



Communities for Work Case Study 2 – Mr P

Mr P had a difficult upbringing as his father passed away when he was child and his mother was a drug addict so he was put into foster care for a short period. Mr P now lives with his grandparents, has other siblings in foster care and presented clear signs to suggest he was with a gang who are potentially dealing drugs.

When Mr P engaged with Communities for Work, he was unsure what he wanted to do and asked the mentor to apply for any and every job. It was established Mr P was interested in a career on the railway, so the youth mentor contacted ARC Apprenticeships for an informal chat.

The mentor supported the participant on how to travel independently because although he seemed confident, he was nervous about travelling alone. As a result of this, Mr P is now confident in travelling outside of the area he lives and is embracing the thought of working all around Britain.

Mr P expressed such positivity and commitment during the informal meeting with ARC Apprenticeships that they decided to interview him on the day and to give him an assessment, which was very successful as they offered him a place immediately.

Mr P's only issue on the day was he failed the 'practice' drug test due to marijuana use. On his first day at the apprenticeship, a separate organisation would be coming to ARC to Drug & Alcohol Test the new apprentices before they could officially start. Failing this would result in a five-year ban from working on Railway Track Maintenance.

During the three-week gap before starting, the mentor supported Mr P in quitting his substance misuse with regular mentor sessions and introduced a basic hydration and exercise plan. A week before the apprenticeship was due to begin the mentor conducted two practice drug tests, which he passed. Mr P showed fantastic commitment and enthusiasm to stop this habit so he could begin a career and earn a good living.

On his first day of his apprenticeship, Mr P arrived thirty minutes early with a rucksack that contained his weekly train tickets, a packed lunch and a notepad/pen. This was a massive turn around and achievement for someone who started the program very unorganised and unfocused on how we was going to progress into work.