

Dean – Youth Worker Apprentice

In a typical week I spend half my time in the office and half of it at a range of different venues supporting the work with young people. My role is varied and the hours fluctuate from week to week. And includes both night and weekend work. My office role involves booking venues for events; liaising with youth workers who will be leading the sessions; contacting young people to encourage them to participate and keeping records up to date. I work with the young people, building a positive relationship and supporting the events. I talk to young people about the progress they are making and any issues that may affect their participation. It is important for me to talk to the young people on their own level in order to identify the issues they are facing and ways to overcome this.

I achieved good GCSE grades at school, but looking back feel I was capable of achieving much more. Music is my passion and I have played in bands. I put all my energy into a career in music, not really thinking about other careers and not having the right attitude towards these. I completed a 2 year college diploma in music, before working in a warehouse for a year, then doing a few months work for Travel West Midlands. I then worked for Sandwell Holmes for around 2 years in their repair centre before being made redundant. I think experiences I have had have helped me realise that you will always get setback in life, but its important to view every experience as positive and move forward.

I am currently studying for an NVQ 2 in customer services. Due to the demands of work I need to set aside both work and personal time to complete the written work because it is easy to fall behind.

Music is still my passion, but now I would like to gain my youth worker qualifications and pursue opportunities in this field.

As the NVQ I am studying is not directly related to the job of a youth worker I think the experience that I am gaining from the job will help me more in the future than the actual NVQ. I have also built up good contacts and have a good relationship with my manager.

Integrated Youth Support & Community Services