

CRAIG BARRATT

Craig Barratt is the co-founder of *Foresight Business Solutions Limited*, an IT and telecoms company based in Oldham, Greater Manchester.

Founded in 2010, *Foresight* provides a range of services, including managed IT support, cybersecurity, communication solutions, and cloud services. As a Director, Craig focuses on expanding the company and tailoring its offerings to meet the diverse needs of both private sector businesses and public sector organisations.

Having grown up in Glodwick, Oldham, Craig's upbringing in one of the town's more disadvantaged areas has greatly influenced his approach to work and community involvement. His early career experiences taught him the importance of transferable skills like communication and customer service, and these lessons have driven his passion for providing opportunities to young people from similar backgrounds.

At *Foresight*, Craig is dedicated to employing local people, college graduates, and individuals struggling to secure a foothold in their careers, aiming to equip them with the skills to progress and earn a decent wage.

Under Craig's leadership, *Foresight Business Solutions* has become a respected presence in the local business community. The company, which employs around 20 staff, is known for its focus on both professional development and making a positive impact on the community. In 2022, *Foresight* was recognised at the *Oldham Business Awards*, receiving the *Supporting Young People Award*, a testament to Craig's commitment to fostering local employment and career progression for the youth of Oldham.

In addition to his role at *Foresight*, Craig plays an active part in shaping Oldham's economic future through his involvement with the *Oldham Economy Board*. Here, he collaborates with local business leaders and council members to tackle economic challenges, attract investment, and boost job creation across the region. Craig's contributions to the board focus on creating stronger links between the business and education sectors, ensuring that the local workforce is equipped with the skills necessary to support Oldham's economy.

Craig's work has a significant impact not only on the business sector but also on the social fabric of Oldham, reflecting his strong sense of giving back to the community that shaped him. His dedication to both business and community development makes him a key figure in Oldham's ongoing economic and social progress.