Case Study
Hayley Flint

Hayley Flint pictured left with Employability Project Leader Emma Robertson

Hayley's Story

Hayley Flint is 27 years old and following a difficult start, Hayley unfortunately received a criminal record during her teenage years. Hayley is a single parent to Brodie now aged 4; prior to his birth Hayley worked for many years in the hospitality industry, since Brodie was born she has been in receipt of benefits and been busy caring for him. In the summer of 2018 Hayley attended an information session delivered by Barking & Dagenham College at The Romford Job Centre, presenting a Teaching Assistant Programme that The College had designed following partnership meetings with Job Centre Plus. Work Coaches had identified that a number of their clients wanted to progress to work in a school setting to allow them to apply for work in schools that would fit in with their family situations. The College designed a programme that incorporated training in many of the necessary skills ensuring that clients would receive information advice and the support required to progress to employment identified as being available within a school environment.

Hayley was very interested in the programme, she is determined to build the best future possible for herself and her son. She has a passion for working with children and wants to build a career that allows her to fit in with her son.

Initially Hayley was worried the criminal record would affect her plans, she discussed this with her mentor at The College, who in turn spoke to Drapers Maylands Primary School. As she had not received a custodial sentence and had since been of good character, the school risk assessed her and agreed to offer a placement but advised her they would be closely monitoring her placement.

Hayley joined The Teaching Assistant Programme in September 2018 and is currently studying:

- L2 Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools, with a work placement in a school setting.
- L2 English Functional Skills
- L2 Maths Functional Skills

She has also taken part in motivational training, designed to improve self-esteem, support participants to set themselves targets and take responsibility for their own lives. Hayley has also taken part in Paediatric First Aid and Safeguarding Training.

Hayley's long-term career plan is to become a fully qualified teacher, she feels that a Teaching Assistant Role is right for her at the current point in her life

From the outset of her studies Hayley has been provided with support both by her Work Coach, Harpal Athwal based at Romford Job Centre and her mentor at Barking & Dagenham College, Emma Robertson, she has demonstrated the determination and commitment required to succeed completing assignments prior to deadlines. Maths was difficult for Hayley; she therefore undertook additional online learning allowing her to now be on track to achieve her L2 Maths.

Hayley is required to complete 2 days placement per week as part of her Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools. She voluntary attends an extra day at the school per week to gain further experience. Hayley, with the support of the school has developed and led class activities including a family project and teaching the basics of sewing to 80 children. She has also started providing 1-2-1 support to a child at the school who, at the current time requires extra support due to difficult personal circumstances.

Drapers Maylands Primary School recently advertised a Teaching Assistant Role, Hayley successfully applied. Hayley will progress to her new paid role and will be offered the opportunity to further develop by studying whilst at work, to enable her to continue following her goal of becoming a qualified teacher.

This programme has been life changing for Hayley and her family. It has given them routine and stability. She now rises at 6am every morning, ready for the day, allowing her to get her son dressed, fed and dropped off at nursery so she can be at her placement for 8am or College for 9am. Hayley feels her future is so much brighter and is working determinedly towards her goal of no longer being reliant on benefits.

Hayley has developed into an inspirational person, from her experience is able to show her peers that no matter what your history is or what obstacles may stand in your way, with the right support and if you are willing to put in the hard work and dedication then anything is possible.

At Barking & Dagenham College, we are very proud of Hayley and her achievements and have put her forward for a Festival of Learning Award, the outcome of which will be announced shortly.