wlf advance
SCREEN SKILLS · TRAINING · EMPLOYMENT

CAPABILITY STATEMENT
2026

# Turning young talent into working careers in film, TV and the creative industries

WLF Advance designs and delivers funded training, work placements and talent development schemes across Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and the Wessex region. We work with funders, councils, delivery partners and employers to move young people into real, paid work.

**11 years**
running the Bournemouth BFI Film Academy

**275**
young people trained through the Academy

**110+**
young people placed in six-month paid jobs through Kickstart

**129**
DWP-approved Kickstart placements with 20+ employers

## WHAT WE DELIVER

### Youth employment and placements
Paid placements with screen and creative employers, with pre-employment training and in-work mentoring for both sides.

### Screen skills training
Practical courses from first experience to industry-ready, delivered by working producers and crew.

### Talent development schemes
Funded labs for emerging producers and creators that end in finance-ready projects and credits.

### Commissioned training
Bespoke programmes for councils, screen agencies, colleges and employers, built around local priorities and funder reporting.

## TRACK RECORD

- **BFI Film Academy, Bournemouth.** Eleven years delivering the regional Academy for 16 to 19 year olds: 25 young people and one short film a year.
- **Kickstart Gateway, 2020 to 2022.** DWP gateway for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit. 129 placements approved, 110+ young people in paid jobs, around 50 through our employability training.
- **Graduate retention** mentoring with BCP Council.
- **BCP Crew Connect,** a crew network funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- **Short Sounds Film Festival,** five editions, now run by Bournemouth University.

## WHY WORK WITH US

- **Delivery that ends in work:** direct access to production companies and creative employers.
- **Proven with public money:** BFI, National Lottery, DWP and council-funded delivery and reporting.
- **Safe and accountable:** DBS-checked staff, a named Designated Safeguarding Lead, and published safeguarding, equality, accessibility and health and safety policies.
- **Rooted in place:** based at the Unit Base One film and TV hub, Bournemouth, working with BCP Council, BCP Film Office and Screen Wessex.

## CURRENT PROGRAMMES

Open now

### School Work Placements
Free placements for school, college and university students with creative businesses at Unit Base One.

In development

### Creator Fusion Lab
A UK-wide lab turning digital creators' audiences into finance-ready feature films. Seeking funding for summer 2027.

## COMPANY INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| **Legal name** | White Lantern Film Advance Ltd, trading as WLF Advance |
| **Company number** | 07727884 (England and Wales), incorporated 2011 |
| **D-U-N-S number** | 217393075 |
| **Registered office** | Ocean View, 83 Grove Road, Bournemouth BH1 3AR |
| **Director** | Adam J. Merrifield |
| **Status** | Committed to becoming a Community Interest Company |

## Planning a skills or employment programme?

We design programmes with funders, councils, delivery partners and employers.

**wlfadvance.co.uk/contact**
**01202 878028**