



Ed's Workshop

Career journeys



This brochure is for prospective participants in Ed's Workshop. It is intended for discussion with your personal support network.

We'd be delighted if you give us a call or visit us at our new premises for an informal chat. Contact details are on the last page.

Who we are

Ed's Workshop is a workplace and a community of makers in Sheffield.

We are a workshop with embedded support enabling craftspeople with learning difficulties to explore and then pursue their own career journey in making and selling artisan products.



Career journeys

Choosing a career takes time and may include trying different tasks, improving your skills, discovering your strengths and preferences, selecting the sort of work you want to do and deciding whether you want to work for yourself or someone else.

Many makers prefer to work for themselves in small workshops but this is rarely available as an option for people with learning difficulties. It is possible, however, with the skills support and business support provided by Ed's Workshop, in combination with your existing personal support.

At Ed's Workshop you will belong to a community of craftspeople, have a workplace to go to and a group of like-minded friends around you.

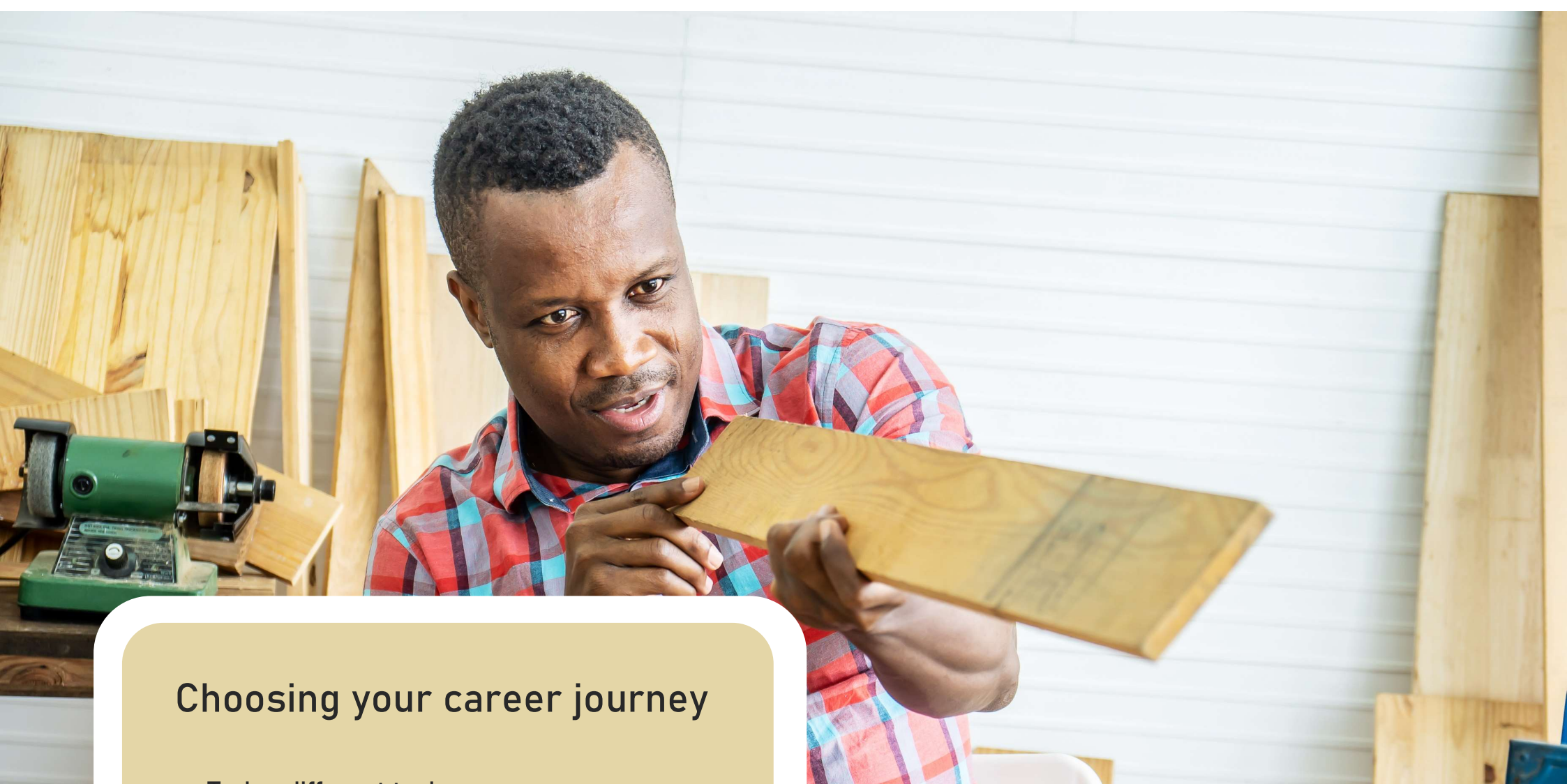
Ed's Workshop is here for every part of your journey, from early exploration of your ideas through to long term support if you choose to work for yourself as a Mester.

