



**Hogan
Lovells**

Justin Finlayson
United Borders

United Borders provides services to young people who find themselves in moments or periods of crisis in their lives. They offer a wrap-around provision has a rapid and sustainable impact on each young person's wellbeing and on their ability to take ownership of their own positive pathways moving forwards. Music is there main pathway to engagement as young people can express themselves, talk about the topics that they are normally excluded from and take ownership of their own futures.



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What inspires you to do what you do?

Experience inspires me to do what I do.

As a young person I experienced youth clubs, away trips, community safety and a childhood which meant I could venture anywhere without fears of violence. These childhood values shapes my work to date.

What do you want to see change?

We need austerity measures to be scrapped immediately, nothing has done more serious harm or neglect to Youth services than the cuts which have hit £70m and rising. Youth Spaces and adventure playgrounds need to be reopened and investment needs to be hastened to provide safe spaces for Young People and Youth employment must be a major priority.

With investment being spent to build more homes throughout the UK and regeneration efforts taking place in many communities throughout England, it's important for many Young People to train in trade practices, upskill University students who are finding employment restricted after completing degrees and ensure Young People who have trade skills learned within prison are able to gain employment opportunities.

Lastly halt the current expulsions immediately as this is a pipeline towards Prison and divest money spent incarcerating Young People within prison and probation and refund grassroots interests and community groups to support Young People earlier and help provide better support for their families.



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One lesson for people thinking about starting their own enterprise / organisation?

One valuable lesson I have learnt is start it!

3 years later and we are still learning, you will never be complete or ready but if you're doing community work or serving an under served sector the needs of people will outweigh your knowledge or unhinged an organisation. Your journey will teach you what you have and what you need but people who you don't know and haven't met yet will become aligned once you gain some momentum, hence our relationship with Hogan Lovells! I never heard or knew about Pro Bono practices until Hogan Lovells partnered with us and guided us through legal requirements, funding opportunities, fund raising, networking, creating contracts for our Young People, securing trademarks and more.

This relationship would not have come about had I not decided to start United Borders charity.

You can determine where you start, you can't determine where you will finish.

Start.