

CHANGING LIVES

We have a proven track record of turning the lives of young people around. Our youth work activities enable young people to thrive and achieve. Through 1-2-1 mentoring young people are supported in a reflective process, helping them to recognise their starting point, journey taken and celebrate achievement. We monitor and review progress and support young people to apply their learning towards future action and change.



Teegan's story

Teegan has had a difficult time with school. But through youth work she has become a more confident and much loved young woman who is better equipped to take on the world.

Deprived neighborhood

Teegan is almost 16, she has grown up in Middlesbrough and attending the youth club for well over a year. She has found it difficult with the limited opportunities and problems near where she lives. She found herself getting involved in risk-taking behaviours, such as drinking on the streets, hanging around with the wrong people. She first started missing school and then she stopped going altogether. She was excluded and placed in the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU).

Self-esteem and social adversity

Linx staff have worked really hard to get to know Teegan. She can often come across as loud-mouthed and outspoken. They have noticed that deep down she lacks self-esteem and struggles with her own self-confidence, a common problem for children growing up in adverse situations.

Next steps

Teegan is gonna carry on with her goals and dream of becoming a youth worker or something related to that type of job and Linx will keep supporting her. When she got the interview she was so excited she said **"no one in my family will believe that I have applied for a job, let alone getting an interview, I want to keep it secret so that I can surprise them when I get the job, as my family always say it's hard to get a decent employment. I will be the breadwinner of my family, who can believe it"**.

Befriending and confidence building

Linx youth work staff have put in a lot of time to support Teegan. They have taken the time to get to know her, learning about her life and over time they have built a really strong relationship with her. The more she came to the youth sessions, the more she opened up and shared her hopes and fears about the future.

Career aspirations

Once the staff built her trust she began to talk about her future and what jobs she would be interested in. She started making positive comments "I would love to be a youth worker or work in the field of childcare", and asking questions such as "What is an apprenticeship?" and "What skills would I need?" She was encouraged to apply for a Youth Work Apprenticeship, Linx staff help with the applying and when she got an interview, they helped her prepare, did mock interviews and helped with clothes. Although she didn't get the position it was still a really positive experience and boosted her confidence loads.

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