

INSPIRING IMPACT

POWERED BY

Task
SQUAD

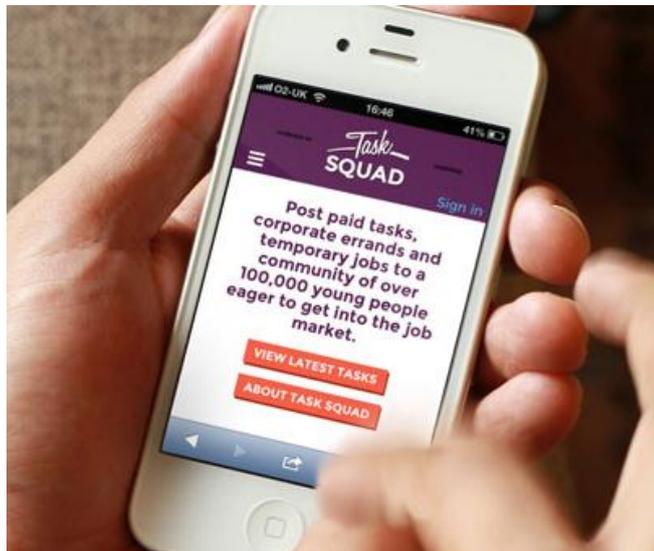
VINSPIRED

vInspired

vInspired helps young people across the UK volunteer in ways that matter to them. Following the economic downturn, the charity added Task Squad to this brief—an online platform designed to introduce young people looking for paid work to organisations in need of temporary staff.

vInspired have previously used external evaluators to measure the impact of their programmes, but Impact Coordinator, Rebecca Graham, explains she was *'keen to bring this in-house to develop our own capabilities.'*

'I wanted to use JET because the measures are standardised and based on reliable academic scales', she says. Her team also liked the flexibility of the JET framework and the wide range of employability outcomes it includes, which *'made it easy for us to pick outcomes that are relevant to our programme.'*



The first step in implementing the JET framework is to develop a theory of change, which describes the final goal of a project or organisation (ie, to reduce youth unemployment) and the steps involved in making that change happen. vInspired decided to update its existing theory of change according to the guidelines in the JET Pack. *'Looking again at our theory of change provided clarity around the goals of the programme—we could establish the flow of outcomes and identify which we should prioritise and how we should measure them'*, says Rebecca.

Task Squad is an online platform, so it made sense for vInspired to work with their developers to put the questionnaire online too. *'We used online survey software to integrate the JET scales into the Task Squad user experience'*, Rebecca explains. When a young person signs up to the platform they now receive an automatic email prompting them to complete a JET survey, which collects baseline data on all users.

'Using technology has made collecting the data we need really straightforward. The young people who register with Task Squad are based all over London, so having the information in a centralised database reduces the headache of collating information sheets from lots of different locations. It also means the raw data collects in one place, ready to be downloaded and analysed.'

The survey software also allows vInspired to schedule follow-up surveys. Rebecca explains how this works: *'We know from our records that people use the platform for around six*

months, so we decided to send out follow-up emails at three-month intervals so we can track the progress of young people towards achieving their outcomes over time.'

Overall, the vInspired team found the JET framework helpful for their work: Rebecca says that *'the framework and online tool have minimised the effort we need to put in to get results, and I'm really looking forward to learning from what we find. Lots of organisations will be using the same measures as us, so we can begin to share our data with others and find out about what types of interventions are working.'*

So far, Task Squad is the first project at vInspired to use the JET framework, but the charity is already looking at rolling it out to other projects focused on youth employability.