weren't doing this, we'd be chilling in the streets with our mates, hanging around for no reason..." **Alimuz, 15**

Raju Rahman and Alimuz Zaman, both 15, hatched a scheme to use a small plot of garden for a bike repair business.

In January, over several enterprise sessions, MyBnk then helped them draw up a concrete plan of action with price lists, partnerships and promotion plans.

We returned in April to help the group build on their confidence, skills and

knowledge around money management - covering banking, saving, earning, borrowing and managing money.

"MyBnk taught us the value of money, how we can cut down on what we spend," says Raju. ***"That's going to help us out a lot. Instead of just splashing out and buying excess things, we can buy really useful things."***

Raju and Alimuz's business is taking shape and will launch this summer after their GCSEs. The boys are also making arrangements with local police to collect, renovate and re-sell confiscated bikes. So far, they have managed to raise £300 for tools, spare parts and puncture kits and are now looking to purchase stock.

Momtaz believes that the impact of the enterprise will be even more far-reaching, helping to change local people's attitudes towards youth.

"Before MyBnk came in, they had just started exploring the idea. We really wanted the young people to see how important it is to run the business properly."

Momtaz Begum, founder of Leaders in