Do you enjoy making things? If you would like to explore a career in a workshop we can support you with a three step plan.

1. Exploring - trying different tasks and improving your skills.
2. Trial Trading - experience making and selling things for an income.
3. Mestership - if you decide that a workshop career is for you.

In Sheffield 'little mesters' traditionally refers to individual artisans, who often worked together in shared workshops.





Choosing your career journey

- Trying different tasks.
- Gaining skills in making things.
- Discovering your strengths and preferences.
- Deciding whether to work for yourself.
- Making a career plan.
- Experimenting with making and selling.

Exploring. Ed's Workshop can tailor sessions for aspiring makers. We use workshop experiences to help participants think through their strengths and preferences, enabling them to develop realistic ambitions that connect with attainable work.

Trial Trading. If participants would like to work for themselves in a small workshop then with our support they can safely experiment with making and selling, choosing their own products, testing markets and organising their circles of support to maximise their chances of success.



Mestership

- A workbench in Ed's Workshop.
- Storage for your tools, materials and work.
- Supervision to ensure that you work safely and to help you to follow your workplan.
- Shared selling spaces for your products.
- Support with the business aspects of being a Mester.

Mesters join our community for a fixed number of days per week on an ongoing basis. We support Mesters to work independently, making their own products and keeping the proceeds of their sales.

For Mesters Ed's Workshop provides a safe place to work, and end-to-end support for product selection, planning, making, selling, managing costs and payments, keeping records and administrating a micro-business.



Mestership example

Ed was the first Mester in Ed's Workshop.

Ed enjoyed four years at Freeman College in Sheffield and developed skill and experience at metalwork, woodwork and jewellery making. He left Freeman in March 2022 knowing that he definitely wanted to work in a workshop.

With the support of his family Ed founded Ed's Workshop, a small business making and selling hand-crafted jewellery, Christmas decorations, jigsaws, chopping boards and phone holders.

Ed has sold hundreds of pounds worth of products at craft fairs. Ed does not 'earn a living' but he does enjoy a purposeful life, working, belonging and contributing.

Ed's business has been successful because his family have provided a package of business and technical support. This has become the foundation for our Mester offer.

Ed's work has introduced us to many other people with similar dreams, so we developed Ed's Workshop into a place for makers to work together.

The package for Mesters was co-created with Ed, modelled on the support he received and designed for all makers who want to enjoy the long-term benefits of work and belonging to a social community of colleagues.





How it works

Ed's Workshop is a family business. We avoid reliance on grants in order to set our own vision, be sustainable and ensure long-term security for our Mesters.

The cost of Ed's Workshop is similar the cost of other daytime provision for people with learning difficulties and we can point you to the normal sources of funding.

Ed's Workshop is a supported workplace enabling self-employment.

We believe that self-employment is a realistic prospect for people with learning difficulties when we integrate our skills support and business support with each individual's support from families, carers and personal assistants.

Our vision is for a stable community of makers who choose to stay with us.



Contact

We look forward to hearing from you.



Visit our website at
edsworkshop.co.uk



Get in touch with Kim for an informal chat on
07905 855586



Email us at
edsworkshop@peterrowe.co.uk



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