



Role: Youth Worker Assistant

Name: Jaden

Gender: Male

Age: 19

Jaden was claiming Universal Credit at the time he first came across E2. Jaden's work coach initially recommended the Youth Worker Assistant position at E2, through the Kickstart Scheme, which Jaden described as a "good opportunity to gain experience working with young people which is needed for his future career goal as a Teaching Assistant".

Since being employed with E2, Jaden has improved his confidence by talking to people and stated "I had to be confident within myself but also portray that to the young people I work with from all different age groups".

Jaden went on to say that "the college courses have been really useful". He is currently on a leadership course that will provide him with the skills needed to be able to lead the youth sessions.

Jaden's main role at E2 as a Youth Worker Assistant consists of supervising the gaming room and getting involved with different activities in the main room such as bingo, colouring, board games, and group activities. Jaden also spends some time shadowing tutors at E2's alternative provision called Strike Out. Jaden has learned that "there are different ways to deal with conflict or issues depending on the person so you shouldn't treat everyone the same. You should treat everyone on their individual needs at that time because if you treat everyone the same you're going to get different responses."

During Jaden's Kickstart placement, he has had the opportunity to get involved in the Holiday Hunger project. Jaden stated how "even when people are just getting their food parcels, you can just see the happiness on their faces to have fresh fruit and vegetables and fresh ready-cooked meals - the young people seem to enjoy it as well." Jaden said how the young people were happy with the activity packs that come with the parcels as it was an extra activity for them to do whilst at home and they would also bring them into the youth support groups. He concluded the opportunity as an "eye-opener" and went on to say "in any community, there are disadvantaged people so it showed how important it is to help at all times, it was a privilege to be on the project and to meet different people".