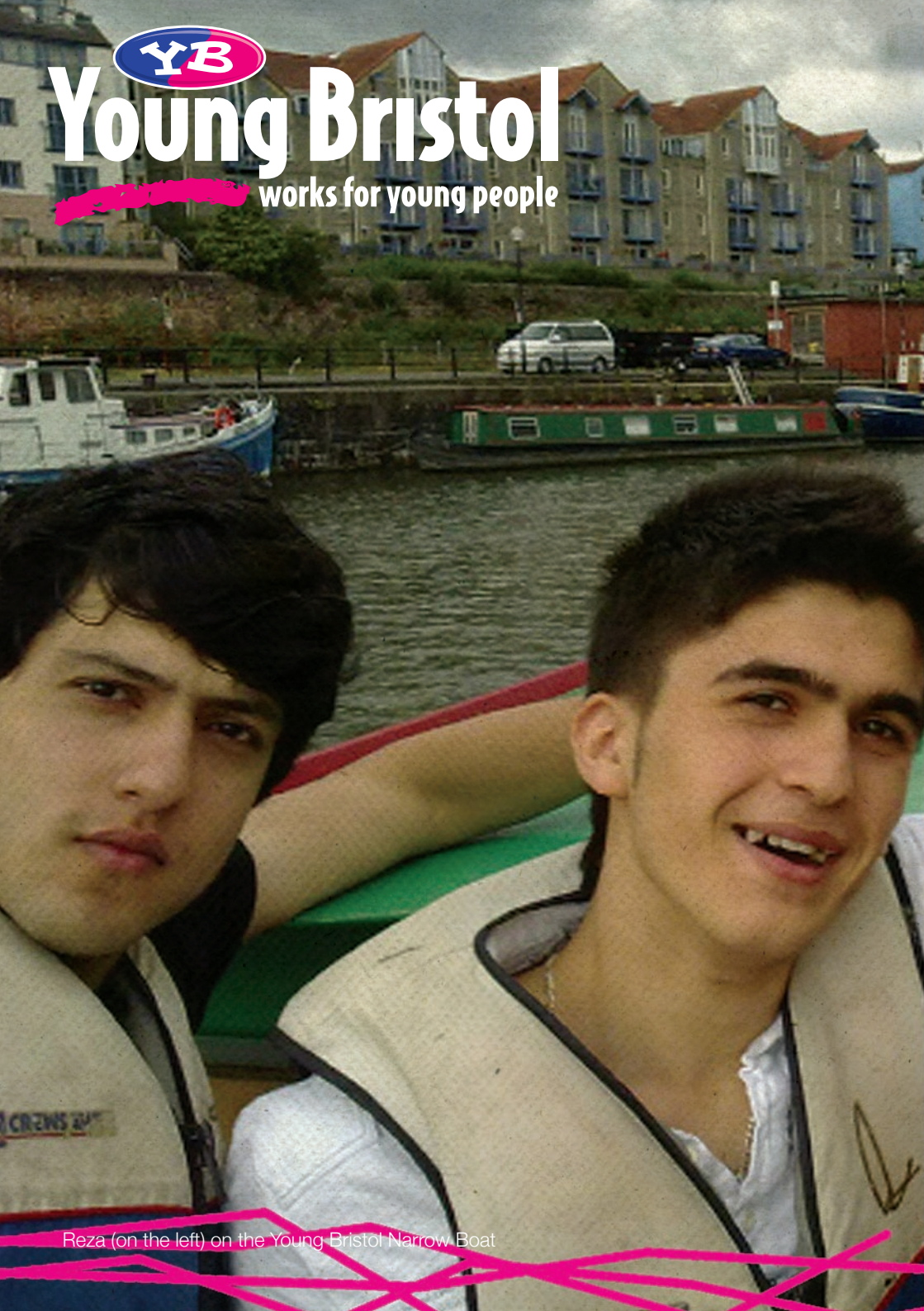


Young Bristol

works for young people



Reza (on the left) on the Young Bristol Narrow Boat

WORKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: Reza

Reza is 17 and originally from Iran. He got involved with Young Bristol just over a year ago and has been helping us to support young asylum seekers and refugees who are part of the DICE project at the City Academy.

As well as volunteering with us to support young asylum seekers and refugees he has also taken part in "Awesome Thursday" – our one day a week partnership project with City of Bristol College to re-engage young people who are not in education, employment or training.

While being involved in Young Bristol, he has been mentored by two of our young volunteers, supporting him to get involved in a huge variety of activities, trips and events. These have included a six week mountain bike project that involved dismantling and rebuilding old bikes, respraying them and keeping them for personal use as well as powerboat and narrowboat courses designed to coach personal and water safety, basic boat handling and practical mechanical skills, rock climbing, archery, sailing and raft building sessions. Through taking part in these various sessions he has gained qualifications in water based activities and been inspired to develop these skills.

In the year that Reza has been supported by Young Bristol he has built

strong social networks whilst growing in confidence and becoming much more independent. His English language skills have come on considerably through mixing with other young people and taking part in activities. Reza is keen to continue supporting other young people to get the best from the sort of opportunities he has been able to enjoy. Practically speaking the mountain bike that he rebuilt and now owns enables him to get around the city and get to college - where he is studying full time.

"...I used to be on my own and did not go out anywhere. Now I have new friends and I enjoy going out in Bristol very much. Next year I will go out with Young Bristol and help other people make friends..."