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Kevin's story

Find out why Kevin* was referred for Creative Mentoring to help improve his self-esteem and body image through our Creative Mentoring in schools pilot project.

*Names have been changed to protect the young person's identity.

"Kevin was very open about his challenges. He said that some children were frightened of him and his anger but followed up with 'but I am a good kid!'"

Phoebe*, Creative Mentor

"Kevin started the session unable to commit to paper saying 'I cant draw'. After a discussion, he managed a self portrait and went on to do an incredible portrait of Barack Obama. We then celebrated this by sharing with the SLT and his class."

Phoebe, Creative Mentor

"...but I am a good kid!"

Kevin, Mentee

social justice for young people

through arts, culture and creativity

the **mighty** creatives



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background

Kevin was 10 years old when he was referred to us at The Mighty Creatives as part of a Creative Mentoring in Schools pilot. At the time, Kevin was presenting with low self-esteem and low body image. It was felt that Kevin would really benefit from Creative Mentoring to help boost his self-esteem and body image.

who was Kevin matched with?

Successful in her application to work on the Creative Mentoring in Schools pilot, we thought Phoebe would be a good fit for this project due to her previous experience working with a diverse range of mentees. This experience equipped Phoebe with sound skills, both as an artist and a Creative Mentor, which gave us confidence she would be able to work well with the young people on the project.

Phoebe and Kevin started well. Phoebe was able to weave Kevin's love of sport into their first session; Kevin was able to decorate his bauble with a Manchester United theme. This really helped Kevin to open up in the space.

what happened next?

Throughout their time together Kevin did have some bumps in the road, but he showed great resilience by 'bouncing back' during future sessions.

Despite his earlier view of 'I can't draw', Kevin would go on to create multiple portraits in his time with Phoebe. Kevin developed a routine of finding comfort in one of the puppets Phoebe would bring to every session. This routine would open up discussion for Kevin to talk about his grandparents and how much he misses them.

what was a key moment?

As part of the project, Phoebe was working with four young people one-to-one before transitioning to two-to-one sessions and later four-to-one (each in four week blocks).

The key moment in Phoebe and Kevin's time together came during the celebration event where the group unveiled their artwork to family and friends within the school. Phoebe was able to see how proud Kevin was in sharing his work, despite not being forthcoming with her directly.

what progress has been made?

Using our Measures of Progress tool, Kevin has shown progress in the following areas:

Confidence - improving from a 1/5 to 3/5.

Problem Solving - improving from a 1/5 to 3/5.

Relationship Building - improving from a 1/5 to 3/5.

Self-Belief - improving from a 1/5 to 3/5).

Communication - improving from a 1/5 to 3/5.

Teamwork - improving from a 2/5 to 3/5.

Although, there appears to be 'no progress' in Confidence, Motivation, Teamworking, Relationship Building and Planning & Budgeting, there has been massive progress in where Kevin started at the time of referral to where he is now.

These scores are mid-point scores, as the sessions are still ongoing.