

# Helping youngsters set sail in a new direction

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## Humberside

MORE than 150 young people have moved into education, training or employment after completing a sail training programme in Hull.

The 12-week CatZero programme is aimed at helping young people aged 16 to 19, who are not in education, employment or training.

Since it was launched in 2009, 165 of the 268 young people who have taken part in the programme have found jobs, become involved in training or gone back into education.

The success means CatZero has exceeded its target of helping 150 young people in the first two years.

Pete Tighe, CatZero shore-based programme manager, said: "We are thrilled with the outcomes. The young people are extremely happy with their progress and they can't believe that, maybe, this is the first qualification they have achieved. I think CatZero is an asset for the city and for the young people. It's an opportunity they never would have had without the support of our partner organisations."

The programme combines physical challenges with formal training, qualifications, health education, about 10 days at sea, work placement and CV development. The £500,000 yacht used in the project is named One Hull and was bought by NHS Hull, the city's primary care trust (PCT).

The Mail is one of more than 70 local organisations who are official partners in the programme.

Mr Tighe said: "CatZero offers young people a fantastic opportunity to access motivational experiences and qualifications, which enables them to make a positive attitudinal change within their lives. Employers, training organisations and other agencies remark on the commitment and heightened motivational levels shown by the young people after their CatZero experiences. CatZero changes young people's lives."

CatZero's headquarters is the former Tropical Knights bar at Hull Marina, which was turned into a training and educational facility.

Lewis Knaggs, 19, of east Hull, completed the programme and gained qualifications including sea survival and first aid.

He also spent two weeks at sea, sailing to Edinburgh and Belgium.

Since completing the course, Lewis has been employed on an apprenticeship programme run by the Sewell Group and is training to become a joiner.

He said: "Before CatZero, I was looking for a job but I couldn't find one. It was frustrating because I wanted to work but there was nothing out there and it was hard. I thought I would give CatZero a go and see what would come out of it. I loved it. It makes you think differently about people and I have a better attitude now. It has changed my life."