



This project is funded by:



## *Individual Case Study*

### **BYPP – Building Young People’s Potential; West Cheshire and Ellesmere Port**

#### **Project Overview**

A skills-building programme for young people in West Cheshire and Ellesmere Port is proving to be a great success. The initiative is run by ‘Building Young People’s Potential’ (BYPP), part of the Blacon Community Trust, and is funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) as part of its 2007-10 ESF Co-finance Plan.

BYPP encourages young people who are not engaged in employment, education or training to work towards gaining the skills that will set them up for the future.

#### **How it Works**

BYPP was established in 1993, initially to help unemployed people aged between 16 and 25 increase their skills and look for work. However, soon afterwards, BYPP were informed that a group of young people aged between 14 and 18 were engaging in anti-social behaviour at night in the West Cheshire area and BYPP were asked by the police if they could help with this age group. BYPP invited the young people to take part in evening sessions and discovered that many were not in education through exclusion, pregnancy or family problems.

Head Teacher of BYPP, Louise Davey, explains: “Sometimes a young person may have been excluded from school in Year 10 or 11 and missed out on gaining GCSEs and we can help them achieve the results they need to follow the career they choose, in a non-traditional environment that they often respond to much more positively.”

Louise adds: “Our main priority is to give young people the opportunities they need, at the time when they most need them, as tomorrow might be too late. We were very proud to see two of our young mums attend university, something they admit would not have happened had they not been involved with BYPP. ”

## **Impact and Success**

18-year-old Adam Poole is just one of the many young people who have benefited from the programme. Adam has been involved with BYPP for around 18 months and was referred by Connexions for the post-16 vocational training course in the hope that he could gain the skills and confidence necessary to move into further education.

When he first became involved with the programme, Adam was very shy and found it difficult to interact with other people. He was recognised as a conscientious young man with the potential to succeed both academically and socially, but he needed support to achieve this, to enhance his self-image and social skills.

With an excellent attendance record and attitude, Adam is now working towards qualifications in communication, literacy and numeracy and ICT. His natural practical ability has led to him being put forward as an ideal candidate for an Apprenticeship within the construction industry.

Adam says: "I'm very glad I came to BYPP as I'm really enjoying the work and have made lots of friends. I was very shy when I first came here but the staff are really nice and they've really helped me; I don't feel shy any more.

"I started college in September, doing a joinery course, and I definitely wouldn't be doing that if I hadn't come to BYPP; it's given me lots of confidence and shown me how many opportunities there are for me. After the two-year college course, I hope to get a job with a local construction company."

Louise says: "Adam has really come out of his shell and now has a twinkle in his eye every time he steps through the door. It has been a massive reward to members of staff to see Adam's true personality develop.

"Adam is polite and courteous and has always been a brilliant example to the other students. He's had support to create a career plan and we're delighted that he has started college and is doing very well in his course."

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