



# Toby's story

Find out how Creative Mentoring supported Toby\* to understand and improve his communication with others when he was referred to the service by Leicester City Prevent.

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

"Confidence grew over the sessions and Toby was never shy about talking about his interests, becoming more confident sharing how he felt - for example, about his dad or being worried about going to secondary school."

**Matt\*, Creative Mentor**

"Toby is aware of how he fits with other people and wants to improve this."

**Matt\*, Creative Mentor**

"Getting to witness the blossoming of this relationship and seeing how much Toby developed in such a short time span is a reminder of why we do what we do in its purest form."

**Connor, TMC Programme Coordinator**

social justice for young people

through arts, culture and creativity

the **mighty** creatives



Matt commented that Toby enjoyed this **“sometimes becoming extremely absorbed in what he was doing”**. This led to the pair working towards making a chess set together. Although the school term had finished, Toby wanted to continue his sessions with Matt so they visited some museums together.

### what was a key moment?

During many of the sessions that Matt and Toby had together, Matt would note that he found it difficult to have a back and forth conversation as Toby liked to dominate the dialogue. This led to a moment in their final session which really highlighted how far Toby had come. Matt wrote:

**“I hope that you’ll remember my advice to make conversations more of a two way thing. I noticed after I’d said this that you made a real effort to make sure I’d finished what I was going to say before you spoke again, which I really appreciated.”**

This represents the culmination of several weeks of progress. Matt remained consistent in mentioning this communication challenge, which helped Toby to learn and reflect on how to better communicate during conversations with others.

### what progress has been made?

Toby’s “Endpoint” scores show progress in several areas, with Toby scoring himself higher in: **Participation and Engagement (3/5 – 4/5), Confidence (3/5 – 4/5), Idea Generation (3/5 – 4/5), Relationship Building (3/5 – 4/5), Communication (3/5 – 4/5), Problem Solving (3/5 – 4/5), Self-Belief (3/5 – 4/5)**. Progress has also been sustained in **Motivation (3/5 – 3/5), Teamwork (3/5 – 3/5), Generation (3/5 – 3/5)**.



### background

Toby was 11 years old at the time of his referral to us at The Mighty Creatives through Leicester City Prevent. At time of referral, Toby was presenting with violent tendencies towards his mum and family pets. Toby also held some concerning ideologies. The aim of the Creative Mentoring sessions was to look at enhancing Toby’s pre-existing interest in creativity in order to pull him away from some of the concerning things he was exploring.

### who was Toby matched with?

Toby was matched with Matt. It was felt that Matt would be a good fit for Toby, as the referral mentioned that a positive male role model could be beneficial to Toby. Matt has worked with a number of young people who have had similar notes in their referrals. Matt is primarily a musician but is capable and willing to employ any creative interest that the young person would like to explore.

### what happened next?

Throughout their time together, Matt and Toby worked on a variety of different creative ventures. They began by making music, however this did not seem to interest Toby so they pivoted over to working with clay.