



**youth
futures**
FOUNDATION

Driving Collaboration with SharePoint and Valo

Creating an engaging intranet that drives real-time, cross-functional collaboration.

ThinkShare.

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Our Client and Their Challenge

Youth Future Foundations (YFF) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation established in December 2019 with the desire to improve employment outcomes for young people from marginalised backgrounds.

Their aim is to narrow employment gaps by identifying what works and why, investing in the evidence generation and innovation, and vitally igniting a movement for change. Meaning all young people, regardless of background or start, have fair access to good quality jobs.

They are actively working to change the youth employment system by collaborating with organisations, policy makers, employers, practitioners, and young people themselves. All in an effort to address systematic barriers, expand available opportunities, and help young people to get ready for the world of work.

Since their launch only three years ago, they have already the largest range of youth employment intervention programmes for evaluation ever seen in this country.

To keep up with the growing demand for their vital work, YFF have established three hubs across the country. These hubs are based in Birmingham, Leeds, and London and allow the not-for-profit to launch initiatives and interventions in the communities that need them the most.

Recently, they realised that the current communication platform they had wasn't ideal for connecting users across these three hubs. They knew they needed a platform to better facilitate the sharing of information, data, company news, events. A platform that would help employees work together effectively and efficiently, regardless of location.



Why ThinkShare?

YFF originally found our website when searching for a new intranet online. They reviewed our content and were impressed with our knowledge and experience, so they reached out and arranged a call with one of our Microsoft Certified Consultants.

During this initial discussion, it became clear that they were looking for a richer design than SharePoint Out-Of-The-Box could offer. Ultimately, they were looking for a communication platform that truly engaged and inspired their employees.

This led to a demonstration of our Partner Valo's solution, Valo Intranet, and so began the creation of a visually exciting intranet that would connect employees across hubs and across the country.

The Project

Valo is a world-leading intranet product used by over two million users, each and every day. The biggest user of Valo intranet currently has 200,000 employees, all of whom rely on the platform to be effective in their role. After the demonstration of the product, YFF agreed that this would be the perfect solution to truly engage their staff.

The main driver of this decision was that Valo builds on top of SharePoint Online, enhancing, simplifying, and enabling YFF's team to take full advantage of everything that Microsoft 365 has to offer, as well as extending the capability to brand the intranet to their corporate style.

We have developed a tried and tested framework that breaks each project down into distinctive phases. Whilst this may sound rigid, our consultants worked closely with the YFF team to maintain an agile approach that resulted in the creation of an intranet that was as unique as they are.

Discovery Phase

The discovery phase of the project began with the aim to understand and articulate the users' and business requirements for the intranet. Through an in-depth workshop, the requirements and scenarios were gathered from the key users and project stakeholders.

The workshop included several exercises designed to engage users, provoke new ideas and drive enthusiasm about the intranet.



Design Phase

The design phase resulted in the creation of an intranet requirements document that showcased how each requirement would be prioritised and detailed how each requirement would then be built in SharePoint.

Again, we worked closely with the YFF team to create an information architecture that worked for them. Understanding their unique work culture and taking their branding requirements into consideration, we utilised the design functionality of Valo to create an inspiring intranet. Images to follow.

