

## **Always a Chance Progress Report**

### **Current progress**

The project commenced on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June. The project has been divided into 3 main sections.

Get involved – which consists of raising funds to be spent on social activities

Get active – from money raised participate in social activities

Give back – support local organisations

All the above are young people led, demonstrating partnership working between staff and young people. A prime example is the adaptation of name of project. For the grant it was referred to as 'My Future, My Way', however this has evolved into the 16+ project based on young people's views and opinions.

At present we have a number of events planned these include:

- Baking
- Coffee morning
- Open cinema at Stanwick Lakes
- Supporting the Food Club – Hope Enterprise
- Allotment Project – Youth Inspired

This will all be happening over the next few weeks with other contacts made including the Prince's Trust, Animals in Need, Sikh Youth and Community Centre and others.

### **Achievements/Challenges**

An achievement is the interest of young people wanting to engage, in the short time we have already had 6 people engage. In regards to outer engagement we have had a lot more young people show interest. It is believed this is due to the approach of the project and the ability to be at the centre and therefore be in control of decision making.

At present the only challenges the project has had with staff sickness, however this is being overcome.

## **Number of beneficiaries**

Currently 6 young people have engaged directly with the new project which started the end of June. At present Right Resolution are supporting 26 young people and are currently having further young people referred to the project. The new project is for all young people leaving care and therefore we have engaged with approximately 8 other young people through events at Russel House.

## **Case Studies**

### **Case Study One**

Young person was in education until the age of 22 having gone to university to gain a foundation degree. When he came back to the county he was referred to Right Resolution to help find employment or training opportunities. During this time the young person was supported to complete work experience placements to increase his confidence as well as develop life skills. He also engaged in volunteering giving back to the community. He engaged in social activities which exposed him to new opportunities such as ice skating and bowling. He also received support with food and toiletries. In January he reached out as he was suffering with severe mental health to the point staff had to support him to A&E as the case was deemed an emergency. The young person was unable to articulate his feelings and therefore staff had to advocate on his behalf. It was determined that the young person suffered from severe anxiety and depression and needed to seek additional support and therapy. Since this incident staff have supported the young person with accessing mental health services, rebuilding his confidence through 1-2-1 and group cooking classes as well as gaining support from other services. During this time the young person was also facing eviction. Staff were able to source support from another agency who now work in partnership to ensure that the young person does not become homeless. The young person still engages in volunteering with the organisation and participates in social activities. He engages with all aspects and is one of the only forms of interaction with others he has.

Without our intervention the young person would have no professional support at all. He also has no family members and therefore social isolation would continue to

grow. The incident in regards to his mental health could have had much more serious consequences as well as never addressing previous life traumas. Lack of multi-agency working could have resulted in homelessness. Supporting him through confidence building has enabled him to build positive relationships with other young people who access Right Resolution. Engaging in social activities provide opportunities which not experience due to lack of financial situation. Supporting with benefits has meant the young person received an income otherwise debt would have occurred, resulting in possible eviction. Supporting with basic life needs such as food, toiletries as well as clothing are important and vital items for any individual

## **Case Study Two**

The young person was referred by the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Team. Support was provided to engage him in college to study ESOL. The young person was initially referred to be supported into volunteering opportunities and therefore being involved in our project, 'Step Up', a smaller scale project to the current funding.

The young person engaged in a number of fundraising events such as the car wash, which he was able to work with other young people. The impact on the young person provided him with the ability to engage with other young people verbally, a huge positive outcome for an individual who was not confidence about his English speaking abilities. This was also reflected when the young person completed an award, equivalent of a level one, and was empowered to ask questions and support other members of the group. In addition to being on the project he was the young person who completed over 100 hours volunteering for a local charity shop.

One of the most memorable moments is when this young person came ice skating. It was a brand new experience for the young person and he did not leave the ice rink once, until we had to leave. Even then he asked if he could stay. This demonstrated the importance of providing new experiences. He even went on to recommend the project to other people he knew. I received the following texts from him over the project year. 'Thank you for invite to play ice skate. I was really excited for it' as well as 'thank you for all you did for us. I want to thank you for all your help and support me on everything'.