

Streets Ahead - SLNCOP Project Elev8Careers & Brighton & Hove Council

Case Study 1

Background from Streets Ahead Mentor:

Ellie is an exceptional writer and left college last year with an unconditional place to study English Literature at university. Unfortunately she only attended the university for one day as she was experiencing some mental health issues including anxiety. Through our Streets Ahead work I followed up Ellie in the autumn term to check how she was doing and after I found out she had left university and was currently NEET I kept in contact. At first Ellie needed to work on her mental health but through maintaining contact with her via email and phone and keeping in the loop with her mental health team, after three months I knew she felt able to review her options. She decided she did want to return to university but instead mitigate some of her anxiety about being far from home by attending a local one. I contacted the widening participation teams at the universities and we made a few late applications. We are delighted that Ellie has now had offers from all three universities we applied to including from one which declined her last year. While she waits to begin her course and to keep her engaged and occupied I have helped her secure a number of local work experiences and she is feeling much more positive about her future.

Student:

My aspirations have changed a lot since I started school. GCSE really developed my interest in English and I originally wanted to pursue teaching but studying childcare at BTEC Level 3 actually put me off! While still at school I thought writing was a career for rich people so I didn't entertain it as a possibility for myself. One of my concerns about my future is that I really want to be successful but am not sure yet what constitutes success for me. I am interested in journalism and publishing and think the various work experiences I am doing will really help to clarify my next steps.

I did always want to go to university but the perfectionist in me didn't think I would get the grades so in a way my perceptions of my academic abilities and what it took to get into university held me back. However, the more my peers started to say they wanted to go the more I wanted to be part of that

journey. Luckily through the encouragement of my teachers and careers advisor who was also my Streets Ahead mentor I changed my mind. My parents work in factories and didn't go to university and are very supportive of my ambitions. I don't think growing up on an estate has impacted me too negatively although I don't often tell new people I meet where I live.

I think the main barriers to my future are myself. I am very critical of myself and can be very negative especially as I fear being rejected. One of the ways my Streets Ahead mentor helped was to bolster my confidence and showing me and helping me access all the opportunities there are locally which really helped me see the wider perspective. I think without her help I wouldn't be doing anything now and certainly wouldn't be applying to start university again. It really helps because she is so nice and easy to talk to, relatable and gives me so much moral support.

Case Study 2

Background from Streets Ahead Mentor:

Azfaar came to the UK from Afghanistan a few years ago. While still in Afghanistan he started playing cricket which he loved. After coming to the UK he was placed in care in London and when he heard about a Sussex based provision where he could continue to play cricket he moved to the county. Azfaar's language barriers meant he was struggled with studying and while he enjoyed playing cricket he was not able to progress to the Level 3 courses on offer and was not interested in alternatives. We worked with Azfaar over 6 months while he stayed at college and when an apprenticeship as a cricket groundsman became available we were able to alert him to the opportunity and support him in his application which was successful.

Student:

Back in Afghanistan my parents own a shop and did not go to university. They believe in me and are supportive of my ambitions. Growing up in Afghanistan has made me more determined to achieve. I have faced many challenges and hurdles and huge changes to improve my situation and build my resilience. But I still have a lot of worries about making that happen such as my citizenship appeal, passport issues and finances for proceeding with my apprenticeship. I have found some friends to be really helpful but some are jealous of the opportunities I have had. There are lots of barriers to my

future - living in a different country, seeking citizenship, appealing for passport at the moment, also I now need to learn to drive on limited funds but I believe I can overcome these hurdles and always think of a positive outcome.

I have been really lucky to have my Streets Ahead Mentor's support and belief in me when I was disillusioned with College and wanted to move on. She helped me write a very true representation of my passion for Cricket and helped me connect with a local Cricket Groundspersons which led to me being successful in acquiring an Apprenticeship.

My main aim in life is to become a pro cricketer and this aspiration has really grown over the last year.