Implementation and Build

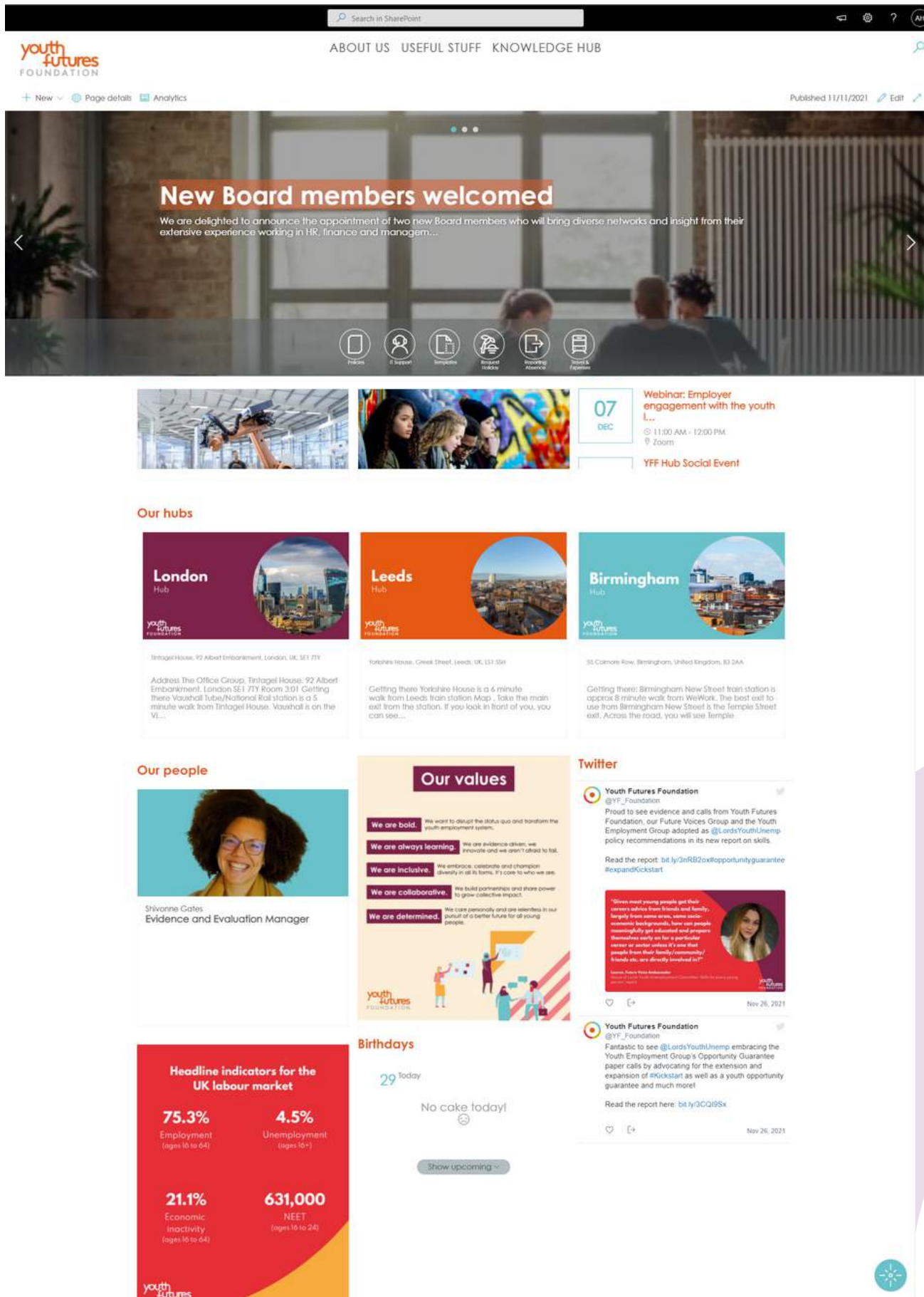
The build phase of the project kicked off without issue. Our certified Microsoft experts were given access to YFF's Microsoft 365 tenant and configured the SharePoint functionality as discussed at the workshop. From there we designed the platform in line with YFF's requirements, focusing on communication, collaboration and connecting teams across YFF's main hubs.

During this phase, the focus team from the workshop were able to test the intranet and identify any edits that were actioned and quickly resolved.

We then moved onto the best bit of the project, go live. When their users were given the opportunity to view the brand new Valo Intranet and finally interact with their new collaboration tool.

The Final Design.

You can see below the way we utilised their style to create an intranet that captured the essence of the brand.



The Outcome

Despite physical distance, the YFF teams feel closer than ever. They are able to utilise a singular source of company information, giving each and every team member access to the data, files, news, and event information that they need to thrive.

Better yet, the platform has provided a place where these dispersed teams can work together collaborating on the same document, regardless of location.

With improved collaboration and enhanced communications, employees are already more engaged with the intranet. Each time they fire up their browsers they are met with the latest company news and are able to react and celebrate their business and colleagues.



"The team at YFF were a joy to work with. Their clear vision for both the young people of the country and the experience they wanted to create for their employees, ensured project success.

This Valo intranet, with its rich engaging design will empower collaboration throughout their hubs, for years to come. We cannot wait to see what they achieve in the future."

-Andy Hodges, ThinkShare CEO