

18-25 year olds reckon they will retire with savings of £95,000, despite around three fifths not even starting to put money towards their pension yet. The need to get people into the habit of saving from a young age is becoming increasingly felt as we live longer, and the cost of care rises.

MyBnk brought Sporty Money Twist workshops to young people on the National Citizen Service programme. It brings money to life, incorporating important financial messages ranging from the minimum wage, to comparing current and savings accounts, into competitive team games.

Georgina, 16



After finishing her GCSE's Georgina was considering starting a summer job and is now regretting not doing so.



"Saving is the last thing I think about but I'm always broke and my mum is sick of lending me small bits of money all the time."

Through interactive activities, her group of two dozen 15-16 year olds share their experiences of money and debate key issues, such as how they should differentiate between their needs and wants

on a personal level, and what the UK government should prioritise in terms of spending. This opens up the conversation and allows key terminology to be explained.

Let the games begin!

The Treasure Tag activity embeds this new knowledge by using play based methodology to alter behaviours and attitudes towards saving.



Two teams compete to take 'money' (balls) from each other's zone and then deposit in their own bases without being tagged and going to jail. Each base represents a different method of saving (as per the diagram), and are strategically placed to replicate real life. For example, keeping money in your mattress base for instance is easy to access, but also easy to spend. We then introduce different scenarios which affect the types of saving. For instance, a credit crunch sees the value of Investment NISAs and pensions fall, so the trainer removes a number of balls. Later in the game there is a flood, so they lose everything under their mattress whilst other savings rise. Changing the game up in this way gets them thinking about the value of saving in an entirely new way.

Beneficiaries come together after the activity to discuss the game, the ease and difficulty in depositing the 'money' in the different bases, and the pros and cons of each. It is at this point that beneficiaries relate the physical activity to the real life savings options that they will be faced with in the near future.



How did we help Georgina?

"I enjoyed the games we did because it was fun, entertaining and something different. I'm not good at managing money but I learnt how to open a savings account and I think I will open one to help me save up for a quad bike. I also learnt that it's important to prioritise; to know what you want and what you need and to know the difference between them. I would recommend the session to people because some people don't know about this and they obviously need to."

What did the youth worker think?

"Doing a workshop like this which is so active is really brilliant for these young people. During the sessions you can tell that they're really engaged and even after the sessions they look at their own personal finances so it gets them really thinking". Youth Worker, Rebecca Stanley.

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