I am not sure what path I will take and previously I didn't think university was for me but I am now open to university if that will help my career. This change in my thinking came from my own motivation to succeed and information from my Streets Ahead Mentor about how I could study my favourite subject of Maths or consider going into Sports Coaching or Management.

The fact that I have her support even after I have moved on from college is priceless for example she is sending me information about financial help I can get so I can hopefully start driving lessons as in my role I am expected to drive to visit other sites managed by the grounds teams. Even though I have other help I feel I can always talk to her about work and study related issues. I feel lucky to have this help.

Case Study 3

Background from Streets Ahead Mentor:

Beth is a very motivated and focussed young woman and has taken advantage of opportunities such as attending university summer schools. She has stayed on at college for a third year in order to gain her subsidiary diploma in sport science which has helped her access her preferred university courses. I have known Beth for a number of years and have helped her work through various career ideas as she is also a very talented singer. She decided that this career was not stable enough for her and decided instead to explore sports related options. As her brother has issues around food she became interested in nutrition and through Streets Ahead we have been able to do extensive work exploring and applying to universities that offered courses in this area. Beth has had a number of offers and will be studying Nutrition and Dietetics after her gap year. While

Beth has always been very driven the support she has had through working with a Streets Ahead mentor has helped her to focus her sights towards a career which suits her interests and abilities will be very rewarding for her.

Student:

My parents are very supportive of me. My dad is a mechanic and my mum cares for my siblings who have special needs. Neither went to university but both have been hugely supportive of my aspirations. Their support has had a very positive impact on me and has really pushed me forwards. Although where I live is not great it has not had a negative impact on me.

My aspirations have changed dramatically over the years from midwifery, to teaching to musician but I have always aspired to do well and I knew university would be a part of that. This is because I know going to university will increase my earning potential and I want a career not a succession of jobs.

I wouldn't have had any ideas what to study at university nor made any career decisions without my Streets Ahead mentor. She also helped me focus on my work as I understood better the UCAS points needed to apply. And when it came to applying for university my Streets Ahead mentor helped hugely. I don't think I would have had so many offers without her. She also made sure I applied to courses with the correct accreditation and placement year which will really help my employability.

My main concerns about my future are that I might lose motivation to continue with my plan and also the debt going to university will put me in. I also worry about my future job prospects. My Streets Head mentor has said she will stay in touch and can further support me over my gap year which is really reassuring.

Case Study 4

Background from Streets Ahead Mentor:

Anna is a vulnerable young person and was therefore highlighted to me by the school at the beginning of the year. She does not attend many of her lessons and seeks out adults for one to one support due to her many fears and anxieties.

Anna is articulate, bright and understands the need to pass Maths and English especially. She also sometimes lashes out in anger and lacks confidence in herself. She has support at home although she is reluctant to

put too much onto her mum as she is unwell so cannot consistently be counted on.

Anna was demotivated at the beginning of the year and had no real vision of her future. At first she would not give me any indication of how she felt about things but with time and building our relationship slowly she began to open up about her ideas. I met her frequently for about a month or so before she mentioned a previous interest in animals. We discussed the options in this area and that there a local provision that had a diverse learning environment.

I organised Anna to attend an open day at the college which further sparked her motivation. This visit also helped build her self confidence and understanding that she can achieve her aims with hard work, no matter where she starts from. Since then, although she still struggles at school, she is focused and motivated for her future and knows there are options whatever happens.

Student:

My name is Anna. I live on the South Coast of England, I'm 15 and I'm studying for my GCSEs. When I finish school, I plan to go to a local further education college to study animal care. This is necessary for my career plan as I want to be a veterinary nurse.

I didn't always feel this way. I used to hate the thought of staying on in education. I have depression and anger issues and these have been barriers for me in achieving my goals. My parents hadn't been to university but they always encouraged me to follow what I am good at.

Support from my Streets Ahead mentor has motivated me to look at what I really want to do, rather than just pick any course. The time spent and frequency of our discussion meant I had time to think and decide and be supported in my choices. She has made me feel more positive about my future and I now believe I can achieve my goal.

Case Studies collated and written by
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