



linx

Empowering Young People
In Middlesbrough

Linx services

- ⦿ Open access
- ⦿ **1-2-1 support**
- ⦿ Family support
- ⦿ Detached
- ⦿ Key Fund
- ⦿ Apprentices
- ⦿ Holiday activities
- ⦿ Partnerships

“Linx has helped
me through
some hard stages
in my life.”
Courtney Lawrence



Courtney's story

1-2-1 support leading to positive outcomes and empowerment

This case study shows how Courtney Lawrence has gone from being on a negative path, to become a highly motivated young woman with a positive future. Over a year, she has had 1-2-1 support from a Linx Senior Youth Worker and has been involved in group work, developing life and leadership skills.

Linx's Senior Youth Workers delivered 290 hours of 1-2-1 support to 63 individuals between April 2017 to October 2018. 1-2-1 support is bespoke to the individual and is an essential part of a package of services delivered by Linx. It complements other engagements, including Detached Youth Work, open access sessions and project work and can lead to referrals to other specialist services.

Issues addressed

Many young people in Middlesbrough have multiple and complex needs and challenges. Courtney (then aged 14) had lost motivation and had very poor attendance at school. She was also participating in mild drug use, which had led to her being involved in some low level anti-social behaviour in the local area. She did not understand the consequences of her risk taking behaviour and school absence and the impact this could have on her future.

The approach

1-2-1 support is introduced where young people are experiencing particular problems or challenges and would benefit from some space and time to work through these privately, with a Senior Youth Worker.

Courtney was initially engaged through one of the open access sessions with her peer group, as part of a Stage 1 Key Fund project in Hemlington. She was supported to take a lead role in the project and developed a whole range of life skills, as well as overcoming her reluctance to engage with staff. This led to intensive 1-2-1 support around school, her personal life, volunteering and career aspirations and to her developing a new outlook, attitude and behaviour, as well as aspirations.



“Courtney has matured dramatically and tries to be a good example to other young people”

Josh Harrison, Senior Youth Worker, Linx



“Courtney is a shining example of how Linx can help young people.”
Josh Harrison, Senior Youth Worker, Linx

Future plans

Courtney is now attending school regularly and is motivated to finish her GCSEs. Through 1-2-1 work she has discussed her aspirations for the future and is interested in a career working with young people with disabilities.

Courtney has seen how young people can change their own lives with support, with two local young women, who are now Linx Apprentices, as her role models. She has applied to become a volunteer with Linx and is looking forward to this new role.

1-2-1 work will be ongoing with Courtney, to provide support, meet her needs and help her plan ahead. Support will also help her recognise ongoing negative influences and build her own capacity to avoid risk taking behaviour. She is now focussed on her potential future career and is motivated to achieve positive life outcomes.

Achievements

- Initially Courtney was shy and reserved with Youth Workers and staff, but eventually barriers were broken down and she was able to engage in positive work
- Josh Harrison, Senior Youth Worker with Linx, identified Courtney and 6 of her friends as a group within a youth club that would benefit from a project based approach through ‘the Key’ and they attended weekly on Wednesday evenings in Hemlington
- Courtney took a lead role in the project, planning activities, working within a budget and arranging transport and venues for activities, learning communication skills, budgeting, leadership and presentation skills
- With positive role models around her (in the female Linx Apprentices), she raised her aspirations and explored potential roles with Linx, understanding that she would have to stay at school and get her qualifications if she wanted to be a volunteer and/or Apprentice
- Courtney now attends school and is not engaging in anti-social behaviour and avoids other forms of risk-taking behaviour
- Courtney is keen to become a role model for other young people

“Linx has helped me get myself back into school and helped me realise that what I couldn’t thank Linx enough for everything”
Courtney Lawrence (15)

Linx long-term impact goals

- Young people are empowered and have the skills and opportunities to reach their full potential
- Young people take positive action and are connected and add value to their communities
- Youth services are resourced Borough-wide, supporting young people partners and communities

Linx youth services

- Linx secured funding from the Youth Investment Fund 2017-20 to roll out an ambitious youth services programme in Middlesbrough, based on solid youth work expertise and principles
- Linx is led by an experienced Youth Work Director and supported by finance and operations staff, with delivery of activities and support through a team of four senior youth workers and up to five apprentices
- Linx established an apprenticeship scheme as part of its YIF programme, which provides training, mentoring and work experience for local young people supporting open access sessions, with accredited qualifications and pathways to employment
- Apprentices also play a key role in developing and delivering the Feel Good Boro annual youth celebration and support event
- Building on a solid base of Detached Youth Work practice in Hemlington, Linx has rolled this methodology out and developed open access sessions (youth clubs) in 8 targeted areas of Middlesbrough, identified as having a high level of need, working closely with local partners
- Linx provides one to one support for young people with additional challenges and also work with their families when appropriate, to resolve issues and empower young people to overcome problems
- Groups of young people are supported through the Key process to address issues they identify as important and progress on to undertaking community action projects in their local areas, raising funding to roll these out, with support from youth workers
- Linx provides very successful summer holiday programmes, diversionary activities during Mischief Night and targeted interventions in collaboration with local partners



YIF supports voluntary, community and social enterprise youth organisations to deliver, expand and create high quality local youth provision in targeted communities across England.

Linx is one of nine projects funded in the North East from 2017 to 2020 and YIF funding supports most of the Linx youth services in Middlesbrough.

Linx is actively involved in the YIF national evaluation framework which seeks to promote quality youth services and build an evidence base for improvement and investment.

Linx youth services are also supported by:

