

Chantelle takes the Stoke Challenge

Chantelle aged 18 from Blurton, in Stoke-on-Trent, left school after only sitting her ICT GCSE. She was a carer for her father who has a disability and spent most of her time at home.

Chantelle had very low confidence and since leaving school had only one job working in a local hotel. Unfortunately she only stayed in the job for a couple of months.

Chantelle, believing she needed to make a change in her life, signed up to Stoke Challenge with Stoke City Football Club in January 2010. She agreed to take part in a taster day at the Club where she met a group of other young people and found out about how Stoke Challenge might be able to help her.

She said: "I was very nervous about going along to the taster day. I'm quite shy and didn't know what to expect. I was also nervous about talking to people in groups but the staff really put me at ease. Everyone was very supportive and made me believe in myself. I'm glad I went along. I'm much more confident now."

Saranjit, Chantelle's Adviser, at Stoke City said: "Chantelle is a much more confident young lady nowadays, compared to when she started the programme. In her first one-to-one interview she explained that she wanted to improve her job seeking and interview skills and maybe get some qualifications. She also spoke about her lack of confidence and motivation which was holding her back from doing lots of things.

"Our programme takes young people through various activities, including teambuilding, outdoor pursuits, job seeking and self-development workshops, all with the view of helping increase self esteem, confidence, motivation and more importantly resilience.

"Chantelle got involved in all the activities, including an overnight residential in Wales where she took part in a 100ft plummet jump."



Chantelle successfully completed the 10 week Stoke Challenge programme and hopes to go to her local college to do a Hospitality and Catering course in September.

She said: "I would love to be a Chef one day as I love cooking. Taking part in Stoke Challenge has definitely helped me on my journey to realising my dreams."

To find out more about Stoke Challenge, call 0808 1000 434 or talk to a Connexions Personal Ad0viser.

