

POTENTIAL ENTREPRENEURS FOR THE FUTURE

By: Professor Norin Arshed, University of Strathclyde; Dr Stephen Knox, University of Stirling; Professor Graeme Martin, University of Dundee.

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Although I went in quite selfishly thinking I would get something out of it from my own wee [furniture] flipping business. I've actually got so much more and that was just about that connectivity, community, sisterhood, trust, you know, building relationships with women in your own community

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It was learning a wee bit every week, different things that you can dae. Every activity we done in there. Yeah, that and the other thing was how these women aw bonded through something. An so that's what kept me going [to the programme]. That's what kept me going, an that's what ah enjoyed about it. It was then a community.

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The ladies were fantastic and they were so kind of, you know, open and keen to learn. And that was just really, really nice. And that was very, very kind of welcoming, as well, if that makes sense. I didn't feel, we [Muslim women] didn't feel for a second it was like us and them or anything, and we were almost that, that, was all kind of sidelined. We were all women, all working together and that was fantastic. Just that feeling was just lovely.

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I've changed for the simple fact ah always, always, used to think ma previous convictions would stop me fae doing anything, but that's no the case and you've [the programme] taught me that.

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It's [the programme] put a fire back in ma belly. A wee spark of something, that I've got something more to give. And it might just be for myself this time because I've never done that. [...] So, I actually believe I could do that [side hustle] now. I didnae believe it then before I started the course so that's brilliant.

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I didn't think it [the programme] would impact me as a person. I didn't think it would help me like with my own skills. Because it said entrepreneurial, I was thinking it's all business thinking and like okay, I'll maybe go and I'll learn something. But I didn't think I would go and learn something about myself ... I didn't think it would help me as a person.

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I never know I had any creative side and now I actual see that ah huv. And it's so easily done. Like, I've never ever tapped into that side. Just thought nah, no for me. Ah cannae dae that.

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See when ah first seen it, Ah was like aw no, I'm no gonna be able to do this. Yeah, I mean, it's just like, I think I've got more like self belief in myself now.

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It [the programme] reminded me that my period of, or chapter, of creativity isn't shut, it's not over. It's just maybe been buried so it's kind of reignited that. And I think that will also help me be a better parent to [my daughter] because she is creative. She struggles in some areas of her life in the last couple of years. So this [activities from the programme] has been something that we've been able to, I've taken some of those things that we've been doing at group and used it with her and I want to continue doing that. So it's been really beneficial.

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