



# Samantha's story\*

\*Names of the young person and the Creative Mentor have been changed to protect the young person's identity.



A pivotal moment in Samantha's journey was when she invited another young person from the residential home to our creative mentoring sessions.

Janet\*, Creative Mentor

## background to Samantha's referral

Samantha, 15 at the time of referral, was matched with a Creative Mentor during a challenging time. Following a recent move to a new secondary school, Samantha was also placed into residential care due to multiple foster care placement breakdowns. In response to this turbulent time, Samantha was struggling to engage in education and often refused to attend school. She was also struggling to build relationships with the other young people in her residential home. Samantha was referred to the Creative Mentoring service to develop her relationship-building skills and support her ongoing anxiety around new surroundings to hopefully facilitate reengaging in education.

## who was Samantha matched with?

Samantha was matched with Janet, a Creative Mentor who works in jewellery, visual arts, and design. Janet proved a good fit, since Samantha loves art and is very imaginative. They worked together over a period of 8 weeks, where the Creative Mentor would meet Samantha at her residential home for weekly 2-hour sessions. During their time together, they would spend time making jewellery sets, including earrings, necklaces, and rings. Samantha created these items for herself and for other people. Samantha often made jewellery for her Carer, demonstrating her desire to build and maintain positive relationships, which she has struggled to show in other ways.

## at a glance

- Samantha was facing a **turbulent time** when she was first referred for creative mentoring having recently moved to a new secondary school and then placed into residential care
- Samantha was matched with a Creative Mentor whose experience in jewellery, visual arts, and design aligned to Samantha's **own love of art**
- She has made moderate and **significant progress** across our 8 Measures of Progress tool
- Samantha has expressed an interest in working with young people and is seeking college courses that will support a **future career in childcare**

Our vision is to inspire children and young people to harness the power of arts, creativity and culture for positive change.



Samantha's desire to keep a piece of artwork she created with Janet really proves the strong relationship they have built.



### what was a key moment in Samantha's creative mentoring journey?

A pivotal moment in Samantha's journey was when she invited another young person from her residential home to her creative mentoring sessions, which came as a shock to both Janet and the residential home staff.

Samantha had shared with Janet that she has aspirations to work with children in the future. Samantha really utilised her nurturing, helpful, and supportive nature when supporting the other young person in the sessions. She modelled activities, demonstrated what they needed to do, and thought outside of the box to try new techniques. This really demonstrates the power that creativity can have on a young person's ability to connect with others.

### how has creative mentoring supported Samantha's relationship-building skills?

In their last session, Samantha and Janet worked on printing techniques, using Lino-printing to create a framed print that Samantha wanted to feature in her bedroom. Samantha's desire to keep this piece of artwork in her bedroom really proves the strong relationship Janet and Samantha have built together.

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### what impact has creative mentoring had on Samantha?



Using our 8 Measures of Progress, Samantha has made progress across all skill areas. She has made at least Moderate Progress (at least a 2 point increase out of five) across all areas: Participation and Engagement, Relationship Building, Confidence, Communication, Motivation, Problem Solving, Teamwork, Self-Belief and Ideas Generation. She has made a 3 point increase (Significant Progress) in her Confidence and Communication.

Samantha still struggles with relationship building, especially with professionals, but this is something she is continuing to work on.



### what are the next steps in Samantha's journey?

Samantha is now in year 11, and although she still struggles to engage consistently with school, she is now looking at college courses. She hopes this will help to support a future career in childcare – which is proving a huge motivation for her moving forwards.